

# TIP SHEET

## COMPLYING WITH OSHA IC REQUIREMENT FOR FUSES

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### OSHA Regulation

OSHA implemented their “Final Rule” for electrical workplace safety outlines the latest requirements for fuse replacement. Specifically, The Final Rule Preamble Section V C Table 1 says that any electrical work, including repair, shall use adequate IC (Interrupting Rating). The table refers to the Federal Code of Regulation 29 for General Industry 1910.303(b)(4).

This law says, “Equipment intended to interrupt current at fault levels shall have an interrupting rating sufficient for the nominal circuit voltage and the current that is available at the line terminals of the equipment.” In simple terms, replacement fuses are required by law to have a sufficient IC safety rating.

The regulation is not “grandfathered” like many others. Any fuse that is replaced must have an adequate IC rating.

### Compliance with OSHA

Compliance with OSHA is mandatory. Quite often, a facility’s existing fuse procedures are increasing their OSHA liability. Maintenance people are unaware of the OSHA regulation or decide it’s too complicated for compliance.

All UL listed fuses have a documented IC safety rating in addition to their prominent ampere and voltage rating markings. However, some fuses are not clearly marked to their IC rating. If it’s marked, it’s typically abbreviated, “kA IC.”



*The Amp-Trap 2000® family of fuses have the highest IC safety rating available.*

Many facilities have a mix of fuse types with several different IC safety ratings. The most fuse clips can accept a wide range of fuses with various IC safety ratings from a fuse storeroom. It can be very complex to regulate which fuses are used with specific equipment when their fuse clips allow any type of fuse.

### Compliance Solution

Mersen customers have embraced a simplified solution to the OSHA liability. The Amp-Trap 2000® family of fuses all have the highest IC safety rating available. When facilities standardize on the Amp-Trap 2000 fuses, the OSHA IC requirement is satisfied.

This family of fuses is prominently marked with a “safety orange” color. This color makes it easy to identify safe fuses. This is important because they are physically interchangeable with older fuses that have the lower IC safety ratings. With “safety orange,” maintenance workers can easily identify any non-compliant fuse.

Most facilities are implementing the solution in steps. The first step identifies existing fuses

in use. The second step uses the Mersen Fuse Control™ program to detail the recommended replacement fuses. Then the new fuses are delivered to the storeroom and the old, unsafe fuses, are discarded. This prevents maintenance people from inadvertently using a fuse with the wrong IC rating and violating the OSHA law.

### Summary

OSHA is requiring compliance to their Final Rule pertaining to IC safety. The safest and most trouble-free compliance method is to standardize on the Amp-Trap 2000 family of fuses. For more information visit:  
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