



Meter-Treater, Inc.

QUALITY SURGE PROTECTION DEVICES SINCE 1986

FIRE SAFETY: Continuous Ratings of Meter-Based Surge Protection

There are Class 200 and Class 320 meter sockets which are both Form 2S (4 Jaw blades). Both a 200amp and 320 amp meter based surge protection device will fit in either of these meter sockets. However, just because a product says it can fit in to an application does not mean that both devices are rated for either application. Installing the incorrect device for the application needed can create a dangerous situation due to the continuous amp rating.

The continuous rating is used to describes the meter socket and surge protection devices ability to withstand a certain amount of continuous amps going through these devices. UL 1449 surge standards allow all manufacturers who test their products to 100% to mark their products with a rating of 125% of the tested continuous rating. This calculated 'rating' is called the Maximum. Maximum should not be confused with Continuous since the Maximum is a level of current the device can endure for only very 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 no real value. It is important to know when choosing a surge protection device that it is certified to the appropriate continuous current rating for the meter socket application.

Meter-Treaters 400 and 575 Series devices are both 200 amp rated surge protection devices. When installed in a 200 amp socket, the limit is 200 amp continuous because it is limited to the continuous rating of the device. If that same surge protector is installed in to a class 320 meter socket, the limit is 260 amp because the service gets de-rated to the 260 amp tested and listed limit of the surge device.

Meter-Treater does not make the claim that our 400 and 575 devices 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 CL320 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.