

## Ampacity

The current a conductor can carry continuously without exceeding its temperature rating. Ampacity is a function of cable size, insulation type and the conditions of use.

## Ampere Rating

The continuous current capability of a fuse under defined laboratory conditions. The ampere rating is marked on each fuse. Class L fuses and E rated fuses may be loaded to 100% of their ampere rating. For all other fuses, continuous load current should not exceed 80% of the fuse ampere rating.

## Available Fault Current

The maximum short circuit current that can flow in an unprotected circuit.

## Bolt-In Fuse

A fuse which is intended to be bolted directly to bus bars, contact pads or fuse blocks.

## Contacts

The external live parts of the fuse which provide continuity between the fuse and the balance of the circuit. Also referred to as ferrules, blades or terminals.

## Coordination

The use of overcurrent protective devices which will isolate only that portion of an electrical system which has been overloaded or faulted.

## Current-Limiting Fuse

A fuse which will limit both the magnitude and duration of current flow under short circuit conditions.

## Current-Limiting Range

The available fault currents a fuse will clear in less than ½ cycle, thus limiting the actual magnitude of current flow.

## Dual Element Fuse

Often confused with time delay, dual element is a term describing fuse element construction. A fuse having two current responsive elements in series.

## Element

A calibrated conductor inside a fuse which melts when subjected to excessive current. The element is enclosed by the fuse body and may be surrounded by an arc-quenching medium such as silica sand. The element is sometimes referred to as a link.

## Fault

An accidental condition in which a current path becomes available which by-passes the connected load.

## Fault Current

The amount of current flowing in a faulted circuit.

## Fuse

An overcurrent protective device containing a calibrated current carrying member which melts and opens a circuit under specified overcurrent conditions.

## Interrupting Rating (abbreviated I.R.)

The maximum current a fuse can safely interrupt. Some special purpose fuses may also have a "minimum interrupting rating". This defines the minimum current that a fuse can safely interrupt.

## Kiloamperes (abbreviated kA)

1,000 amperes

## Limiter or Back-up Fuse

A special purpose fuse which is intended to provide short circuit protection only.

## Overcurrent

Any current in excess of the conductor ampacity or equipment continuous current rating.

## Overload

The operation of conductors or equipment at a current level that will cause damage if allowed to persist.

## Short Circuit

Excessive current flow caused by insulation breakdown or wiring error.

## Time Delay Fuse

A fuse which will carry an overcurrent of a specified magnitude for a minimum specified time without opening. The specified current and time requirements are defined in the UL/CSA/NOM 248 fuse standards.

## Voltage Rating

The maximum voltage at which a fuse is designed to operate. Voltage ratings are assumed to be for AC unless specifically labeled as DC.