



Designation: ~~F3338~~—~~18~~ F3338 – 20

Standard Specification for Design of Electric Propulsion Units for General Aviation Aircraft¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers minimum requirements for the design of Electric Propulsion Units (EPU).

1.2 Distributed propulsion is not excluded; however, additional requirements will be needed to address the additional issues that distributed propulsion can create. Some of those issues may include: use of a common motor controller/inverter, segregated electric harnesses, cooling systems, electric power supplies, and others.

1.3 This specification does not address all of the requirements that may be necessary for possible hybrid configurations where an EPU and a combustion engine drive a common thruster. This specification may be used for the EPU aspects with supplemental requirements for the thruster and the combustion engine.

1.4 ~~This~~ Although this specification does not include the specific requirements for EPUs that include gearboxes, thrusters, liquid cooling/lubrication, or any energy storage systems, it also does not preclude such capabilities. This specification may be used for the base EPU base aspects—~~aspects of the design, with supplemental requirements for these additional features.~~ any additional features prepared by the manufacturer and submitted to the Civil Airworthiness Authority for acceptance. This version of this ASTM specification also does not address all of the requirements necessary for configurations of motor driven ducted-fans. It is anticipated that the fan would be subject to parts of 14 CFR 33 or CS-E and/or 14 CFR 35 or CS-P, or equivalent, in particular blade-off and bird strike. These would be conducted on the fan as a unit (including motor) rather than on motor or fan alone.

1.5 The applicant for a design approval ~~shall~~ should seek the individual guidance of their respective civil aviation authority (CAA) body concerning the use of this specification as part of a certification plan. For information on which CAA regulatory bodies have accepted this specification (in whole or in part) as a means of compliance to their general aviation aircraft airworthiness regulations (hereinafter referred to as “the Rules”), refer to ASTM Committee F39 webpage (www.ASTM.org/COMITTEE/F39.htm), which includes CAA website links.

1.6 When applicable, this specification may be used for EPUs with a fixed-pitch propeller or fan. These configurations may be type-certificated as an EPU including a thruster. There may be additional requirements not currently included in this specification for this type configuration. In addition, 5.245.25 is included as a test requirement for the EPU. That section recognizes that when the EPU may does not have an integral thruster but it must it will need to be tested with a representative load on the drive shaft to assure EPU ability to operate properly with static and dynamic loads.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F39 on Aircraft Systems and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F39.05 on Design, Alteration, and Certification of Electric Propulsion Systems.

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1.7 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.8 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.9 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standard:

[F3060 Terminology for Aircraft](#)

2.2 *Code of Federal Regulations:*²

[14 CFR 33 Airworthiness Standards: Aircraft Engines](#)

[14 CFR 35 Airworthiness Standards: Propellers](#)

2.3 *EASA Standards:*³

[CS-E Engines](#)

[CS-P Propellers](#)

2.4 *IEC Standards:*⁴

[IEC 60034-1 Rotating electrical machines – Part 1 Rating and performance](#)

[IEC 60349-4 Electric traction – Rotating electric machines for rail and road vehicles – Part 4: Permanent magnet synchronous electrical machines connected to an electronic converter](#)

2.5 *SAE Standard:*⁵

[SAE J245 Engine-Rating Code~Spark Ignition](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Terminology specific to this specification is provided below. For general terminology, refer to ASTM F3060, Standard Terminology for Aircraft.

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *duty types, n—*<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/c41b8901-f255-48a7-b53a-5a30f416f67a/astm-f3338-20>

3.2.1.1 *non-periodic duty, n—*in which generally load and speed vary within the permissible operating range.

3.2.1.2 *periodic duty, n—*comprising one or more loads remaining constant for the duration specified.

3.2.2 ~~*electronic controllers, electric propulsion unit (EPU), n—encompasses inverters.*~~ A machine that converts electric power into mechanical power for propulsion, including components necessary for proper control and functioning.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion—*

In the context of this specification, a minimum EPU is comprised of the electric motors, associated motor controllers, inverters, disconnects, wiring, and sensors.

3.2.3 *energize, v—*the act of connecting the EPU to the electrical power source such that the EPU enters a ready state where throttle input results in shaft rotation. De-energize is the opposite of energize.

3.2.4 *hazardous EPU effects, n—*~~the following effects will be~~ are regarded as Hazardous EPU Effects:

- (1) Non-containment of high-energy debris;
- (2) Significant brake power in the opposite direction to that commanded by the pilot;
- (3) Uncontrolled fire;
- (4) Failure of the EPU mount system leading to inadvertent EPU separation;
- (5) Release of the propeller or fan or any major portion of the propeller or fan by the EPU, if applicable;

² Available from U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO), 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.gpo.gov>.

³ Available from European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), Postfach 10 12 53, D-50452 Cologne, Germany, <http://www.easa.europa.eu>.

⁴ Available from International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), 3, rue de Varembe, 1st Floor, P.O. Box 131, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland, <http://www.iec.ch>.

⁵ Available from SAE International (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Dr., Warrendale, PA 15096, <http://www.sae.org>.

(6) Complete inability to shut the EPU down; and

(7) ~~Electrocution of crew or passengers sufficient to cause serious or fatal injury.~~ The serious or fatal injury to flight crew, passengers, or ground-handling personnel arising from electric shock.

3.2.5 inverter, n—a power electronic device or circuitry that changes direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC). The motor controller is often integrated with the inverter.

3.2.6 *motor, n*—a machine that converts electrical power into rotational mechanical power.

3.2.7 *motor controller, n*—a device or devices that serves to ~~govern~~manage the operation of an electric motor.

3.2.7.1 *Discussion—*

It could include a manual or automatic means for ~~powering on~~energizing, starting or stopping the motor, selecting direction of rotation, selecting and regulating motor speeds, regulating or limiting the torque, and protecting against overloads and faults. The inverter ~~function~~ is often a ~~part of~~ integrated with the motor controller.

~~3.1.6 powering on, v—energizing, or turning on, the EPU to a ready state such that throttle input results in shaft rotation.~~

3.2.8 *rated maximum continuous power, n*—with respect to Electric Propulsion Units, the approved brake ~~horsepower~~power that is developed statically or in flight, in standard atmosphere at a specified altitude, within the EPU operating limitations established under CAA requirements, and approved for unrestricted periods of use.

3.2.8.1 *Discussion—*

Brake power is defined in SAE J245 as the power available at the flywheel or other output member(s) for doing useful work.

3.2.9 *rated takeoff power, n*—with respect to Electric Propulsion Units type certification, the approved brake horsepower that is developed statically under standard sea level conditions, within the EPU operating limitations established under CAA requirements, and limited in use to periods of not over 5 min for takeoff operation.

3.2.10 *shaft power (or simply power), power, n*—the brake power delivered at an EPU's drive shaft.

3.2.10.1 *Discussion—*

References to electrical power ~~will be~~ are called out as such.

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3.2.11 thrust, n—The propulsive force generated by the aircraft engine that is used to move an aircraft through the air.

3.2.11.1 *Discussion—*

As used in this specification, applies to endurance, durability, and systems tests.

3.2.12 thruster, n—as used in this specification, a device such as propeller, rotor, or fan for translating mechanical/rotational energy to thrust.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

~~3.2.1 electric propulsion unit (EPU), n—in the context of this standard, a minimum EPU is comprised of the electric motor, associated electronic controllers, disconnects, wiring, and sensors.~~

~~3.2.2 thrust, v—as used in this standard, only applies to endurance, durability, and systems tests.~~

~~3.2.3 thruster, n—as used in this standard, a device such as propeller, rotor, or fan for translating mechanical/rotational energy to thrust.~~

3.3 *Abbreviations:*

3.3.1 *EMI*—electromagnetic interference

3.3.2 *HIRF*—high-intensity radiated field

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This specification provides designers and manufacturers of electric propulsion for General Aviation aircraft references and criteria to use in designing and developing EPUs with the intent of gaining approval from a civil aviation authority.

4.2 **Appendix XI** provides additional (but not necessarily all) information and guidance to meet certification or airworthiness requirements, or both, for a particular country or area under the jurisdiction of a civil aviation authority.

5. Requirements in Support of Certification or Approval

5.1 *Instructions for Continued Airworthiness:*

5.1.1 Instructions for continued airworthiness must be prepared. The instructions may be incomplete at the time of certification or approval:

5.1.1.1 If a program exists to ensure their completion prior to delivery of the first aircraft with the EPU installed, or

5.1.1.2 Upon CAA approval for the aircraft with the EPU installed, whichever occurs later.

5.1.2 A maintenance manual shall be provided that defines maintenance requirements for the continued airworthiness of the EPU, such as periodic installed maintenance, major inspections, repairs, replacement or overhaul intervals, and any other maintenance limitations including limited life components requiring replacement between overhaul intervals. Maintenance requirements for the continued airworthiness of the EPU also includes special equipment or testing required to ensure the electrical propulsion system is safe to continued operation.

5.1.3 If applicable, an overhaul manual that provides instructions for disassembling, replacing, or overhauling components identified in the manual for such, in order to return the EPU to airworthy condition that is safe for operation until the next major overhaul.

5.1.4 Updates to the Instructions for Continued Airworthiness must be made available by the EPU manufacturer or other responsible party such that those instructions remain current.

5.2 *Instruction Manual for Installing and Operating the EPU:*

5.2.1 Instructions for installing and operating the EPU must be made available to the CAA as part of the certification process and to the customer at the time of delivery of the EPU. The instructions must include directly, or by reference to appropriate documentation, at least the following:

5.2.1.1 *Installation Instructions*—Coordination is recommended between the EPU manufacturer and the installer. However, if the installer is not identified at the time of EPU design, the following aspects still need definition in the installation instructions.

(1) An outline drawing of the EPU including overall dimensions.

(2) A definition of the physical and functional interfaces of all elements of the EPU, with the aircraft and aircraft equipment, including the propeller or fan, when applicable. Including the location and description of EPU connections for attachment of accessories, wires, cables, cooling ducts, cowling, and any other equipment attached to the EPU.

(3) Where an EPU system relies on components that are not part of the EPU type design, the interface conditions and reliability requirements for those components, as used in the safety analysis, must be specified in the EPU installation instructions. If reliability values used in the safety analysis are based on assumptions, these assumed values must be specified in the EPU installation instructions. Requirements for mitigation means, that are not part of the EPU, must be specified in the installation and operation instructions.

(4) A list of the instruments necessary for the control and operation of the EPU, including the overall limits of accuracy and transient response requirements, must be stated in a manner that allows the satisfactory nature of instruments as installed to be determined.

NOTE 1—“Instrument” is used to refer to any device necessary to measure EPU parameters and convey them to the appropriate decision-making center, be that a pilot or software-based control.

(5) The limits on environmental conditions, including EMI, HIRF, and lightning for which the EPU was designed and qualified.

5.2.1.2 *Operation Instructions:*

- (1) The operating limitations established within the showing of compliance.
- (2) The power ratings and procedures for correcting for nonstandard atmosphere.
- (3) The recommended procedures, under normal and critical ambient conditions for:
 - (a) Powering on;
 - (b) Operating on the ground;
 - (c) Operating during flight.
- (4) A description of the primary and all alternate modes, and any back-up system, together with any associated limitations, of the EPU control system and its interface with the aircraft systems, including the propeller or fan if these are integral with the EPU.

5.3 *EPU Operating Limitations and Ratings:*

5.3.1 Ratings and operating limitations are established by the administrator and included in the product certificate data sheet, including ratings and limitations based on the operating conditions and information specified in this section, as applicable, and any other information found necessary for safe operation of the engine.

5.3.2 EPU operating limitations are established as applicable, including:

5.3.2.1 Maximum transient rotor shaft overspeed and time;

5.3.2.2 Maximum transient EPU overtorque and time, and number of overtorque occurrences;

5.3.2.3 Maximum EPU overtorque and time;

5.3.2.4 Electrical power, voltage, current, frequency, and electrical power quality limits;

5.3.2.5 Maximum rated temperature;

5.3.2.6 Maximum and minimum continuous temperature, current, voltage;

5.3.2.7 Vibration limits; and

5.3.2.8 Any other information necessary for safe operation of the EPU.

5.3.3 EPU ratings are established, as applicable, and are based on the intended duty cycle and the assignment of ratings as defined below, including:

5.3.3.1 Power, torque, speed, and time for:

- (1) Rated maximum continuous power, and
- (2) Rated maximum temporary power and associated time limit.

5.3.4 *Duty Cycle:*

5.3.4.1 *Declaration of Duty*—The intended duty cycle of the EPU sets the framework for establishment of the ratings. There are a number of typical duty cycles used for electric motors. (See IEC 60034-1.) As the duty cycle combined with the rating at that duty cycle establishes the capability and the limits for the EPU use, the manufacturer declares the duty cycle or cycles. These can be based on the manufacturer's intended use for the EPU or may be based on the required duty cycle of the installer. As detailed in IEC 60034-1, multiple duties and their associated ratings may be established to address various operational conditions. The duty may be described by one of the following:

- (1) Numerically, where the load does not vary or where it varies in a known manner; or
- (2) As a time sequence graph of the variable quantities; or
- (3) By selecting one of the typical duty types in accordance with IEC 60034-1, Paragraph 4 Duty, that is no less onerous than the expected duty.

5.3.5 *Assignment of Rating*—The rating, as defined by “set of rated values and operating conditions,” shall be assigned by the manufacturer. In assigning the rating, the manufacturer shall select one of the classes of rating as defined in the IEC 60034-1 Paragraph 5 Ratings.

5.3.6 *Motor Rate Output*—The rated output is the mechanical power available at the shaft and shall be expressed in watts (W).

NOTE 2—It is the practice in some countries for the mechanical power available at the shafts of motors to be expressed in horsepower (1 hp is equivalent to 745,7 W; 1 ch (cheval or metric horsepower) is equivalent to 736 W).

5.3.7 *Machines with More Than One Rating*—For machines with more than one rating, the machine shall comply with this specification in all respects at each rating. For multi-speed machines, a rating shall be assigned for each speed. When a rated quantity (output, voltage, speed, etc.) may assume several values or vary continuously within two limits, the rating shall be stated at these values or limits.

5.3.8 Each selected rating must be for the lowest power that all EPU's of the same type may be expected to produce under the conditions used to determine that rating at all times between overhaul periods or other maintenance.

5.4 *Materials:*

5.4.1 The materials and components used in the EPU must be established on the basis of industry or military specification(s) for the intended design conditions of the system. The assumed design values of properties of materials must be suitably related to the minimum properties stated in the material specification. Otherwise, proof of suitability and durability acceptable to the CAA must be established on the basis of tests or other means that ensure their having the strength and other properties assumed in the design data.

5.4.2 Manufacturing methods and processes must be such as to produce sound structure and mechanisms, and electrical systems that retain the design properties under reasonable service conditions. This includes the effects of corrosion.

5.5 *Fire Protection:*

5.5.1 The design and construction of the EPU and the materials used must minimize the probability of the occurrence and spread of fire during normal operation and EPU failure conditions and must minimize the effect of such a fire. EPU high voltage electrical wiring interconnect systems should be protected against arc-faults. Any nonprotected electrical wiring interconnects should be analyzed to show that arc faults do not cause a hazardous condition. If flammable fluids are used, then this must be stated in any required installation instructions so that consideration may be given (at the aircraft level) to determining if a fire zone must be established under the associated aircraft certification rules.

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5.6 *Durability:*

5.6.1 EPU design and construction must minimize the development of an unsafe condition of the EPU between maintenance intervals, removal from service or overhaul periods or mandated life defined in the Instructions for Continued Airworthiness, as applicable.

5.7 *EPU Cooling:*

5.7.1 EPU cooling ~~must~~shall be sufficient under all conditions within the declared operational ~~limitations~~limitations to prevent component temperatures exceeding applicable limits.

5.7.2 If aspects of the cooling require the installer to ensure that the temperature limits are met, those limits ~~must~~shall be specified in the installation manual.

5.7.3 Instrumentation or sensors ~~must~~shall be provided to enable the flight crew or the automatic control system to monitor the functioning of the EPU cooling system unless appropriate inspections are published in the relevant manuals and evidence shows that:

5.7.3.1 Failure of the cooling system would not lead to hazardous EPU effects defined in 3.2.4 before detection; or

5.7.3.2 Other existing instrumentation or sensors provides adequate warning of failure or impending failure; or

5.7.3.3 The probability of failure of the cooling system is extremely remote.

5.7.4 An EPU with a liquid cooling system shall also meet the applicable requirements of 5.18.

5.8 EPU Mounting Attachments and Structure:

5.8.1 The maximum allowable limit and ultimate load for the integral EPU mounting attachment points and related EPU structure must be specified.

5.8.2 The EPU mounting attachments and related EPU structure must be able to withstand:

5.8.2.1 The specified limit loads without permanent deformation; and

5.8.2.2 The specified ultimate loads without failure but allowing for permanent deformation.

5.8.3 If flammable fluids are used within the EPU, the mounts and the mounting features must be demonstrated to be fireproof.

5.9 EPU Rotor Overspeed:

5.9.1 The rotors must, including any integral fan rotors used for cooling:

5.9.1.1 Possess sufficient strength with a margin to burst above certified operating conditions and above failure conditions leading to rotor overspeed, and

5.9.1.2 Do not exhibit a level of growth or damage that could lead to a hazardous EPU effect.

5.9.2 *Burst*—For each rotor of the EPU, it must be established by test, analysis, or a combination of both, that each rotor will not burst when subjected to the analysis and test conditions per IEC 60349, Part 4, or an equivalent standard.

5.9.2.1 Unless otherwise specified in IEC 60349, Part 4, test rotors used to demonstrate compliance with this section that do not have the most adverse combination of material properties and dimensional tolerances must be tested at conditions which have been adjusted to ensure the minimum specification rotor possesses the required overspeed capability. This can be accomplished by increasing test speed, temperature, or loads, or combinations thereof.

5.9.2.2 When an EPU test is being used to demonstrate compliance with the overspeed conditions listed in paragraph 5.9.3 of this section and the failure of a component or system is sudden and transient, it may not be possible to operate the EPU for 5 min after the failure. Under these circumstances, the actual overspeed duration is acceptable if the required maximum overspeed is achieved as required by IEC 60349-4.

5.9.3 *Max Overspeed*—When determining the maximum overspeed condition applicable to each rotor in order to comply with paragraph 5.9.2 of this section, the evaluation must include the test conditions as specified in IEC 60034-1 and the following:

5.9.3.1 One hundred twenty percent of the maximum permissible rotor speed associated with any continuous, periodic, or non-periodic duty rating, including ratings for short time duty.

5.9.3.2 One hundred fifteen percent of the maximum no-load speed associated with any continuous, periodic, or non-periodic duty rating, including ratings for short time duty.

5.9.3.3 One hundred five percent of the highest rotor speed that would result from either:

(1) The failure of the component or system which, in a representative installation of the EPU, is the most critical with respect to overspeed when operating at any continuous, periodic, or non-periodic duty rating, including ratings for short time duty.

(2) The failure of any component or system in a representative installation of the EPU, in combination with any other failure of a component or system that would not normally be detected during a routine pre-flight check or during normal flight operation, that is the most critical with respect to overspeed, except as provided by paragraph 5.9.4 of this section, when operating at any continuous, periodic, or non-periodic duty rating, including ratings for short time duty.

5.9.4 *Loss of Load*—The highest overspeed that results from a complete loss of load on an EPU rotor, must be determined and included in the overspeed conditions considered by paragraph 5.9.3 of this section. The complete loss of load must also consider: