

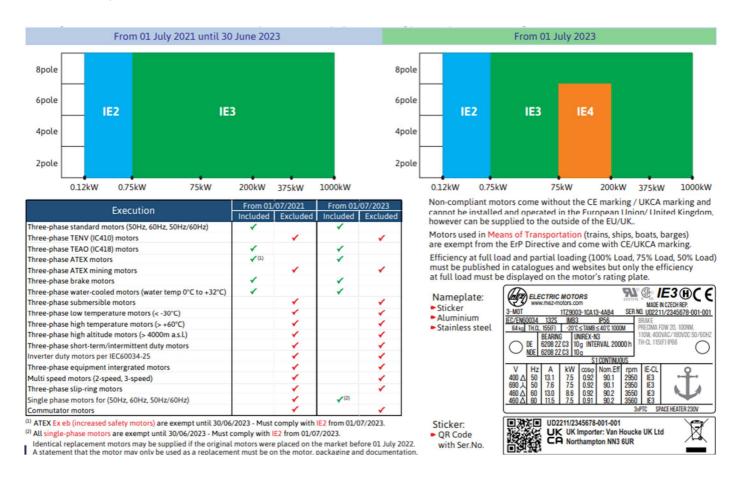
# **NEWSLETTER**

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### ErP Directive implementation July 2023 reminder

We already touched on this subject in our latest February edition but as the deadline is drawing closer, it is a mere reminder that as of 01 July 2023 all three-phase motors 2p to 6p and between 75kW and 200kW will need to meet IE4 efficiency. The only exemption are motors used for applications regarded as means of transport. We are delighted to advise that the Van Houcke Group is ahead of the market trend and have been stocking IE4 motors since 2022. The other ErP Directive change will be inclusion of single-phase motors, which will now need to meet IE2 efficiency. Please refer to the following article for more details.



#### Single-phase motor range meeting IE2 efficiency in stock by the ErP Directive implementation!

If we retrospectively review the development of Efficiency Classes, the ErP Directive has been implemented so that the motor makers and designers have ample time to redesign their products and this process has been implemented from the 'easiest to the most difficult'. To begin with, the only inclusion were motors exceeding 0.75kW, 2p to 6p and safe area. As a rule of thumb, it is easier to meet higher efficiency at larger frames so the inclusion of motors below 0.75kW was implemented many years after the initial transition from EFF1 and EFF2 classification to the current IE2 / IE3 / IE4 efficiency. Regarding motors certified for hazardous area, it has always been deemed more important to have a product 'fit for purpose' than increasing its energy efficiency but in recent years even motors certified for hazardous areas have been included in the scope of the ErP Directive .

Single-phase motors have always been inefficient by their design. Single-phase motors can only start using a capacitor (or two- cap start / cap run), the motor needs to be fitted with a switch or relay so the design has always been less efficient than that of a three-phase motor and it has also proven to be more challenging to upgrade to a higher IP rating. Due to the large installed base of single-phase motors within the EU, the ErP Directive has finally included single-phase motors with implementation date being 01 July 2023. Many motor manufacturers have found that upgrading the design to meet the new IE2 efficiency level will prove difficult. It will drive the product price to a higher level and some have decided not to pursue the new design at all. Some experts claim that IE2 efficiency within a single-phase motor range is the very maximum achievable efficiency unlike three-phase motors, which can achieve IE4 with ease.

Initially, the Van Houcke Group contemplated whether it is viable to continue with single-phase motors or whether to abandon the range and concentrate our efforts on single-phase in /three-phase out inverter + three-phase motor. We can assist with inverters mounted on top of the three-phase motor which makes the overall application more bulky and slightly more costly but also more reliable (especially for frequent switching on and off!). The factory we have cooperated with for many decades are still in the process of designing their IE2 single-phase range and we are being assured that it will be ready in time for the ErP Directive implementation.

In the February newsletter, we mentioned that in January 2023 we visited the FCM factory in Turkey. During our trip, we were shown the new single-phase motor range and we really liked the aesthetics of the motor appearance. The Van Houcke Group is committed to supplying quality products, our strategy is not be the cheapest, our strategy is to ensure our products 'do not come back' thus ensuring customer satisfaction through supplying reliable products. We therefore took several samples of the single-phase motors manufactured by the factory in Turkey and had them independently tested in a third party laboratory. We were really satisfied with the test results, all the motors met and also exceeded IE2 efficiency and even the laboratory we used for testing favourably commented on the quality of motors. Based on these independent tests, we ordered our first batch of single-phase IE2 motors, which will be in stock (in Northampton UK) in July 2023. We are excited as we believe the product quality coupled with the pricing will make the Van Houcke Group emerge as a reliable single-phase motor supplier and we deem this product enrichment as a strategy for sustainable growth.

We should also mention that the standard brakes we keep in stock for the range of three-phase FCM motors will fit on the

back of these single-phase motors!

IE2 / CE / UKCA

## Van Houcke UK training day

As planned, we held a **Training day** on 6<sup>th</sup> March, which was well attended with 24 participants from 13 companies who predominantly attended online. The training was split into two parts so not everyone attended the full day. We felt that the event went well. Due to the number of people attending online, much of the training was tailored to accommodate this so we didn't have much of hands on demonstration but judging from the feedback we received, we believe everyone enjoyed the sessions. We are currently not planning any training sessions but can facilitate '*lunch and learn*' which has been very popular in the past. *Lunch and learn* means we arrive to your premises and have access to a meeting room, we conduct the training presentation whilst the staff can dip in and out. This is usually most effective during lunch hours as this minimises any major disruption to your business day.

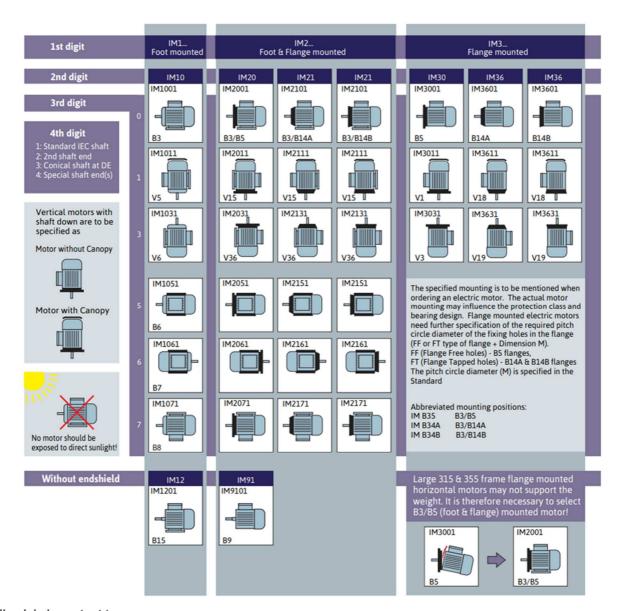
If you feel that you would benefit form a *lunch and learn* session, please contact **Lucie on 01933 322113** to discuss your training requirements.





# Motor mounting positions overview

Our website analytics suggest that many people visit our website for technical information so based on the website performance, we will be listing the most popular data in our newsletters. For more information please either visit our website or contact us via email or call us on 01933 322113.



# Feedback is important to us

We like to hear from our customer whether the feedback is positive or whether it is constructive criticism! We note all customer feedback and incorporate it into weekly meetings, which then leads to implementation of various measures to improve our service and adapt our product portfolio. We have listened to our customers regarding the pricing and availability of the the single-phase motor range so we have sourced another alternative. We are continually increasing our stockholding and amending the stock profile to accommodate our customers' needs. Your feedback can be provided via email or a phone call

so please let us know what we are doing well and what we could be doing better!

Shift

Thank You