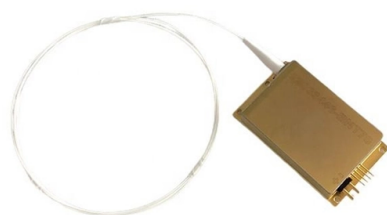


Safety Protection of Fiber Optic Sensors



Overview

Fiber Optic Sensor Working Principle in Perimeter As fiber optic technology advances, these sensors are becoming essential in securing Optical Fiber Sensor.

Key Takeaways

Fiber optic sensors require both physical and electrical protection to ensure durability, accurate performance, and safety in various environments. Physical Protection

Mechanical damage prevention: Fiber optic sensors are delicate and can be easily broken if stepped on, struck by tools, or mishandled during transport or installation. Protective measures include applying additional sealants over the bonding epoxy, which provides a visual and physical barrier, improves moisture resistance, and maintains long-term bond strength . Using rubbery, waterproof coatings with good elongation properties can further protect the sensor without significantly affecting measurement accuracy . Cable handling: Avoid bending cables below the recommended radius—typically three times the cable diameter for standard cables and five times for coaxial or shielded cables . Do not exceed the specified tensile strength when wiring, and avoid running sensor cables alongside high-voltage lines to prevent induction interference . Cleanliness and safety: Cleaved fiber ends should be handled with tweezers and stored on tape to prevent injury and contamination. Eye protection is essential when working with laser light from fiber sensors, as direct exposure can damage the retina .

Electrical and Surge Protection

Power supply protection: Fiber optic sensors are vulnerable to surges from lightning, switching events, or AC/DC power fluctuations. Use MOVs, GDTs, and TVS diodes to protect AC and DC lines, ensuring compliance with IEC standards for surge immunity . For example, AC 220V lines can be protected with MOV 14D471K and GDT 2R600-8L, while DC 10-30V lines can use bidirectional TVS diodes like SMBJ33CA paired with self-recovery fuses .

Signal and control protection: ESD diodes should be used to protect analog and digital input/output terminals. Low-capacitance ESD diodes (e.g., ESDA05CP30) are recommended for control inputs to safeguard microcontrollers, while SOD-323 series diodes can protect signal outputs .

Communication interface protection: Long-distance interfaces such as RS-485 or Ethernet are prone to interference. Use low-residual-voltage TSS components (e.g., P0080SC) to protect against surges and static discharges, maintaining signal integrity .

Environmental Considerations

Avoid installing sensors in explosive or flammable environments or where cables may be immersed in liquids, as this can lead to fire or sensor damage . Protective coatings and proper sealing can mitigate moisture intrusion, especially in outdoor or high-humidity applications .

Standards and Best Practices

Fiber optic sensors require adherence to industry standards for strain, temperature, and other measurands. Standards vary depending on sensor type (FBG, Brillouin, interferometric) and application, covering environmental influences, sensor response, and installation guidelines . Following these standards ensures reliable performance and reduces the risk of damage.

Summary

To protect fiber optic sensors effectively:

- Apply protective coatings over bonded sensors.
- Handle cables carefully, respecting bend radius and tensile limits.
- Implement electrical surge and ESD protection for power, signal, and communication lines.
- Avoid hazardous environments and moisture exposure.
- Follow industry standards for installation and sensor-specific requirements. These measures collectively enhance sensor durability, maintain measurement accuracy, and ensure safe operation in diverse applications.

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