

DEGREASING OF COMMUTATORS AND RINGS

TECHNICAL NOTE ■ STA BE 16-40 GB

For degreasing commutators or rings, the use of a solvent which is not quite suitable (or the improper use of such a solvent) may itself bring about malfunctioning of the brushes. Degreasing by such a solvent will, as soon as the machine is put into use again, bring about abundant sparking which will damage the skin and cause accelerated wear of the brushes.

These troubles are caused by the solvent which on vaporization pollutes the brushes (and/or the atmosphere in totally enclosed machines); it persists as long as the vaporization continues.

Heavy solvents, that is to say those which are vaporized at a high temperature, are more detrimental than the light solvents, because for an equivalent volume, they pollute the machine for a longer period.

Here are some simple rules which should be borne in mind by all maintenance staff:

- 1 – Only use solvents when their use cannot be avoided, that is to say only on very greasy commutators; for less greasy commutators, careful cleaning with a dry rag is preferable.
- 2 – When the use of a solvent is absolutely essential — such as the case of intersegment insulation which is partially choked — it is necessary, at first, to take the precaution of removing all the brushes from the machine, so as to prevent any contact between brush and solvent during the degreasing operation. The very minimum indispensable preventive action is to withdraw all the brushes from their brush holders.
- 3 – Degrease by the use of a soaked rag or paint-brush so as to avoid any excess solvent and limit the operation solely to the zone to be degreased.
- 4 – When degreasing has been completed, it is necessary to thoroughly blow out with the use of a compressed air. This should be directed not only onto the commutator but also onto the risers, the rocker, the brush arms and the brush-holders, in such a manner as to remove all traces of solvent. The heavier the solvent the greater the care required in the blowing out operation.

On the market it is possible to find commercial products for degreasing electrical machines which are either pure solvents or a mixture of two or three solvents. In order to achieve the special precautions of use on rotating machines with brushes, it is necessary to keep to the special conditions recommended with these products, in particular the instructions of use.

In order to completely clean some leads following brazing, there is a company, MEYSSOL (11, chemin des rivières - 69370 Saint Didier au Mont d'Or - Tel.: 04 78 83 69 27) distributing a product called MESOVEX E 120 X which has the advantage of treating with care the varnish and insulation parts.

Certain other products use low concentration washing powders, in automatic production lines which avoid the mechanical deterioration possible with this type of handling.

It is possible, for quick action without removing the brushes, to use the products distributed by TECHNOUTIL, named SRB2 or SRB3 (18, rue d'Arras - Bâtiment A6 - 92000 Nanterre).

Whichever is used, particular care is essential with this kind of operation, especially concerning the washing and drying of the parts after cleaning.

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