

High Frequency Noise from Variable Speed Drive Electric Motors

NAS 2015 - Trondheim

Kolbjørn Selvåg, M.Sc. Noise engineer, Multiconsult
Anders Krogvig, M.Sc. Noise engineer, Aker Solutions

Agenda

- Location of plant
- Location of VSD
- Noise environment
- Observed noise issue
- Evaluation of test results
- Noise reducing actions
- Conclusion

Nyhamna Gas Plant



- Subsea development 100 km offshore
- Nyhamna receiving facility
- Built by Norsk Hydro, commissioned 2007
- Export capacity: 70 M Sm³/d
- 20% of UK Gas consumption
- Design: Low community noise
- Operated by Norske Shell

Nyhamna Gas Plant Expansion



- Expansion responsible: Shell
- EPCm Contractor: Kværner Stord
- Subcontractors
 - AET (All disciplines except Civil)
 - Multiconsult (Civil)
- Engineering strategy: like for like
- 480 km 36" pipeline depth -1260 m
- Export capacity: 70 → 84 M Sm³/d

Nyhamna Gas Plant



Nyhamna Gas Plant Expansion

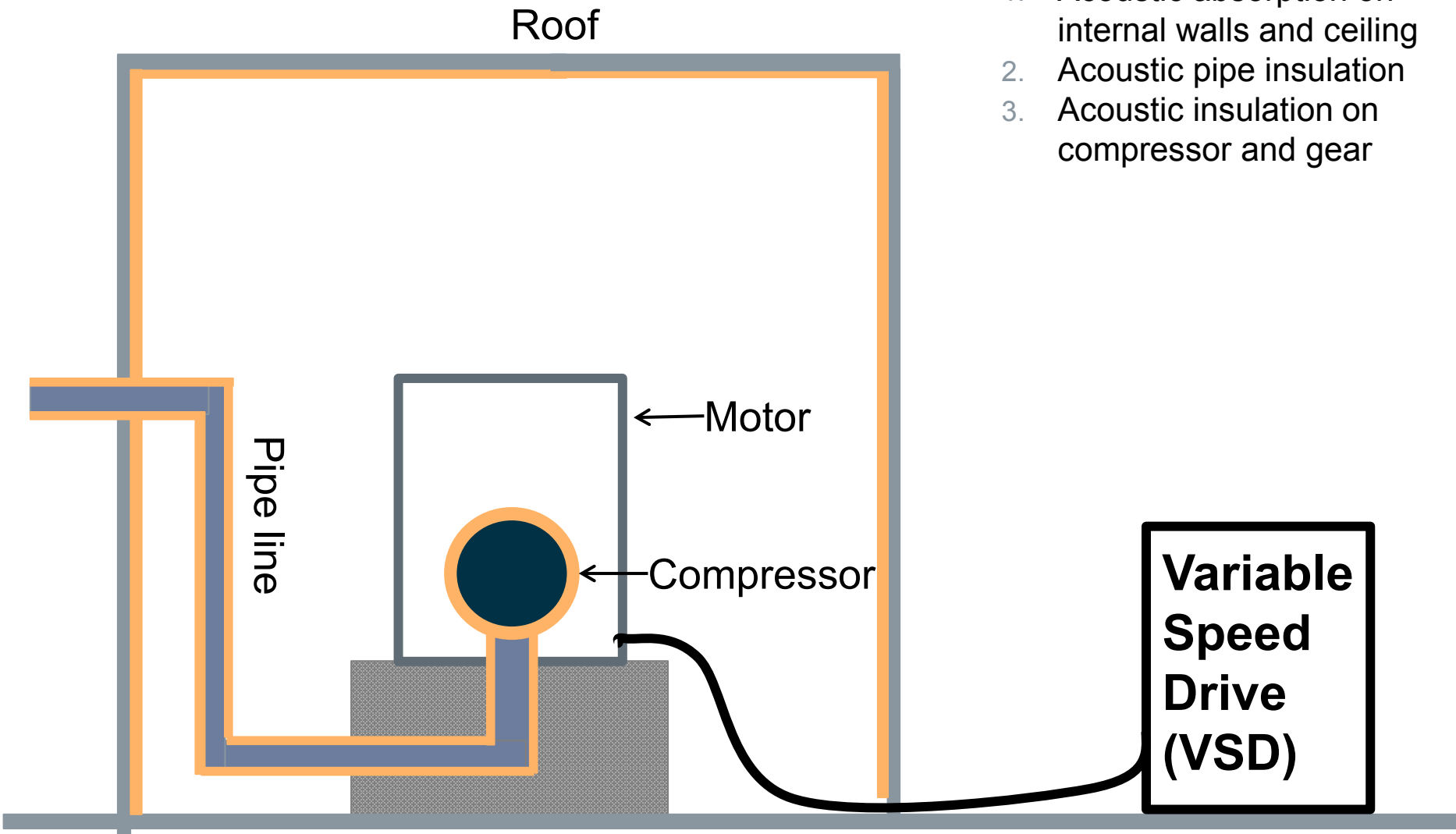


- New facilities in yellow
 - Export Gas Compressor
 - **Booster Compressors**
 - Air Compressor
 - Substations (Utility)

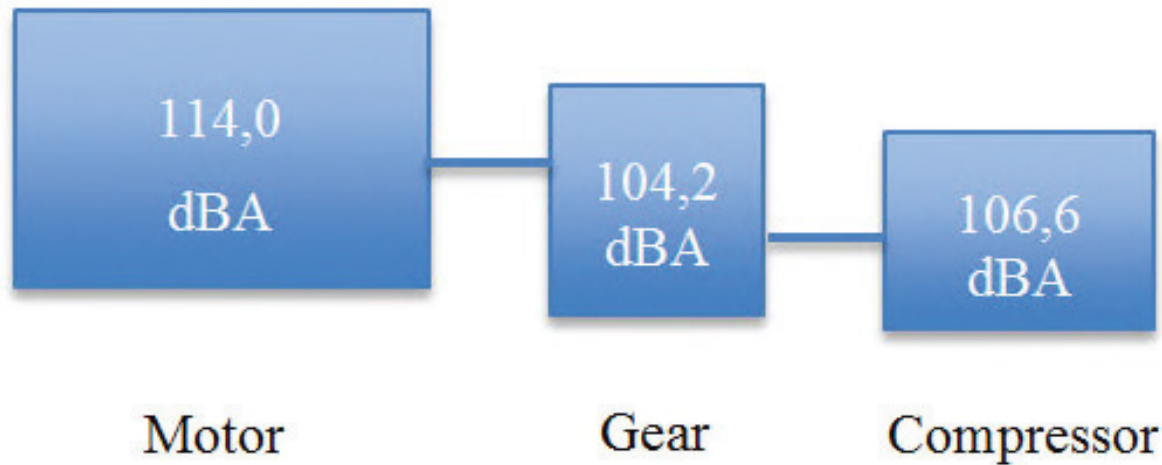
Booster Compressor Building

■ Noise Reducing Actions:

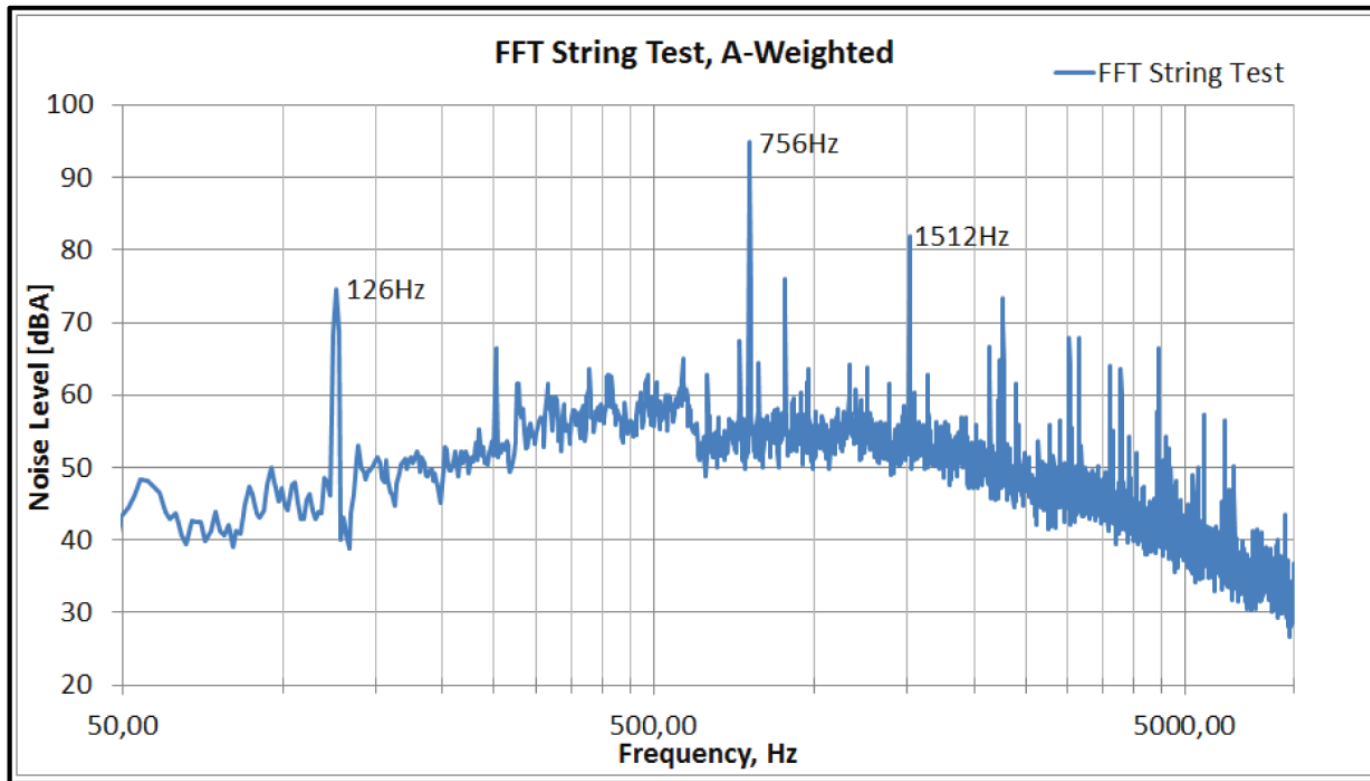
1. Acoustic absorption on internal walls and ceiling
2. Acoustic pipe insulation
3. Acoustic insulation on compressor and gear



Measured Sound Power Levels from Booster Compr.



String Test - Motor Frequency Spectrum

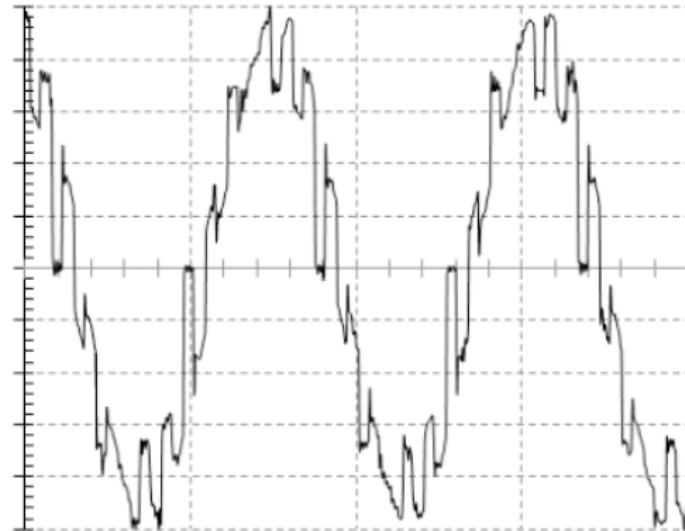
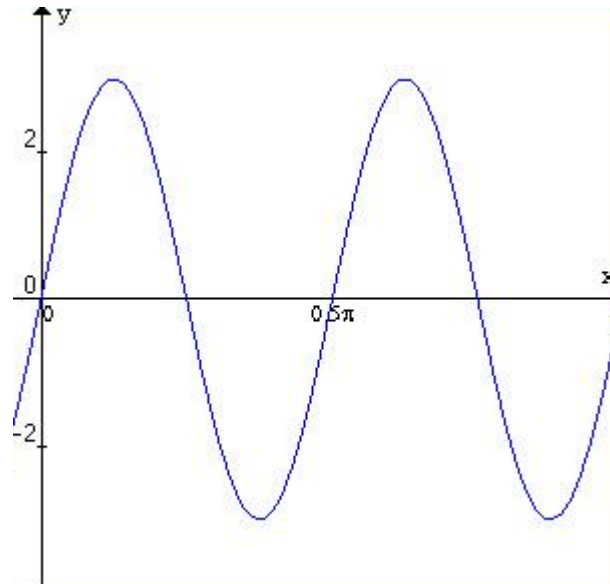
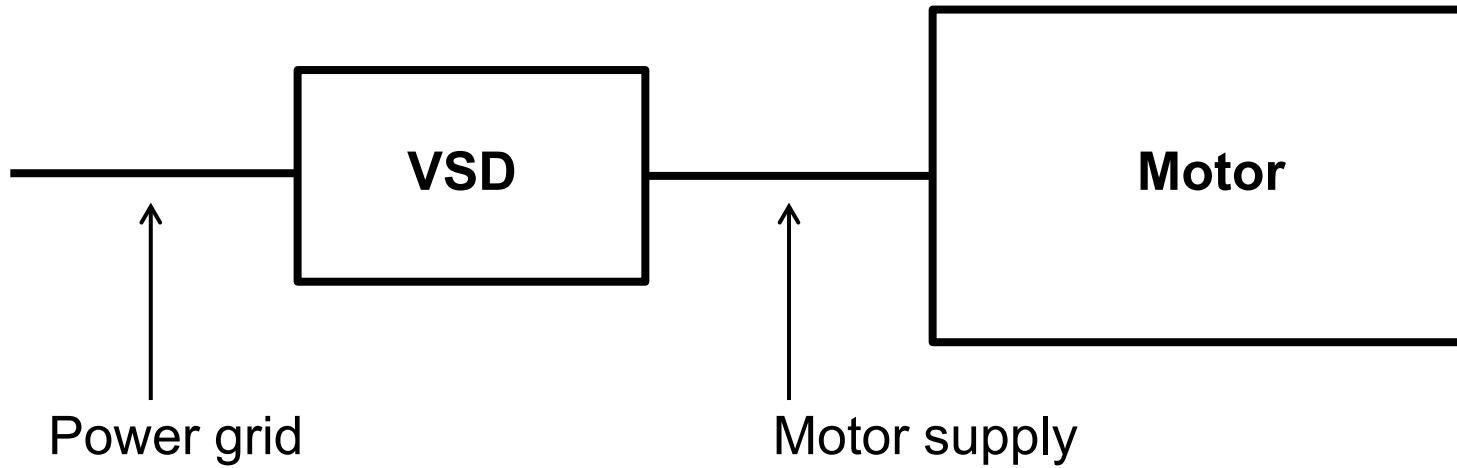


$$f_{LCI} = \frac{\text{RPM} \times P}{60}$$

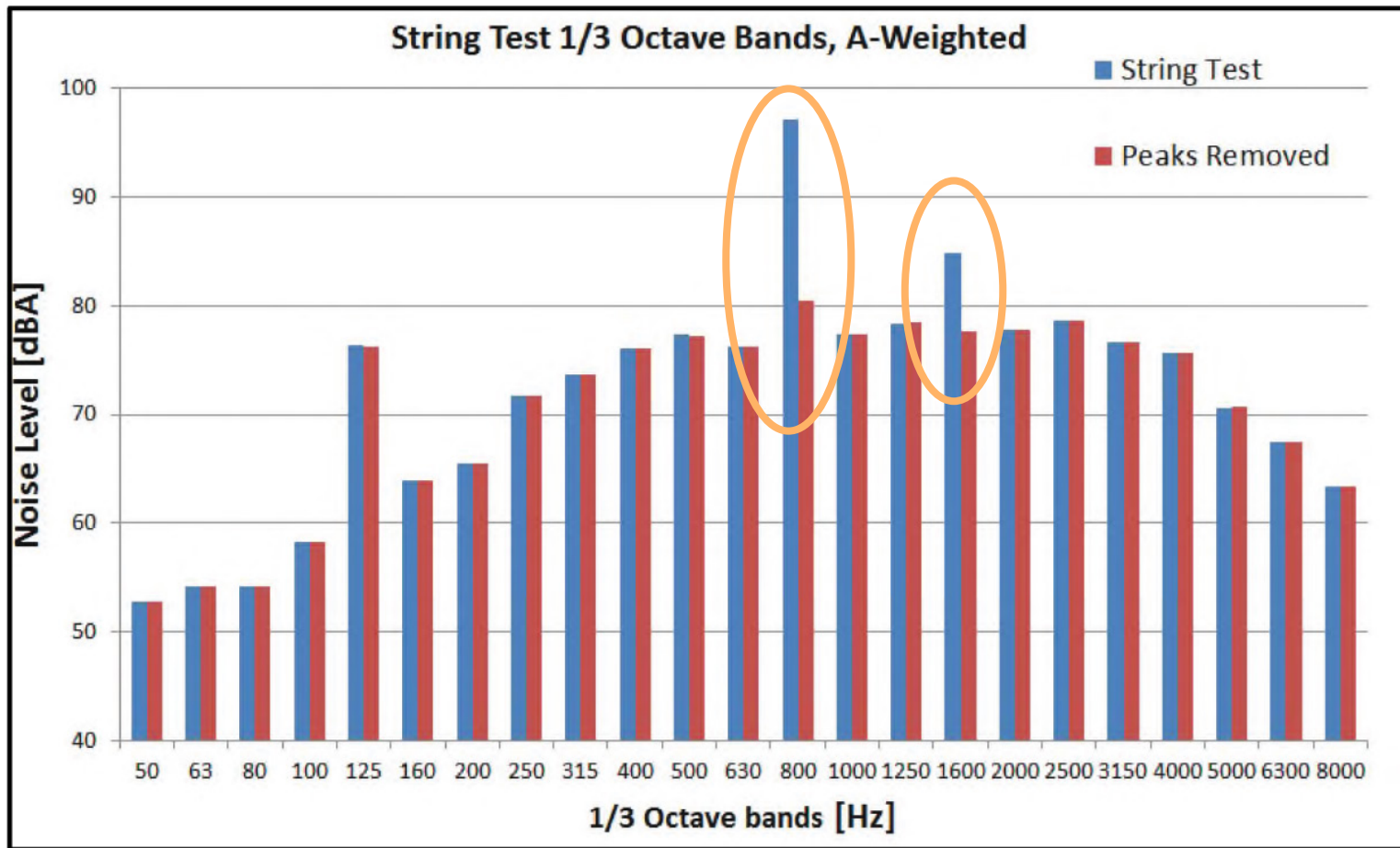
$$f_{LCI} = \frac{1890 \times 2}{60} = 63\text{Hz}$$

$$LCI_{peak1} = 63 \times 12 = 756\text{Hz}$$

Block Diagram Motor and VSD



Removing the VSD contribution



Theoretical noise reduction: **9,1 dB**

Possible Noise Reducing Actions

1. Electric filter between VSD and Motor

- Highest potential for noise reduction (9 dB)
- Expensive and need extra space
- Need to be purchased together with the compressor

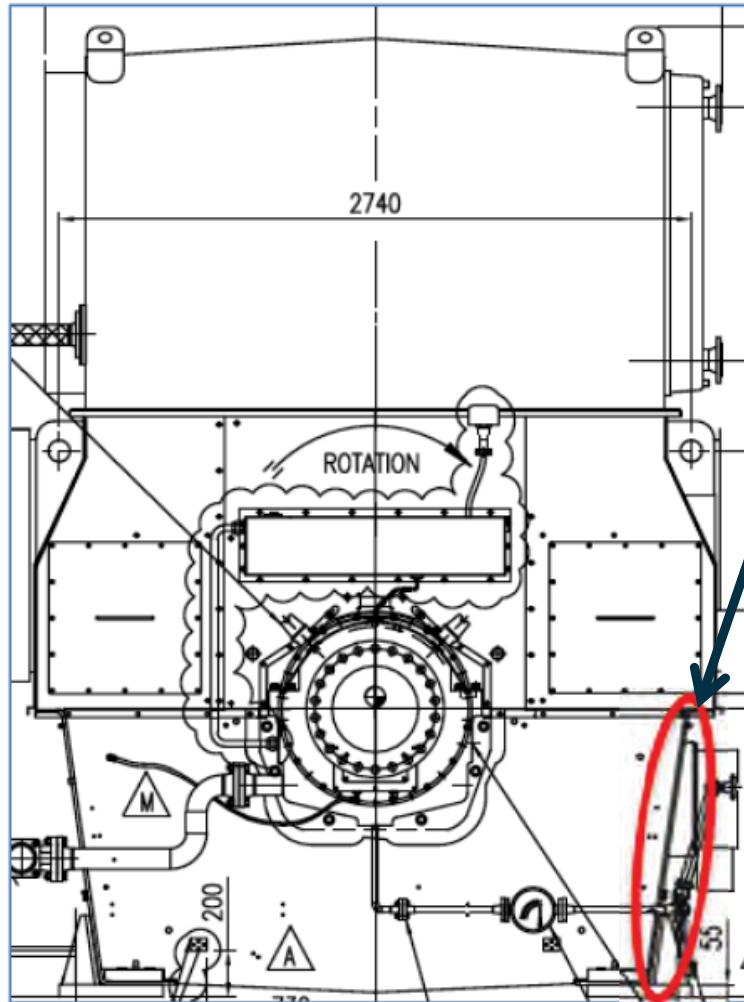
2. Modified or different type of VSD panel generating less fluctuations

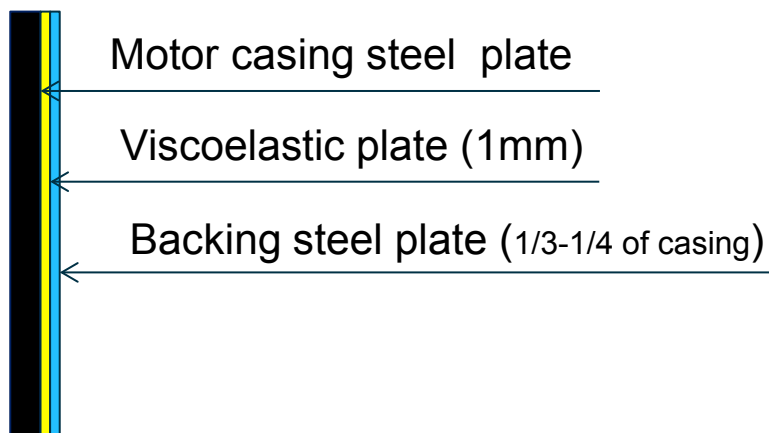
- High potential for noise reduction (4-6 dB)
- Could cause increased energy loss
- Need to be purchased together with the compressor

3. Viscoelastic plates on selected parts of motor

- Limited potential for noise reduction (2dB)
- Can be applied after motor is manufactured
- Inexpensive and easy to apply

Recommended Noise Measure



- Noise Source
 - 44% of total motor noise emitted form lower part of motor (5% of the surface)
 - Mitigating action
 - Viscoelastic plates
- 
- The diagram shows a cross-section of the motor casing with three layers: a thick black layer labeled 'Motor casing steel plate', a thin yellow layer labeled 'Viscoelastic plate (1mm)', and a medium-thickness grey layer labeled 'Backing steel plate (1/3-1/4 of casing)'. Arrows point from the text labels to the corresponding layers in the diagram.
- Expected noise reduction: 2dB

Conclusion

- Covering selected surfaces of VSD operated motors with viscoelastic plates could be a cost effective way of noise reduction.



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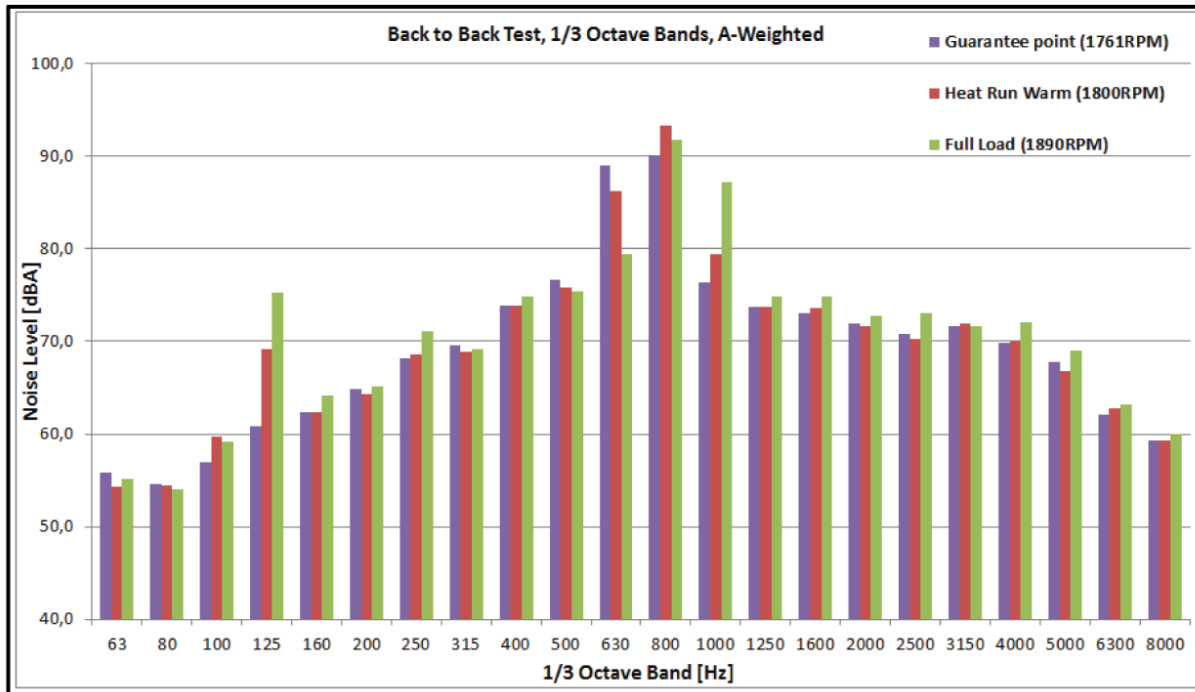
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Back to Back Test



<i>RPM</i>	$f_{LCI} [Hz]$	$f_{peak} [Hz]$	<i>1/3 octave band [Hz]</i>
1890	63	756	800
1800	60	720	800
1761	58.7	704	630

■ Noise Reducing Actions:

1. Acoustic absorption on internal walls and ceiling
2. Acoustic louvers for building air intake
3. Noise silencers on ventilation extract fan
4. Acoustic pipe insulation
5. Acoustic insulation on compressor and gear
6. Acoustic absorption in the compressor motor

