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**SAE J226 JAN86**

**Engine Preheaters**

SAE Recommended Practice  
Reaffirmed January 1986

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RATIONALE:

Not applicable.

RELATIONSHIP OF SAE STANDARD TO ISO STANDARD:

Not applicable.

REFERENCE SECTION:

Not applicable.

APPLICATION:

Coolant heaters are used to prevent freezing damage and facilitate engine starting under low temperature conditions. This Recommended Practice provides a guideline for coolant heaters, including adequate clearances and service accessibility.

This Recommended Practice includes information and accommodation of both the electric immersion and tank or side arm type external heaters.

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## ENGINE PREHEATERS

1. **PURPOSE:** Coolant heaters are used to prevent freezing damage and facilitate engine starting under low temperature conditions. This Recommended Practice provides a guideline for coolant heaters, including adequate clearances and service accessibility.
2. **SCOPE:** This Recommended Practice includes information and accommodation of both the electric immersion and tank or side arm type external heaters.
3. **ELECTRIC IMMERSION TYPE HEATERS:**
  - 3.1 **Straight Adaptor Design:** This type is used for installation through covers, core hole plugs, etc. The heating element loop should be located to permit free convective circulation of the engine coolant.  
  
See Fig. 1 and Table 1.
  - 3.2 **Pipe Thread Adaptor Design:** This type is used where space within the cooling jacket allows clearance for a loop. (See Fig. 2 and Table 2.) Where the heater is screwed into a removable flange, the loop may be shaped as shown in Fig. 1.
  - 3.3 **Tank Type Heater:** Where external or tank type heaters are required, suitable coolant connection must be provided at engine locations assuring adequate fluid circulation. Engines of less than approximately 6.5ℓ (400 in<sup>3</sup>) displacement require 1/4 NPT minimum size connections. For larger engines, use 3/8, 1/2, or 3/4 NPT according to increasing engine size, with 3/4 NPT being used for all engines of 13.0ℓ (793 in<sup>3</sup>) displacement and over.

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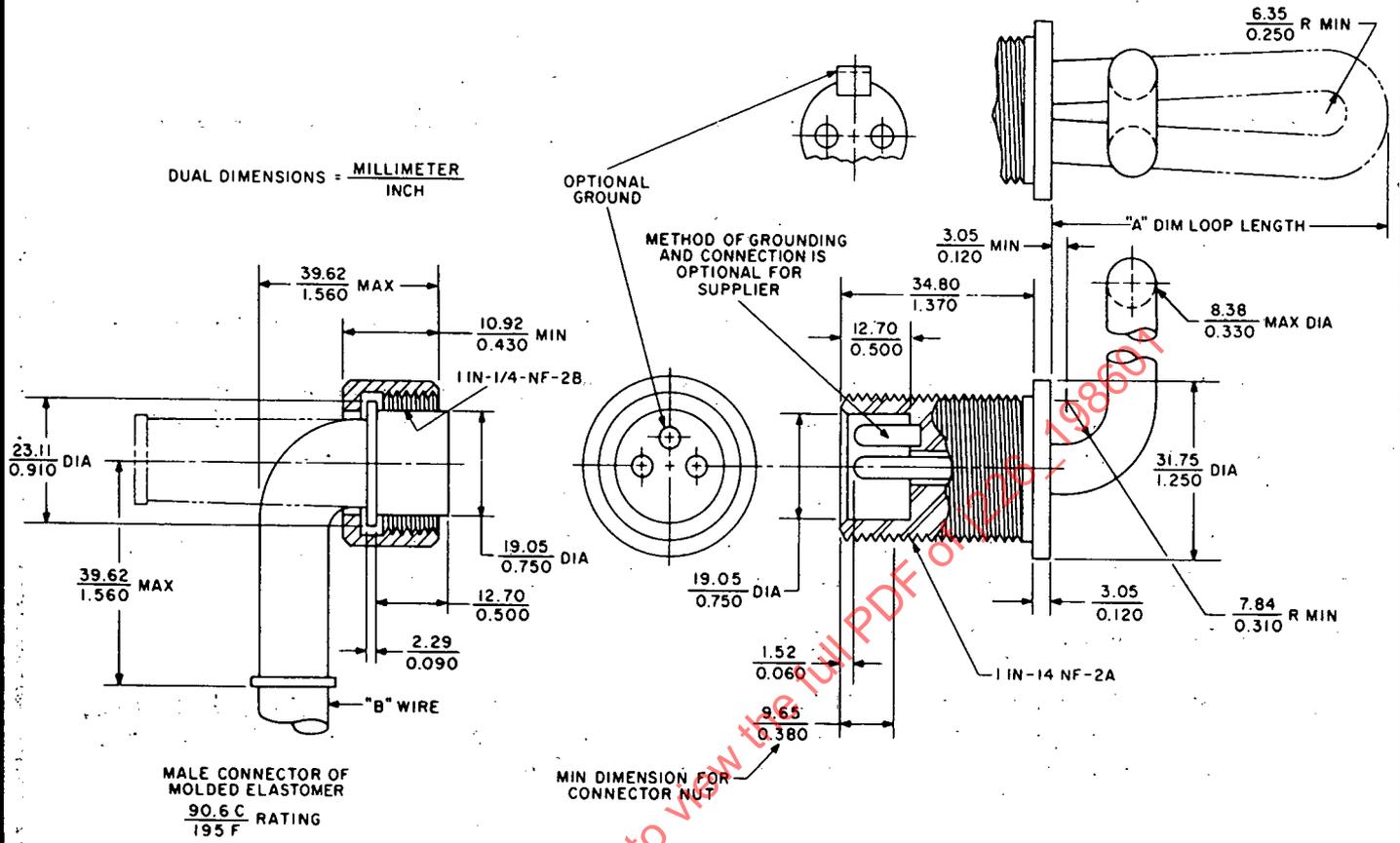


FIG. 1

TABLE 1 - STRAIGHT ADAPTOR DESIGN

SAE Type	Rating	Volts	A		B Wire
			mm	in	
1A	500 W	120	76.20	3.000	16/3
1B	500 W	240	76.20	3.000	16/3
2A	1000 W	120	114.30	4.500	16/3
2B	1000 W	240	114.30	4.500	16/3
3A	1500 W	120	152.40	6.000	16/3
3B	1500 W	240	152.40	6.000	16/3
4A <sup>a</sup>	2000 W	120 <sup>a</sup>	190.50	7.500	16/3
4B	2000 W	240	190.50	7.500	16/3

<sup>a</sup>Not recommended.