

DECISION SHEET

Standard(s)- (year and edition): IEC 60601-1:1988 Ed.2 Am1+Am2	Sub clause(s): 57.9 b)	Sheet n°: DSH-423
Subject: Use of a PTC as a protective device	Key words: PTC, protective device, Mains supply transformers, overload	Confirmed by CTL at its 39th meeting, in Cologne

Question:

Is it permitted to use a PTC as protective device and what should be the overload test?

Decision:

Where a PTC is used as a protective device for a mains supply transformer, the requirements for THERMAL CUT-OUTS as required by sub-clause 57.9 shall be applied.

They shall be in accordance with International or National standards which address the reliability of these components, e.g. as specified in IEC 60950 Amendment 4 clause 2.11 (Ed. 2).

Explanatory notes:

No technical reason why not to use PTC's can be foreseen, however there is concern about the reliability of such devices. The use of PTC does not replace the use primary fuses and over current releases as stated in 57.6