UNDERSTANDING EQUIPMENT NAMEPLATES

Nameplates provide useful information about equipment. Among other things, the information can be used to understand energy use, find compatible or more efficient replacements for equipment and troubleshoot problems. This fact sheet provides details about types of information found on nameplates.

Basic Nameplate Information

General Information:

Most equipment nameplates will have some common items of information. Many of these are self-explanatory, and include:

- Manufacturer
- Manufacturer's address
- Model number
- Serial number
- Certification mark(s)

This general information can be useful in finding out more details about particular through the manufacturer's published information. Various certification marks are shown below.

The model number and serial number may provide specific information. The manufacturer's literature may help decipher the coding used for particular equipment. As an example, a generator serial number might be **P4W00236D05045**, where:

P4W - Product designation

00236 – Sequential number assigned on manufacturing date

D – Manufacturing location letter code

05 – Year manufactured

045 - Day of the year manufactured (045 = Feb 14)

A light fixture model number might be SH 400MP A16 240 HEB WGA16, where:

SH - Fixture series

400MP – Lamp type

A16 – Reflector style

240 – Voltage

HEB - HID electronic ballast

WGA16 – Wire guard for A16 reflector

Basic electrical information, common to lighting fixtures, motors, electrical appliances and heating and cooling equipment, includes the following:

- Voltage (V)
- Amperage (A, Amps)
- Frequency (Hz or cycles per second)
- Power in Watts (W) or Horsepower (HP)

Nameplate Data for Different Equipment Types

Motors:

The National Electric Code requires that motor nameplates include the following information in addition to the manufacturer's name and address:

Rated voltage(s)

Rated full-load amperage at each voltage level (FLA)

Frequency – typically 60 or 50hz

Phase – Single or three phase

Speed - Rated full-load speed (in RPM)

Insulation Class and rated ambient temperature – Insulation class may be B, F and H, and the rated ambient temperature is the maximum allowable ambient temperature during operation.

Rated Horsepower

Time Rating – Usually continuous duty, but some motors may be rated for as low as 5 minutes of continuous operation.

Locked-rotor code letter

Other motor data may include:

Frame size

NEMA design letter – indicates the relationship between speed and torque **Full-load efficiency**

Power factor

	115	1725	R.P.M.	1 PH. 6 3.0	AMP
S.F.	1.35	35		CONT	40'C
Т	M74	L PRO1 799		M10534	F29
				Goss	

Pumps:

Items specific to pumps may include:

Rated Flow (Q) - gallons or liters per minute (GPM or lpm) Head pressure at rated flow - feet of water, pounds per square inch (psi), pascals (pa) Power – Horsepower (HP) Rated rotational speed – revolutions per minute (RPM) Maximum pressure – feet of water, psi Maximum fluid temperature – degrees Fahrenheit or Celsius (°F or °C)

Other information that may appear on the nameplate, or may be encoded in the Type or Model number, may include:

Type of pump – centrifugal Materials used in components – Seals, impellers, shafts, etc. Number of stages Number of impellers

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Fans:

Air flow – CFM Static pressure – inches of water Fan diameter – inches, for centrifugal fans

Heating Equipment:

Fuel Type – Natural gas, LPG (propane), #2 oil, etc.
Input – Heat input in Btu/hr
Minimum input – minimum heat input in Btu/hr
Thermal Output – Useful heat, in Btu/hr
Efficiency – In percent (can be estimated by dividing thermal output by the input)
Gas Supply Pressure

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Refrigeration Condenser Nameplate CONDENSING UNIT

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CONDENSING	MEDIA		AI	R COOLE	D
	NTERI 8-230	NG ELEC PHA			
MINIMUM CI	RCIUT AN	MPACITY	23	2.9 A	MPS
MAX. OVERC	URRENT	PROTECTION	3!	5 A	MPS
COMP. MTR	QTY	VOLTS	РН	RLA	LRA
	1	208-230	1	16.7	100
COND. FAN MTR	QTY	VOLTS	РН	FLA	НР
	1	208-230	1	2.1	1/3
CC HEATER	0.25	AMPS RE	C. HEA	TER N	A AMPS
DESIGNATED REFRIGERAN		ING		R22	
HELIUM HOL	DING CH	ARGE			
DESIGNED W	ORKING	PRESSURE	4	50 P.S.I	.G.
FOR	OUTDOOL	R USE			
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National Refrig Conditioning Ca 159 Roy Blvd, I	nada Corp	•	-	LISTED 4L	06
Phone: 800-46 Fax: 519-753-	3-9517*5			Made In	

Lighting Fixtures:

Lighting ballasts generally have nameplates with a variety of information, including:

- Operating temperatures Input voltage(s) – V
- Output voltage(s) V

Input frequency (usually 50 or 60) - Hz

- Sound rating
- Ballast type and class

The ballast nameplate may also indicate compatible bulbs and include wiring diagrams, start temperatures and other characteristics.

Common Nameplate Information, Abbreviations, and Units

Description	Abbreviation	Common Units and notes
Deted Flow	0	Gallons per minute (GPM)
Rated Flow	Q	Liters per minute (Ipm)
Air Flow		Cubic feet per minute (CFM)
		Inches of water (in.) Feet of
Dragouro	Р	water (feet, ft.) Pounds per
Pressure	P	square inch (psi) Pascals
		(pa)
Power		Horsepower (HP)
Power		Watts (W)
Rated Rotational Speed		Revolutions per minute (RPM)
Head pressure at rated flow	H, TDH	See Pressure
Maximum pressure	Pmax	See Pressure
Maximum fluid	T	Degrees Fahrenheit (°F)
temperature	Tmax	Degrees Celsius (°C)
		Natural gas
Fuel Type		Propane (LPG)
		#2 Oil
Minimum input		British Thermal Units per hour (Btu/hr,
		BTUh)
Thermal Output		British Thermal Units per hour (Btu/hr,
		BTUh)
Efficiency		Percent (%)
		inches of water (in., in-wc)
Gas Supply Pressure		Pounds per square inch (psi)
		Pascals (pa)
Rated voltage(s)	V	Volts (V)
Rated full-load amperage	A	Amperes (A) – <i>listed for each voltage</i>
Frequency		
Phase	Φ	Single or three
Speed		Revolutions per minute (RPM, R.P.M.)
Full Load Efficiency		Percent (%)
Power Factor	PF	

Abbreviations and Certification Marks

Common Abbreviations

- A Amperes or amperage (electrical current)
- AC (A.C.) Alternating current
- AFUE Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency
- Amp. Amperes (electrical current)
- BTU British thermal units (heat energy)
- BTU/hr BTUs per hour (rate of heat delivery)
- CFM Cubic feet per minute
- **EER** Energy Efficiency Ratio
- FLA Full load amperes (electrical current)
- °F Degrees Fahrenheit
- °C Degrees Celsius
- DC (D.C.) Direct current
- Feet On pumps, feet of water (pressure)
- Gal. Gallons (liquid volume)
- **GPM** Gallons per minute (flow)
- HP (H.P.) Horsepower (motor power)
- HSPF Heating Season Performance Factor
- Hz Hertz (alternating current frequency in cycles per minute, typically 60 or 50)
- In. W.C. (also "W.C.") Inches of water column (pressure)
- LRA Locked rotor amperes (electrical current)
- **PSI** Pounds per square inch (pressure)
- PSIG (P.S.I.G.) Gauge pressure in pounds per square inch
- **PH or** ϕ Phase (typically single or three)
- QTY Quantity
- RLA Running load amperes (electrical current)
- **RPM (R.P.M.)** Revolutions per minute (rotational speed)
- SEER Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio
- S.F. Service Factor
- **W** Watts (power)

Common Certification Marks

Canadian Standards Association (CSA)	۲ ۲
Conformité Européene (European Conformity)	CE
CSA Gas Appliance Certification	US*
EPA Energy Star	ENERGY STAR
Factory Mutual (FM)	FM
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	F©
Intertek Equipment Testing Laboratory (ETL)	CUSTEDUS
Standards Council of Canada Labtest Certification	c (LC) us
Underwriters Laboratory (UL)	(U)
Underwriters Laboratory Recognized Component Mark	AI ®