

**The information contained in this document supersedes all similar information that may be found elsewhere in this manual.**

**Service** – Due to the sophisticated nature of the sensors and associated instrumentation provided by PCB Piezotronics, user servicing or repair is not recommended and, if attempted, may void the factory warranty. Routine maintenance, such as the cleaning of electrical connectors, housings, and mounting surfaces with solutions and techniques that will not harm the physical material of construction, is acceptable. Caution should be observed to ensure that liquids are not permitted to migrate into devices that are not hermetically sealed. Such devices should only be wiped with a dampened cloth and never submerged or have liquids poured upon them.

**Repair** – In the event that equipment becomes damaged or ceases to operate, arrangements should be made to return the equipment to PCB Piezotronics for repair. User servicing or repair is not recommended and, if attempted, may void the factory warranty.

**Calibration** – Routine calibration of sensors and associated instrumentation is recommended as this helps build confidence in measurement accuracy and acquired data. Equipment calibration cycles are typically established by the users own quality regimen. When in doubt about a calibration cycle, a good “rule of thumb” is to recalibrate on an annual basis. It is

also good practice to recalibrate after exposure to any severe temperature extreme, shock, load, or other environmental influence, or prior to any critical test.

PCB Piezotronics maintains an ISO-9001 certified metrology laboratory and offers calibration services, which are accredited by A2LA to ISO/IEC 17025, with full traceability to SI through N.I.S.T. In addition to the normally supplied calibration, special testing is also available, such as: sensitivity at elevated or cryogenic temperatures, phase response, extended high or low frequency response, extended range, leak testing, hydrostatic pressure testing, and others. For information on standard recalibration services or special testing, contact your local PCB Piezotronics distributor, sales representative, or factory customer service representative.

**Returning Equipment** – *Following these procedures will ensure that your returned materials are handled in the most expedient manner.* Before returning any equipment to PCB Piezotronics, contact your local distributor, sales representative, or factory customer service representative to obtain a Return **Warranty, Service, Repair, and Return Policies and Instructions** Materials Authorization (RMA) Number. This RMA number should be clearly marked on the outside of all package(s) and on the packing

list(s) accompanying the shipment. A detailed account of the nature of the problem(s) being experienced with the equipment should also be included inside the package(s) containing any returned materials.

A Purchase Order, included with the returned materials, will expedite the turn-around of serviced equipment. It is recommended to include authorization on the Purchase Order for PCB to proceed with any repairs, as long as they do not exceed 50% of the replacement cost of the returned item(s). PCB will provide a price quotation or replacement recommendation for any item whose repair costs would exceed 50% of replacement cost, or any item that is not economically feasible to repair. For routine calibration services, the Purchase Order should include authorization to proceed and return at current pricing, which can be obtained from a factory customer service representative.

**Contact Information** – International customers should direct all inquiries to their local distributor or sales office. A

complete list of distributors and offices can be found at [www.pcb.com](http://www.pcb.com). Customers within the United States may contact their local sales representative or a factory customer service representative. A complete list of sales representatives can be found at [www.pcb.com](http://www.pcb.com). Toll-free telephone numbers for a factory customer service representative, in the division responsible for this product, can be found on the title page at the front of this manual. Our ship to address and general contact numbers are:

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PCB工业监视和测量设备 - 中国RoHS2公布表  
PCB Industrial Monitoring and Measuring Equipment - China RoHS 2 Disclosure Table

部件名称	有害物质					
	铅 (Pb)	汞 (Hg)	镉 (Cd)	六价铬 (Cr(VI))	多溴联苯 (PBB)	多溴二苯醚 (PBDE)
住房	○	○	○	○	○	○
PCB板	X	○	○	○	○	○
电气连接器	○	○	○	○	○	○
压电晶体	X	○	○	○	○	○
环氧	○	○	○	○	○	○
铁氟龙	○	○	○	○	○	○
电子	○	○	○	○	○	○
厚膜基板	○	○	X	○	○	○
电线	○	○	○	○	○	○
电缆	X	○	○	○	○	○
塑料	○	○	○	○	○	○
焊接	X	○	○	○	○	○
铜合金/黄铜	X	○	○	○	○	○

本表格依据 SJ/T 11364 的规定编制。

○：表示该有害物质在该部件所有均质材料中的含量均在 GB/T 26572 规定的限量要求以下。

X：表示该有害物质至少在该部件的某一均质材料中的含量超出 GB/T 26572 规定的限量要求。

铅是欧洲RoHS指令2011/65/ EU附件三和附件四目前由于允许的豁免。

CHINA RoHS COMPLIANCE

Component Name	Hazardous Substances					
	Lead (Pb)	Mercury (Hg)	Cadmium (Cd)	Chromium VI Compounds (Cr(VI))	Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBB)	Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE)
Housing	O	O	O	O	O	O
PCB Board	X	O	O	O	O	O
Electrical Connectors	O	O	O	O	O	O
Piezoelectric Crystals	X	O	O	O	O	O
Epoxy	O	O	O	O	O	O
Teflon	O	O	O	O	O	O
Electronics	O	O	O	O	O	O
Thick Film Substrate	O	O	X	O	O	O
Wires	O	O	O	O	O	O
Cables	X	O	O	O	O	O
Plastic	O	O	O	O	O	O
Solder	X	O	O	O	O	O
Copper Alloy/Brass	X	O	O	O	O	O

This table is prepared in accordance with the provisions of SJ/T 11364.

O: Indicates that said hazardous substance contained in all of the homogeneous materials for this part is below the limit requirement of GB/T 26572.

X: Indicates that said hazardous substance contained in at least one of the homogeneous materials for this part is above the limit requirement of GB/T 26572.

Lead is present due to allowed exemption in Annex III or Annex IV of the European RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU.

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## ***Piezoelectric ICP® Accelerometers Operating Guide***

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### ***Operating Guide with Enclosed Warranty Information***

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***MANUAL REVISION: NR***

# General OPERATING GUIDE

for use with

## PIEZOELECTRIC ICP<sup>®</sup> ACCELEROMETERS

### SPECIFICATION SHEET, INSTALLATION DRAWING AND CALIBRATION INFORMATION ENCLOSED

IMI ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED TO THIS PRODUCT AS A RESULT OF PROCEDURES THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THIS OPERATING GUIDE.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on the purchase of a quality industrial ICP<sup>®</sup> sensor. In order to ensure the highest level of performance for this product, it is imperative that you properly familiarize yourself with the correct mounting and installation techniques before attempting to operate this device. If, after reading this manual, you have any additional questions concerning this sensor or its application, feel free to call an Application Engineer at 716-684-0003 or 800-959-4464.

Proper sensor selection requires special attention to three main areas: sensor design, dynamic expectations, and application environment.

Sensor design encompasses the actual sensing element, the physical material, and component selection for the sensor. Preferred industrial accelerometers employ a shear sensing element with either a quartz or ceramic crystal.

Quartz sensing elements are typically used when long-term stability and minimum output shifts due to temperature changes are desired. Ceramic sensing elements provide excellent resolution and durability in noisy environments, and can be designed to supply low-frequency and high-frequency measurements. Shear-design sensors are preferred because of their inherent insensitivity to adverse environmental influences, such as case or base strain and thermal transients. Internal case isolation and shielding is important in avoiding erroneous signals resulting from ground loops and pick-up of electromagnetic and radio frequency interference. Other critical material selection criteria include non-magnetic stainless steel housing, hermetic sealing, and industrial military connectors. See Figure 1.

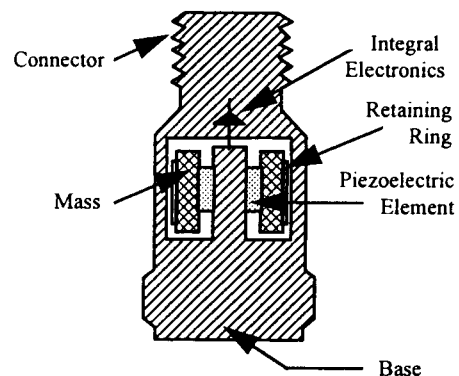


Figure 1. Typical ICP<sup>®</sup> Industrial Shear Mode Accelerometer

Dynamic expectations are application-specific and refer to the frequency range of measurement and the anticipated amplitudes of vibration. After careful review of the machinery to be monitored, minimum and maximum measurement frequency range may be established. The minimum measurement frequency is normally related to any sub-harmonics of running speed or any lower frequencies where vibration data is to be collected. The maximum measurement frequency of interest is determined by the maximum number of harmonics of an event like running speed, bearing frequencies, or gear mesh. This measurement frequency range should be well within the specified frequency range of the sensor.

Amplitude range refers to the anticipated levels of vibration to be measured. These values are related to the alarm levels set for the machine. By carefully evaluating the idiosyncrasies of the machinery, the predictive maintenance engineer can estimate the minimum expected vibration levels and ensure that the electrical noise floor of the accelerometer is less than those levels.

The environment of the application is a critical consideration during program implementation. The sensor chosen must be capable of surviving the wide range of conditions to which it is subjected; therefore, take time to evaluate potential conditions, such as high temperatures and chemical contaminants. The specified temperature range of the sensor must conform to the fluctuations of the environmental temperature. If harsh industrial chemicals are present, the sensor requires hermetic sealing and construction that resists corrosion. Finally, specific location of the sensor within the environment must be sensible, as both cable and sensor may be damaged by imprudent installation in heavily traveled, physically punishing areas.

## 2.0 ICP® ACCELEROMETERS

Enclosed in the back of this guide is a **Specification Sheet**, which lists the complete performance characteristics of the particular sensor.

All ICP® sensors require a constant current power source for proper operation. A typical sensing system includes an ICP® sensor, ordinary two conductor cable and a basic constant current power supply (as shown in Figure 2).

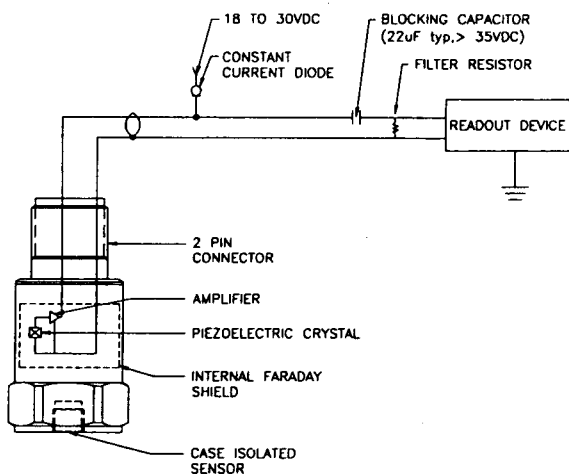


Figure 2. Typical ICP® Sensor System

The signal conditioner consists of a well-regulated 18 to 30 VDC source (battery or line-powered), a current-regulating diode (or equivalent constant current circuit), and a capacitor for decoupling (removing the bias voltage) the signal.

The current-regulating device is used in place of a resistor for several reasons. The very high dynamic resistance of the diode yields a source follower gain

which is extremely close to unity and independent of input voltage. Also, the diode can be changed to supply higher currents for driving long cable lengths. Constant current diodes, as shown in Figure 3, should be used in ICP® signal conditioners. (The correct orientation of the diode within the circuit is critical for proper operation.) Except for special models, standard ICP® sensors require a minimum of 2 mA for proper operation.

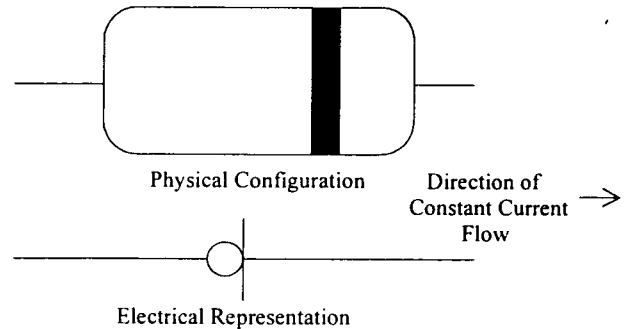


Figure 3. Constant Current Diode

The typical limits for this type of diode are to a 4 mA maximum rating; however, several diodes can be placed in parallel for higher current levels. All line-powered signal conditioners should use higher capacity (up to 20 mA) constant current circuits in place of the diodes, particularly when driving long signal cables (See Section 5).

Decoupling of the data signal occurs at the output stage of the signal conditioner. A 10 to 30  $\mu\text{F}$  capacitor coupled with a resistor shifts the signal level to essentially eliminate the sensor bias voltage. The result is a drift-free AC mode of operation.

## 3.0 OPTIONAL FEATURES

In addition to standard features, a variety of options are also available. When listed before the model number, the following prefix letters indicate that the sensor is manufactured or supplied with optional features:

- CS - Canadian Standards Association Approved Sensor
- D - Dummy, non-working sensor for display purposes
- EX - Cenelec Approved Sensor
- FM - Factory Mutual Approved Sensor
- HT - High Temperature accelerometer (325 °F)
- LB - Low Bias electronics
- LC - Limited Calibration (one point calibration)
- LP - Low Pass filter
- M - Metric mounting hardware and cable length
- U - Usable demonstration sensor (does not meet one or more minor specifications)
- VO - Velocity Output Sensors

MS - Mine Safety Approved Sensors  
 TO - Temperature Output Sensor

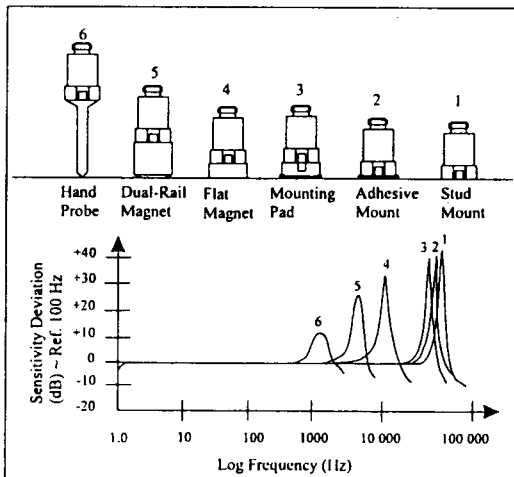
**Note:** Not all sensors are available with the optional prefixes. Contact the factory to discuss special features that may be needed.

#### 4.0 INSTALLATION OVERVIEW

When choosing a mounting method, consider closely both the advantages and disadvantages of each technique. Characteristics like location, ruggedness, amplitude range, accessibility, temperature, and portability are extremely critical. However, the most important and often overlooked consideration is the effect the mounting technique has on the high-frequency operating range of the accelerometer.

Shown in Figure 4 are six possible mounting techniques and their effects on the performance of a typical piezoelectric accelerometer. (Note: Not all of the mounting methods may apply to your particular sensor.) The mounting configurations and corresponding graph demonstrate how the high-frequency response of the accelerometer may be compromised as mass is added to the system and/or the mounting stiffness is reduced.

**Note:** The low-frequency response is unaffected by the mounting technique. This roll-off behavior is typically fixed by the sensor's built-in electronics. However, when operating AC-coupled signal conditioners with readout devices having an input impedance of less than one megaohm, the low frequency range may be affected.

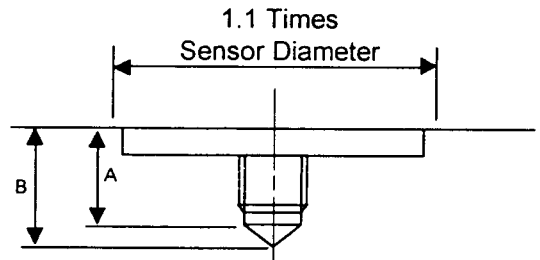


**Figure 4.** Assorted Mounting Configurations and Their Effects on High Frequency

#### 4.1 STANDARD STUD MOUNT

This mounting technique requires smooth, flat contact surfaces for proper operation and is recommended for permanent and/or secure installations. Stud mounting is also recommended when testing at high frequencies.

**Note:** Do NOT attempt mounting on curved, rough, or uneven surfaces, as the potential for misalignment and limited contact surface may significantly reduce the sensor's upper operating frequency range.



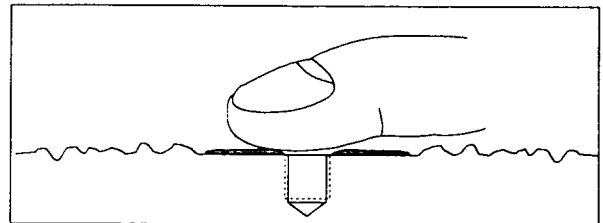
	1/4-28 Stud	1/4-28 Captive Screw
A (in.)	.250	.250
B (in.)	.350	.350
Torque (ft-lb)	2 to 5	2 to 5

**Figure 5.** Mounting Surface Preparation

**STEP 1:** First, prepare a smooth, flat mounting surface, and then drill and tap a mounting hole in the center of this area as shown in Figure 5.

A precision-machined mounting surface with a minimum finish of 63  $\mu\text{in}$  (0,00016 mm) is recommended. (If it is not possible to properly prepare the machine surface, consider using an adhesive mounting pad as a possible alternative.) Inspect the area, checking that there are no burrs or other foreign particles interfering with the contact surface.

**STEP 2:** Wipe clean the mounting surface and spread on a light film of grease, oil, or similar coupling fluid prior to installation.



**Figure 6.** Mounting Surface Lubrication

Adding a coupling fluid improves vibration transmissibility by filling small voids in the mounting surface and increasing the mounting stiffness. For semi-



permanent mounting, substitute epoxy or another type of adhesive.

**STEP 3:** Hand-tighten the sensor/mounting stud to the machine, then secure the sensor with a torque wrench to the mounting surface by applying the recommended mounting torque (see enclosed specification data sheet for proper mounting torque).

It is important to use a torque wrench during this step. Under-torquing the sensor may not adequately couple the device; over-torquing may result in stud failure and possibly permanent damage.

## 4.2 ADHESIVE MOUNT

Adhesive mounting is often used for temporary installation or when the machine surface cannot be adequately prepared for stud mounting. Adhesives like hot glue or wax work well for temporary mounts; two-part epoxies and quick-bonding gels provide a more permanent mount.

*Note: Adhesively-mounted sensors often exhibit a reduction in high-frequency range. Generally, smooth surfaces and stiff adhesives provide the best frequency response. Contact the factory for recommended epoxies.*

### METHOD 1 - Adhesive Mounting Base

This method involves attaching a base to the machine surface, then securing the sensor to the base. This allows for easy removal of the accelerometer.

**STEP 1:** Prepare a smooth, flat mounting surface. A minimum surface finish of 63  $\mu\text{in}$  (0,00016 mm) generally works best.

**STEP 2:** Stud-mount the sensor to the appropriate adhesive mounting base according to the guidelines set forth in STEPS 2 and 3 of the Stud Mount Procedure.

**STEP 3:** Place a small portion of adhesive on the underside of the mounting base. Firmly press down on the assembly to displace any extra adhesive remaining under the base.

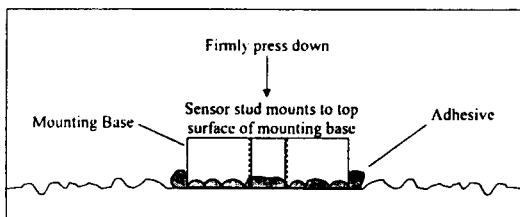


Figure 7. Mounting Base: Adhesive Installation

### METHOD 2 - Direct Adhesive Mount

For restrictions of space or for convenience, most sensors (with the exception of integral stud models) can be adhesive-mounted directly to the machine surface.

**STEP 1:** Prepare a smooth, flat mounting surface. A minimum surface finish of 63  $\mu\text{in}$  (0,00016 mm) generally works best.

**STEP 2:** Place a small portion of adhesive on the underside of the sensor. Firmly press down on the top of the assembly to displace any adhesive. Be aware that excessive amounts of adhesive can make sensor removal difficult.

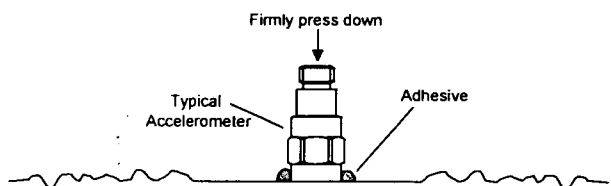


Figure 8. Direct Adhesive Mounting

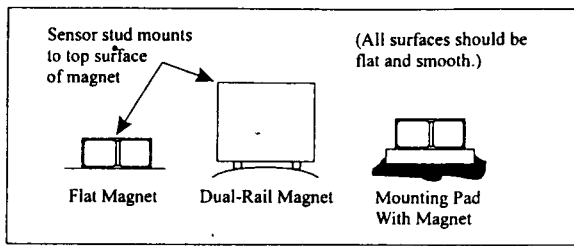
## 4.3 MAGNETIC MOUNT

Magnetic mounting provides a convenient means for making portable measurements and is commonly used for machinery monitoring and other portable or trending applications.

*Note: The correct magnet choice and an adequately prepared mounting surface is critical for obtaining reliable measurements, especially at high frequencies. Poor installations can cause as much as a 50% drop in the sensor frequency range.*

Not every magnet is suitable for all applications. For example, rare earth magnets are commonly used because of their high strength. Flat magnets work well on smooth, flat surfaces, while dual-rail magnets are required for curved surfaces. In the case of non-magnetic or rough surfaces, it is recommended that the user first weld, epoxy, or otherwise adhere a steel mounting pad to the test surface. This provides a smooth and repeatable location for mounting.

**STEP 1:** After choosing the correct magnet type, inspect the unit, verifying that the mounting surfaces are flat and smooth.

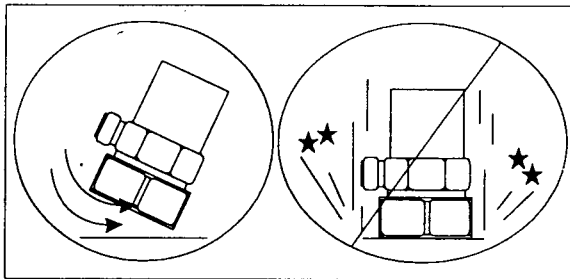


**Figure 9. Magnet Types**

**STEP 2:** Stud-mount the accelerometer to the appropriate magnet according to the guidelines set forth in **STEPS 2 and 3** of the Stud Mount Procedure.

**STEP 3:** Prepare a smooth, flat mounting surface. A minimum surface finish of 63  $\mu\text{in}$  (0,00016 mm) generally works best. After cleaning the surface and checking for burrs, wipe on a light film of silicone grease, machine oil, or similar-type coupling fluid.

**STEP 4:** Mount the magnet/sensor assembly to the prepared test surface by gently “rocking” or “sliding” it into place.



**Figure 10. Magnet Mounting**

**Note:** Magnetically mounting accelerometers carelessly has the potential to generate very high (and very damaging) g levels. To prevent damage, install the assembly gently. If unsure, please contact the factory for assistance.

#### 4.4 HANDHELD OR PROBE TIP MOUNT

This method is NOT recommended for most applications. It is generally used where access to machinery may be a safety concern. Both the accuracy and repeatability at low (<5 Hz) and high frequency (>1 kHz) ranges are questionable.

#### 5.0 CABLING

The selection of connectors and cables has a direct impact on the ruggedness and reliability of the sensor installation. A consideration when dealing with cables is the way in which the cable conductors are terminated.

ICP<sup>®</sup> accelerometers are internally amplified, two-wire accelerometers. Connections to the sensor requires two leads: one for the power and signal, and the other for the common and signal return. Often, coaxial cables are used since only two conductors are needed. Coaxial cables are less expensive. With coaxial cables, however, erroneous signals can be introduced into sensor systems through ground loops, electromagnetic interference, or radio frequency interference (EMI or RFI). To avoid ground loops, there should only be one ground in the system.

It is recommended for permanent installations that the sensor be case-isolated and internally shielded with a dual-case design and use a two-conductor shielded cables to insure clean vibration signal transmission. Two-conductor shielded cables allow the signal and the signal return (common) to be fully shielded from the sensor to the readout equipment. To insure that ground loop signals are not induced, the shield should only be terminated at one end. Typically, the shield of a two-conductor shielded cable is left open or not connected at the sensor end and is tied to earth ground at the instrumentation end.

Operation over long cables may affect the frequency response of ICP<sup>®</sup> accelerometers, and introduce low frequency noise and high frequency distortion when an insufficient current is available to drive cable capacitance.

Unlike charge mode systems, where the system noise is a function of cable length, ICP<sup>®</sup> sensors provide a high voltage, low impedance output well-suited for driving long cables through harsh environments. While there is virtually no increase in noise with ICP<sup>®</sup> sensors, the capacitive loading of the longer cable may distort or filter higher frequency signals depending on the supply current and the output impedance of the sensor.

Generally, this signal distortion is not a problem with lower frequency testing within a range up to 1,000 Hz. However, when monitoring higher frequency vibrations traveling over cables longer than 500 ft., the possibility of signal distortion exists.

The maximum frequency that can be transmitted over a given cable length is a function of both the cable capacitance and the ratio of the peak signal voltage to the current available from the signal conditioner according to:

$$f_{\text{max}} = 10^9 / (2\pi CV / [L_c - 1]) \quad (\text{Equation 1})$$

where,  $f_{\text{max}}$  = maximum frequency (hertz)

$C$  = cable capacitance (picofarads)  
 $V$  = maximum peak output from sensor (volts)  
 $L_c$  = constant current from signal conditioner (mA)  
 $10^9$  = scaling factor to equate units

Note that in this equation, 1 mA is subtracted from the total current supplied to sensor ( $L_c$ ). This is done to compensate for powering the internal electronics. Also, note that these are typical values only.

When driving long cables, Equation 1 shows that as the length of cable, peak voltage output or maximum frequency of interest increases, a greater constant current will be required to drive the signal.

The nomograph on page 11 of this manual provides a simple, graphical method for obtaining the expected maximum frequency capability of an ICP<sup>®</sup> measurement system. The maximum peak signal voltage amplitude, cable capacitance and supplied constant current must be known or presumed.

For example, when running a 100 ft. (30,5 m.) cable with a capacitance of 30 pF/ft, the total capacitance is 3,000 pF. This value can be found along the diagonal cable capacitance lines. Assuming the sensor operates at a maximum output range of 5 volts and the constant current available from the power supply is 2 mA, the ratio on the vertical axis can be calculated to equal 5. The intersection of the total cable capacitance and this ratio result in a maximum frequency of approximately 10.2 kHz.

The nomograph does not indicate whether the frequency amplitude response at a point is flat, rising or falling. For precautionary reasons, it is good general practice to increase the constant current (if possible) to the sensor (within its maximum limit) so that the frequency determined from the nomograph is approximately 1.5 to 2 times greater than the maximum frequency of interest.

**Note:** Higher current levels will deplete battery-powered signal conditioners at a faster rate. Also, any current not used by the cable goes directly to power the internal electronics and will create heat. This may cause the sensor to exceed its maximum temperature specification. For this reason, do not supply excessive current over short cable runs or when testing at elevated temperatures.

## 5.1 CABLE CONNECTOR PROCEDURE

Care and attention to installation is essential, as the reliability and accuracy of your system is no better than that of the output cable.

**STEP 1:** Ascertain that you have ordered the correct cable type.

As with sensors, no cable can satisfy all applications. Special low-noise cabling should be used with high-impedance, charge-output devices. ICP<sup>®</sup> sensors usually operate with any ordinary two-wire cable. Industrial applications often require twisted/shielded cables to reduce the effects of EMI and RFI. Teflon-jacketed cabling may be necessary to withstand corrosive environments.

**STEP 2:** Connect the cable to the accelerometer. A small amount of thread-locking compound placed on the connector prior to attachment helps secure the cable during testing. In harsh environments, the connection can be sealed with silicon rubber, O-rings, and flexible heat-shrink tubing.

**STEP 3:** Plug the connector of the cable into the mating sensor connector. Then, holding the sensor stationary, secure the connector in place by tightening down the attached threaded cable sleeve.

**STEP 4:** Route the cable to the signal conditioner, making certain to stress-relieve the sensor/cable connection and minimize motion by clamping the cable at regular intervals.

Common sense should be used to avoid physical damage and minimize electrical noise. For instance, avoid routing cables near high-voltage wires. Do not route cables along floors or walkways where they may be stepped on or become contaminated. Shielded cables should have the shield grounded at one end only, normally at the instrumentation end.

**STEP 5:** Finally, connect the remaining cable end to the signal conditioner or readout device. To dissipate charge that may have accumulated in the cable, short the signal to the ground prior to attachment.

## 6.0 POWERING

All ICP<sup>®</sup> sensors require constant current excitation for proper operation. For this reason, use only IMI constant-current signal conditioners or other approved constant-current sources. A typical system schematic is shown in Figure 11.

**Note:** Damage to the built-in electronics resulting from the application of incorrect power or the use of an unapproved power source is NOT covered by warranty.

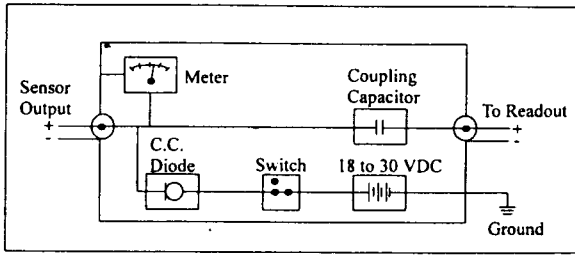


Figure 11. Typical System Schematic

The power supply consists of a regulated 18 to 30 VDC source. In general, battery-powered devices offer versatility for portable, low-noise measurements, whereas line-powered units provide the capability for continuous monitoring. This power is regulated by a current-limiting circuit, which provides the constant-current excitation required for proper operation of ICP® sensors.

**Note:** Under no circumstances should a voltage be supplied to an ICP® accelerometer without a current-regulating diode or equivalent electrical circuit.

Meters or LEDs are used to monitor the bias voltage on the sensor output signal to check sensor operation and detect cable faults. Normally, a “yellow” reading indicates an open circuit; “green” indicates normal operation; and “red” indicates either a short or low bias condition. Finally, a capacitor at the output stage of the device removes the sensor output bias voltage from the measurement signal. This provides a zero-based, AC-coupled output compatible with most standard readout devices.

**Note:** Low bias units may be in the “red,” when actually they are working properly. Check bias digitally with a multimeter.

Today, many FFT analyzers, data acquisition modules, and data collectors have constant-current excitation for direct use with ICP® sensors. However, before using this feature, check that the supply voltage and constant current are adequate for use with your sensor. (Check enclosed Specification Sheet.) Please contact the respective Signal Conditioner Manufacturer or check the product manual for more information.

## 7.0 OPERATING

After completing the system setup, switch on the conditioner and allow the sensor to power up. If using an IMI battery-powered signal conditioner, the meter (or LED) on the signal conditioner should be reading “green.” This indicates proper operation, and the user may begin taking measurements. If a faulty condition is

monitored, first check all system connections, then check the functionality of the cable and signal conditioner. If the system still does not operate properly, consult an IMI Application Engineer.

**Note:** Always operate the accelerometer within the limitations listed on the enclosed Specification Sheet. Operating the device outside these parameters can cause temporary or permanent damage to the sensor.

## 8.0 ACCELEROMETER CALIBRATION

**Note:** It is good measurement practice to verify the performance of each accelerometer with a Handheld Shaker or other calibration device before and after each measurement. The IMI Handheld Shaker operates at a fixed frequency and known amplitude (1.0 g) to provide a quick check of sensor sensitivity.

Accelerometers are precision measuring instruments. They are highly engineered to provide accurate electrical signals representative of the vibration being monitored. Each sensor is calibrated by comparison to a known acceleration level. Some calibrations include frequency response curves, resonant frequency measurements, transverse sensitivity, and many other valuable tests. Applications requiring a high degree of accuracy or those in plants requiring certification and traceability require full calibration test results. Figure 12 shows a typical calibration data sheet.

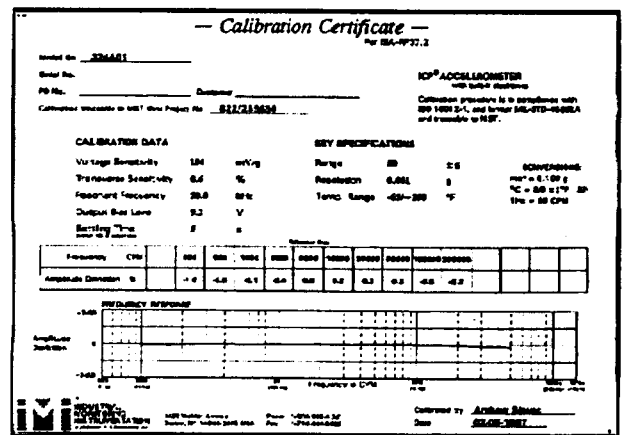


Figure 12. Typical Calibration Certificate

Some applications have much less stringent requirements for calibration certification. Simple sensitivity measurements at a single frequency may be sufficient; operational verification and certificates of conformance to published specifications may satisfy many plants' calibration needs. Reducing the final calibration requirements reduces the cost of manufacturing the sensor and should lower the price for predictive maintenance users.

Periodic recalibration may be required by plants with strict certification and traceability requirements. It is always recommended that the user has the sensor recalibrated periodically, particularly if the sensor has experienced a very high shock level or extreme temperatures for extended periods of time. Some plants develop in-house calibration capabilities for periodically verifying the performance of accelerometers. Products are available that provide a set 1g-acceleration level at a fixed frequency for quick sensor checking.

For these reasons, it is recommended that a recalibration cycle be established for each accelerometer. This schedule is unique and is based on a variety of factors, such as extent of use, environmental conditions, accuracy requirements, trend information obtained from previous calibration records, contractual regulations, frequency of "cross-checking" against other equipment, manufacturer recommendation, and any risk associated with incorrect readings. International standards, such as ISO 10012-1, provide insight and suggested methods for determining recalibration intervals for most measuring equipment. With the above information in mind and under "normal" circumstances, IMI conservatively suggests a 12- to 24-month recalibration cycle for most piezoelectric accelerometers.

### 8.1 SENSOR RECALIBRATION

Accelerometer recalibration services are typically performed by IMI's internal metrology laboratory. (Other international and private laboratories are also available.) The IMI laboratory is certified to ISO 9001, complies with ISO 10012-1 (and former MIL-STD-45662A), and uses equipment directly traceable to NIST. This assures an accurate calibration of relevant specifications.

The following includes a broad overview of the Back-to-Back Calibration technique normally used when calibrating accelerometers. This technique provides a quick and easy method for determining the sensitivity of a test accelerometer over a wide frequency range.

### 8.2 BACK-TO-BACK CALIBRATION THEORY

Back-to-Back Calibration is perhaps the most common method for determining the sensitivity of piezoelectric accelerometers. This method relies on a simple comparison to a previously calibrated accelerometer, typically referred to as a reference standard, as shown in Figure 13.

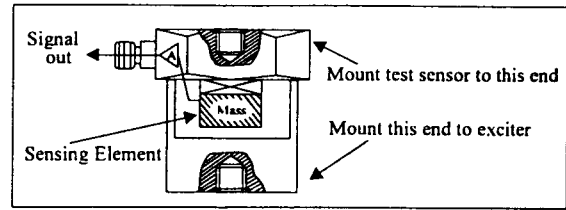


Figure 13. Reference Standard Accelerometer

These high-accuracy devices, which are directly traceable to a recognized standards laboratory, are designed for stability, as well as configured to accept a test accelerometer. By mounting a test accelerometer to the reference standard and then connecting this combination to a suitable vibration source, it is possible to vibrate both devices and compare the data as shown in Figure 14. (Test set-ups may be automated and vary, depending on the type and number of accelerometers being calibrated.)

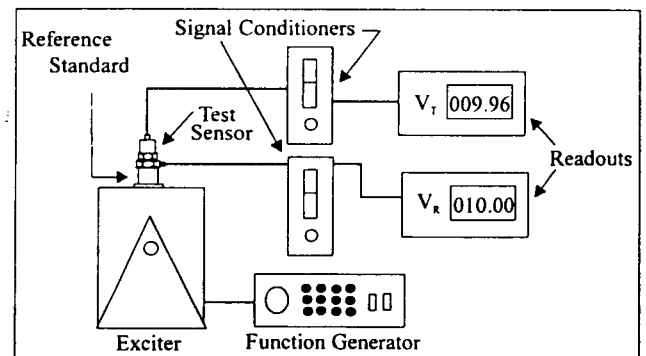


Figure 14. Typical Back-to-Back Calibration System

Because the acceleration is the same on both sensors, the ratio of their outputs ( $V_T/V_R$ ) must also be the ratio of their sensitivities. With the sensitivity of the reference standard ( $S_R$ ) known, the exact sensitivity of the test sensor ( $S_T$ ) is easily calculated by using the following equation:

$$S_T = S_R (V_T/V_R)$$

By varying the frequency of the vibration, the sensor may be calibrated over its entire operating frequency range. The typical response of an unfiltered accelerometer is shown in Figure 15.

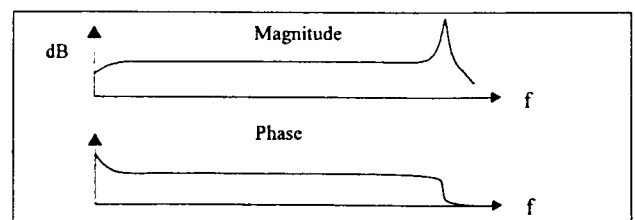


Figure 15. Typical Test Accelerometer Response

## 9.0 TROUBLESHOOTING

Piezoelectric sensors are dynamic measuring equipment. They use piezoelectric sensing elements to convert or transduce the mechanical phenomena to an electrical signal. The mechanical parameter may be force, pressure, or vibration. The raw electrical signal from a piezoelectric charge element is a high impedance signal. This charge signal is normally converted to a low impedance voltage signal by either an external charge amplifier or an external voltage amplifier. The cables between the charge sensor and the amplifier must be high quality, low noise cable and must be kept as short as possible. Figure 16 shows a typical high impedance system.

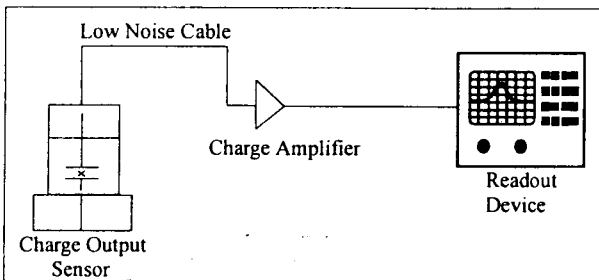


Figure 16. High Impedance System Connection

Internally amplified sensors, or ICP<sup>®</sup> sensors, employ miniature amplifiers to convert the high impedance charge signal into a low impedance voltage signal. These amplifiers are internal to the sensor, and therefore, do not require low noise cables or external amplifiers. These amplifiers have set gain so that output sensitivities are standardized.

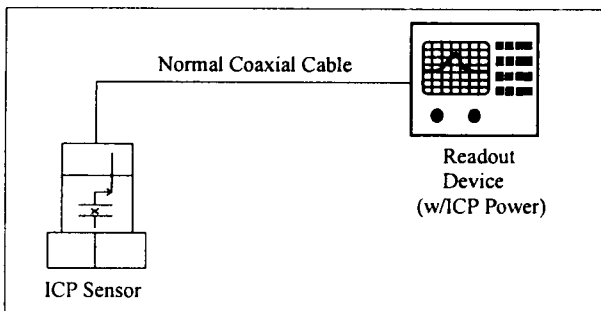


Figure 17. ICP<sup>®</sup> Sensor System Connector

ICP<sup>®</sup> sensors are two-wire sensors. They are powered with a constant current DC source. The power supply is typically 18 to 30 volts DC current limited via a constant current between 2 and 20 mA. Typical battery operated supplies offer 2 mA of constant current to extend battery life while continuous monitoring systems offer more

current in order to drive longer cables. Figure 17 shows a typical ICP<sup>®</sup> sensor system.

The signal output of an ICP<sup>®</sup> sensor is a low impedance voltage signal proportional to the dynamic measurement such as force, pressure, or vibration. This voltage signal is carried on a DC bias voltage. The AC dynamic signal is superimposed on the DC bias voltage and is allowed to swing between the supply voltage and ground as shown in Figure 18. Unlike an operational amplifier (Op Amp) that requires a plus and minus supply and allows the signal to "ride" on ground and "swing" between the plus and minus "rails," the ICP<sup>®</sup> sensor requires the output signal to be DC biased.

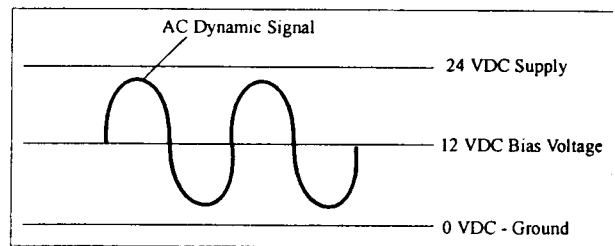


Figure 18. Sensor DC Bias Voltage

This DC bias voltage is an excellent diagnostic tool. The voltage provides a means of verifying that the amplifier is "turned on." Typical input/output power supplies will block this DC bias voltage at the output via a blocking capacitor in order to AC couple the signal to readout devices. By "teeing" off the input into a DC volt meter, as shown in Figure 19, the bias voltage can be measured.

While measuring the supply voltage, the bias voltage can be measured after the sensor is plugged in. If the meter stays at supply, something in the system is open or not connected. If the meter reads "0," something in the system is shorted. If the meter reads within the bias voltage range of the sensor, then the sensor and cabling are functioning properly.

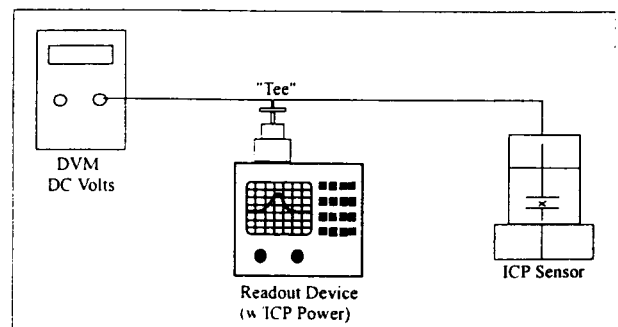


Figure 19. DC Bias Voltage Measurement

## 10.0 REPAIR/RETURN PROCEDURE

Because of the nature of most IMI instrumentation, field repair is typically NOT recommended and may void any warranty. If factory service is required, contact IMI for a **RETURN MATERIAL AUTHORIZATION (RMA)** number prior to sending equipment to the factory. Please have information available, such as model and serial number. Also, to insure efficient service, be sure to include a written description of the symptoms and problems with the equipment to a local sales representative or distributor, or contact IMI if none are located in your area.

Customers outside the U.S. should consult their local IMI distributor for information on returning equipment. For exceptions, please contact the International Sales department at IMI to request shipping instructions and an RMA. For assistance, please call (716) 684-0003, or fax us at (716) 684-3823. You may also receive assistance via e-mail at [imi@pcb.com](mailto:imi@pcb.com) or visit our web site at [www.pcb.com](http://www.pcb.com).

## 11.0 CUSTOMER SERVICE / WARRANTY

IMI, a division of PCB Piezotronics, guarantees Total Customer Satisfaction. If, at any time, for any reason, you are not completely satisfied with any IMI product, IMI will repair, replace, or exchange it at no charge. You may also choose, within the warranty period, to have your purchase price refunded.

IMI instrumentation is warranted against defective material and workmanship for one year unless otherwise expressly specified. Damage to instruments caused by incorrect power or misapplication is not covered by warranty. If there are any questions regarding power, intended application, or general usage, please consult with your local sales contact or distributor. Batteries and other expendable hardware items are not covered by warranty.

IMI offers to all customers, at no charge, 24-hour phone support. This service makes product or application support available to our customers, day or night, seven days a week. When unforeseen problems or emergency situations arise, call the **IMI Hot Line at 716-684-0003**, and an application specialist will assist you.



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# Cable Driving Nomograph

