Application Engineering FAQ

Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) Data For Fuses

“Does Cooper Bussmann provide, or have, MTBF data for its fuses and holders?”

Cooper Bussmann does not have or provide Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) data for our fuses and fuse holders as they are passive devices. As such, they remain passive until an overcurrent event occurs.

When an overcurrent event occurs, the fuse opens as designed and interrupts the flow of current. This is not a “fuse failure,” but a proper function of the fuse design.

What are perceived as fuse and/or fuse holder “Failures” are mostly reactions to excess heat produced by loose or corroded connections, improper component sizing or application outside the devices’ operating temperature range. These are not device failures, but rather inappropriate device selection.

Fuses do not require maintenance until an overcurrent event causes them to open – then they need replacing. Although not always necessary, an infrared inspection every 3 to 5 years is a good practice. This would reveal any excess heat conditions that are most apt to cause a nuisance fuse opening and should be addressed.

If you have any questions about this information or about overcurrent protection in general, please contact us at:

Phone: 636-527-1270
Fax: 636-527-1607
Email: fusetech@cooperindustries.com