

Technical instruction

ACS250 micro drives, 500-600 V

Use of fan components in drive construction



Overview

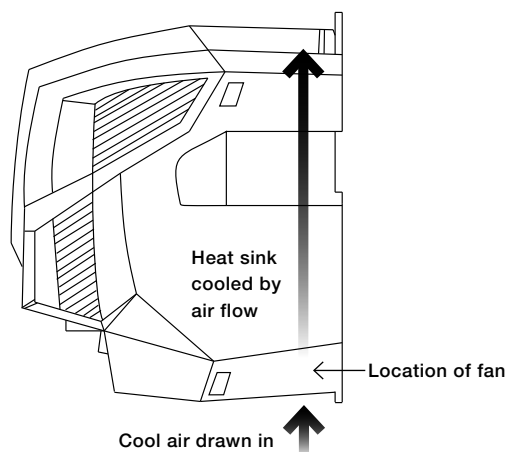
This technical instruction details the use of fan components in the ACS250 construction. Primarily it lists the number and location of fans used in the ACS250 product, but also details the types of fans used and their advantages in drive applications. The technical instruction also looks at environmental conditions that may have an adverse effect on fan component life cycle.

ACS250 uses high quality long life ball bearing fans, designed to give continuous and reliable operation across the full life cycle of the product. These represent an additional investment in material cost but provide for longer service life over a greater temperature range.

ACS250 uses fan components for two separate purposes within the drive construction. Individual models may have none, one, or both of these functions performed by the fan and this is clearly listed for each model in the Drive model summary table. The definition of the functions is given on the right and on the next page.

a. Heat sink cooling fans

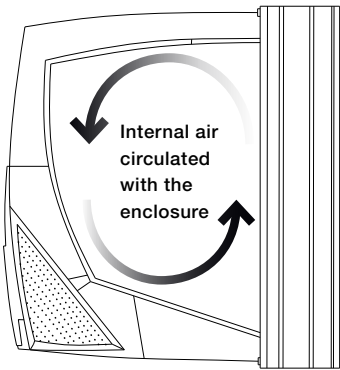
These fans are fitted directly to the heat sink of the drive to help force air flow across the heat sink fins and assist drive cooling. The ACS250 is designed with the heat sink cooling fans located at the bottom of the drive to push cool air up from the bottom of the drive. This means that cool air is drawn by the fan (prior to being heated by the heat sink) and prolongs fan life/operation. Some drives are sufficiently cooled by natural convection (air rising up through the heat sink as it is heated) and do not require heat sink cooling fans.



ACS250 units with IP66 enclosures have only natural convection cooled heat sinks and are not fitted with heat sink cooling fans. This is an important criterion for applications that require wash down or that carry high levels of material in the air stream that might otherwise block a fan. ACS250 provides the ideal solution in applications where fan blockage or reliability on a drive has previously been an issue.

b. Internal stirrer fans

Internal stirrer fans are fitted inside some of the higher IP rated drive enclosures and circulate the air internally within the enclosure. This circulation prevents the build up of heat in the air surrounding heat generating components and toward the top of the enclosure and provides increased reliability for circuits and components within the drive. The dissipation of heat from the drive enclosure is aided by having a stirrer fan providing uniform temperature with the drive enclosure.



When will the fans operate?

Both the heat sink cooling fan and the internal stirrer fan only operate when required by the drive, in order to maximise drive efficiency in low ambient or low load conditions or during periods of inactivity.

The fans will automatically come on when the unit gets to approximately 45 C on the heat sink. This applies to all ACS250 models with fans fitted. In addition fans come on automatically when the drive output current (motor current) exceeds the drive rated current level.

Can the fans be tested?

Where a drive heat sink fan or internal stirrer fan is fitted it can be tested manually to ensure it is operational. Ensure the drive is in a stop condition. To activate the fan, push all five push buttons on the front of the drive, starting with the stop button. This will cause all segments to light on the drive display and cause the heat sink fan or internal stirrer fan (if fitted) to come on. If the fan does not activate when the display segments are lit then this indicates a fan fault.

Trips relating to fan problems

ACS250 uses three wire fans with a sense wire for the internal stirrer fan so that the drive can detect a fault or failure of the heat sink fan and provide warning (given fan access is restricted). The following trip conditions might be related to an issue with the drive heat sink or internal stirrer fan. Issues might include the fan not operating, contamination reducing fan efficiency or preventing the fan from operation, or restricted air flow in the cooling channel surrounding the drive.

Fault	Description	Corrective action
O-t	Heat sink over temperature	The drive is too hot. Check the ambient temperature around the drive is within the drive specification. Ensure sufficient cooling air is free to circulate around the drive. Increase the panel ventilation if required. Ensure sufficient cooling air can enter the drive, and that the bottom entry and top exit vents are not blocked or obstructed.
FaN-F	Cooling fan fault	Drive is sensing the internal stirrer fan is not operational. Check and if necessary, replace the drive internal stirrer fan.
F0003	Ambient temperature too high	The measured temperature around the drive is above the operating limit of the drive. Ensure the drive internal cooling fan is operating. Ensure that the required space around the drive has been observed, and that the cooling air flow path to and from the drive is not restricted. Increase the cooling air flow to the drive reduce the effective switching frequency setting in parameter 2606.

Factors effecting fan reliability

The ACS250 uses high quality long life ball bearing fans, designed to give continuous and reliable operation across the full life cycle of the product. However there are still several factors that might degrade a fans useful life or prohibit its efficient operation.

The most common issue found when investigating failed or poor performing fans is the presence of material or particles within the environment that clog or block the fan. For enclosure drives (IP20) the electrical cabinet that the drives are installed into should provide sufficient protection against such blockages.

When fans on electrical enclosures become blocked the system owner will often run the equipment with the cabinet door left open to ensure the enclosure does not over heat. It stands to reason that the same contaminants that blocked the enclosure fans will also block any drive fans and such action rarely provides a safe or suitable solution. Correct enclosure design to the operating environment is always required from the design stage.

It is important that drive heat sink fans are kept clear of any contamination and where such potential might exist they are monitored and maintained on a regular basis. Likewise the channels through the drive heat sink must remain equally clear and might be required to be blown out by compressed air should the potential for restricted air flow exist.

ACS250 IP66 enclosure drives provide a good solution as they have no external heat sink cooling fans, using natural convection to cool the drive. As air is not drawn through the heat sink in the same way as a fan cooled drive there is also less potential for particles to be drawn into the heat sink channels and restrict further air flow.

The other issue with contaminants in the atmosphere (such as fine dust particles) is that over time the dust can work its way into the fan bearings, causing additional friction and premature wear. Wear in the fan bearing has the additional effect of increasing the audible (nuisance) noise emitted by the fans.

Restricted air flow to the fans has the effect for reducing fan efficiency as well as increasing the load on the fan itself leading to the fan wearing prematurely. The guidelines given in the user's manual state clearances above and below the drive to allow the free flow of air and these distances should be adhered to in all applications.

At higher altitudes the air thins and its ability to cool the drive heat sink is also reduced. At altitudes above 1000 a.m.s.l the manufacturer or drive supplier should always be consulted to check if any derating of the product might be required.

As with most electrical devices the drive fan life cycle is effected by ambient temperature with higher temperatures having an adverse effect. Drive fans are specified for reliable operation based on the maximum specified operating ambient for the drive and the values quoted in the product manual should be adhered to.

Vibration puts additional stresses on the bearings of the fan. In some cases high vibration, beyond the designed maximum for the product may result in premature failure of fans.

All of the information mentioned above might apply equally to fans used to provide ventilation into the electrical enclosures where drive units might be fitted. The same guidance and advice might also be applied to gain maximum life time and reliable operation from these fans also.

Drive model summary table

IP20					
Model number	Frame size	Output power (kW/hp)	Output current (A)	Heat sink cooling fan	Internal stirrer fan
ACS250-03U-02A1-6	P2	0.75/1	2.1	1	0
ACS250-03U-03A1-6	P2	1.5/2	3.1	1	0
ACS250-03U-04A1-6	P2	2.2/3	4.1	1	0
ACS250-03U-06A5-6	P2	4/5	6.5	1	0
ACS250-03U-09A0-6	P2	5.5/7.5	9	1	0
ACS250-03U-12A0-6	P3	7.5/10	12	1	0
ACS250-03U-17A0-6	P3	11/15	17	1	0
ACS250-03U-22A0-6	P3	15/20	22	1	0

IP66					
Model number	Frame size	Output power (kW/hp)	Output current (A)	Heat sink cooling fan	Internal stirrer fan
ACS250-03U-02A1-6 +B063	P2	0.75/1	2.1	0	1
ACS250-03U-03A1-6 +B063	P2	1.5/2	3.1	0	1
ACS250-03U-04A1-6 +B063	P2	2.2/3	4.1	0	1
ACS250-03U-06A5-6 +B063	P2	4/5	6.5	0	1
ACS250-03U-09A0-6 +B063	P2	5.5/7.5	9	0	1
ACS250-03U-12A0-6 +B063	P3	7.5/10	12	0	1
ACS250-03U-17A0-6 +B063	P3	11/15	17	0	1
ACS250-03U-02A1-6 +B063 +F278	P2	0.75/1	2.1	0	1
ACS250-03U-03A1-6 +B063 +F278	P2	1.5/2	3.1	0	1
ACS250-03U-04A1-6 +B063 +F278	P2	2.2/3	4.1	0	1
ACS250-03U-06A5-6 +B063 +F278	P2	4/5	6.5	0	1
ACS250-03U-09A0-6 +B063 +F278	P2	5.5/7.5	9	0	1
ACS250-03U-12A0-6 +B063 +F278	P3	7.5/10	12	0	1
ACS250-03U-17A0-6 +B063 +F278	P3	11/15	17	0	1

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