Supplemental Protectors are being used for motor branch circuit protection in numerous applications throughout the industry. This is a MISAPPLICATION and the urgency of the matter is prompting the creation of safety notices, articles, and technical bulletins to alert the users of this misapplication. Supplemental protectors are not suitable for branch circuit protection and cannot be used for this purpose per 240.10 of the National Electrical Code®. Supplemental protectors are intended to be used as a component of an end product such as commercial appliances, kitchen appliances, luminaires (lighting fixtures), etc. They are offered in a wide variety of performance characteristics, voltage ratings, and interrupting ratings and therefore each supplemental protector is only allowed to be used under specific conditions. Supplemental protectors are UL recognized to UL1077, Supplemental protectors for use in Electrical Equipment, for this reason. A recognized or restricted product is not field installable and therefore an investigation assuring application of the product within its conditions of acceptability is required.

Why are they being misapplied?
Here are some of the popular reasons why:
- Supplemental protectors look very similar to Molded Case Circuit Breakers leading to the assumption that they provide the same protection
- Supplemental protectors are often labeled as circuit breakers or Miniature Circuit Breakers (MCB) in literature
- Many of these devices are rated as a circuit breaker per IEC and confusion over North American and IEC ratings leads to misapplication

So what do I need to do?
In order to correct the application, suitable protection for the motor branch circuit needs to be provided. The simplest correction to this problem is the replacement of the misapplied supplemental protector with a device that is suitable for branch circuit protection.

A WORD OF CAUTION: The supplemental protector can only be used in an end product that is evaluated as an assembly. If the equipment does not go through an investigation, there is no assurance that the supplemental protector is being used for its intended use within its conditions of acceptability. Therefore the replacement of this device is the safest approach.

So What Can I Use?
NEC® 430.52 provides a list of acceptable devices for motor branch circuit protection. Among the list of acceptable devices are time delay and fast acting branch circuit fuses. Provided below is a list of products that Bussmann offers for a solution to this issue.

Supplemental Protectors are NOT suitable for Motor Branch Circuit Protection

For Further Information on this topic or Bussmann® products visit the Bussmann® Website at: www.bussmann.com

Contact your local Bussmann® Sales Engineer for Details

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