



Understanding Short Term Overload Ratings for Meter Socket Adapters

Meter Socket Forms and Meter Socket Current Ratings, can get confusing and sometimes misleading. Just because a product supplier claims a device can fit into an application, another more critical rating may make doing so dangerous.

Class 200 and Class 320 are both 'Form 2s' so the MTI 400, 575 and CL 320 models will all fit interchangeably into any 2S meter socket including a Class 320 Socket. If our 200/260 amp rated meter socket surge protector is installed in a 200 amp meter socket, the service limit is 200 amps Continuous (it is limited to the Continuous rating of the meter socket). If that same device is installed into a Class 320 socket the limit is 260 amps (the service is de-rated to the 260 amp tested and listed limit of the surge device when installed in a Class 320 Meter Socket).

Meter Treater never makes the claim that our 400 and 575 device can be used in a Class 320 meter socket without clarifying that by doing so, the 320 amp service would be de-rated to the 260 amp Continuous rating of our housing (as tested in a class 320 meter socket).

As a side note, our CL 320 can be inserted into a 200 amp meter socket and although doing this is major overkill, the service rating will remain at 200 amps Continuous since this is the Continuous rating limit of the meter socket.

To add more confusion to this issue, the ANSI/UL 414 standard allows all manufacturers who test their meter socket products to 100% to mark their products with a rating of 125% of the tested Continuous rating ($260 \times 1.25 = 325$ amps). This calculated 'rating' is called the Maximum (or The Short Term Overload Rating). Maximum should not be confused with Continuous since the Maximum is a level of current the device can endure for short periods of time (usually a matter of minutes before overheating can occur). We do not recommend using 'Maximum' for product evaluations since it is of limited value. It is important to know that the meter socket surge protector is certified to the appropriate Continuous current rating for the meter socket application.