ATEX Fans

Installation, Operation & Maintenance Manual

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Introduction
This manual has been prepared to guide users of fans designed to meet the requirements of the European Unions ATEX (Atmospheres EXplosifs) Directive. It details the measures necessary for proper installation, operation and maintenance procedures and is in accordance with EN 14986. Personnel operating or maintaining this equipment shall be trained in the proper procedures for doing so.

This manual is to be used along with manual ES-2-06 “Installation, Operation and Maintenance Manual – Fans with CE Mark”. This addendum for ATEX fans identifies additional considerations beyond ES-2-06 specific to ATEX fans. Guidelines identified in ES-2-06 must be followed unless otherwise stated here.

ATEX fans are supplied for safe operation in the conditions they were designed for. However, to assure safe operation, the fans must be operated within the limits identified in the documentation included with each fan shipment as well as installed, inspected and maintained as indicated in ES-2-06 and this bulletin. Unless authorized by Twin City Fan Companies, Ltd., modifications must not be made to the fan. Any modification performed would void the warranty and ATEX certification.

Personal Protection
See ES-2-06 for required personal protection.

Hazardous Materials
See ES-2-06 for hazardous materials considerations.

Installation
Shipping and Receiving
See ES-2-06 for shipping and receiving requirements.

Handling
See ES-2-06 for handling requirements.

Unit Storage
See ES-2-06 for storage requirements.

Foundations and Supporting Structures
- Industrial Fans
See ES-2-06 for foundation and supporting structure requirements.

Fan Installation - Factory Assembled or Disassembled Units
See ES-2-06 for fan installation requirements.

Bearing Installation
See ES-2-06 for bearing installation requirements.

Shaft Seals / Closing Plate
Most fans supplied by Twin City Fan Companies for ATEX applications will use a brass closing plate to minimize leakage around the shaft. This closing plate must be aligned to give approximately the same clearance at all points around the OD of the shaft. It is important that the alignment of this plate is verified before starting the fan.

Seals manufactured by others must be installed, operated, and maintained per the manufacturer’s instructions.

Grouting
See ES-2-06 for grouting requirements.

Drive Mounting
See maintenance section below for additional considerations for drives on ATEX fans.

See ES-2-06 for additional drive mounting requirements.

Flexible Couplings
See ES-2-06 for flexible coupling requirements.

Duct Connections
Fans with duct connections must allow for inspection of critical clearances between rotating and stationary parts and must allow for cleaning. Inlet and outlet ducts must have sufficient access doors to allow for inspection identified in this bulletin as well as in ES-2-06.

The layout of the inlet ducting must assure that the air entering the fan is sufficiently mixed with regards to temperature. Localized hot sections of the air stream could become a hazard if they are at a higher temperature than the equipment was evaluated for.

Ducting shall be so arranged that the fan is not positioned at a “low point” where it is possible for foreign objects or liquid to lodge. See ES-2-06 for additional duct connection requirements.

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Guards and Enclosures
ATEX fans must be protected to at least IP20 of EN 60529 against the ingress of foreign particles. To achieve this, the mesh size used for guarding must not allow particles greater than 12.5 mm to pass. A mesh of this size can negatively impact fan performance. If it is possible to achieve this protection for the fan by using a mesh located away from the fan inlet and in a lower velocity section of ductwork, then losses due to the added mesh can be minimized.

See ES-2-06 for additional guard and enclosure requirements.

Electrical Supply and Controls
Electrical equipment for ATEX fans must comply with an equipment group, category and zone according to EN 60079-0 or EN 50281-1-1 that is appropriate for the fan it is driving / monitoring and is appropriate for the specific environmental conditions at the place of installation.

Any monitoring devices used must be checked regularly to assure proper operation.

The manufacturers’ instructions for all electrical supply, controls and equipment must be followed. This is particularly important in the case of thermally protected motors.

See ES-2-06 for additional electrical supply and control requirements.

Vibration
Vibration monitoring is mandatory for fans that are Category 2D in the airstream. Alarm shutdown levels shall meet the requirements of ISO 14694.

See ES-2-06 for additional vibration considerations.

Maintenance
Safe operation of ATEX fans rely on clearances between rotating and stationary parts being maintained. These clearances can be reduced due to layers of combustible or non-combustible materials. Every fan must be inspected regularly and cleaned as needed to avoid a buildup of materials. The required frequency of inspection and cleaning will vary based on application; therefore the user must determine the frequency of inspection and cleaning required to avoid a buildup of materials.

Belt drives may become a source of hazardous temperatures if they are not tensioned or aligned properly. Drives must be aligned as indicated in ES-2-06 and tensioned as indicated on datasheet SF 5003 supplied by Twin City Fan. Replacement belts must be identical to those originally supplied.

Rotating components may be grounded through antifriction bearings. Bearings must be checked and if necessary replaced after a voltage spike or similar electrical incident.

See ES-2-06 for additional maintenance requirements.

Fan Operation
Proper Use and Application
It is critical that ATEX fans are used as intended and in accordance with the limits and markings of the fans. ATEX fans are supplied with a datasheet indicating the operation limits. Operation outside of these limits may cause an explosion hazard.

Operating within acceptable vibration levels is critical to obtain the expected life of the fan and components. Vibration levels must be in conformance with ISO 14694. In addition, fans must not be subject to external vibration either while at rest or during operation.

See ES-2-06 for additional information on proper use and application.

Sound
See ES-2-06 for considerations regarding sound.

Operation Checklist
Required clearances between rotating and stationary parts must be verified before starting the fan. Clearances indicated in “ATEX – FAN CLEARANCES CHECKLIST" must be verified with the fan and ductwork installed before startup. Form “ATEX – FAN CLEARANCES CHECKLIST” is specific to each fan and is included with the shipment of each fan. The measured clearances should be recorded and compared to the design minimum values to verify that the design requirements are met before the fan is started.

See ES-2-06 for additional items in the operation checklist.

Troubleshooting Guidelines
See ES-2-06 for troubleshooting guidelines.