



Operating current for neon tubes.

Transformer plate rating	Operating current		Short circuit current
	mA	Min mA Max mA	
18	15	18	23
25	20	25	32.5
35	30	35	45
50	40	50	65
63	50	63	82
75	60	75	100
100	85	100	130
200	165	180	215

Loading a neon transformer is easy when the basic loading practices are followed.

Determine the following:

- Neon or Mercury / Argon tube ?
- Tubing diameter ?
- Total tube footage ?
- Current rating ?

Use this data with the transformer manufacturer's Footage Chart as a guide to initially determine the needed transformer size. To confirm this selection, the Load current Ratio Test is recommended.

Load Current Ratio Test

You will need a 0-100 mA milliAmps-meter, a multimeter, and a variable transformer (Variac) for this test.

Neon transformers are designed to be loaded to approximately 80% to 100% of their rated current for Mercury / Argon and Neon. Using the milliammeter, check the transformer's operating current at rated voltage (230 V AC). If it is between the values given above the transformer is properly loaded. If the result exceeds the rated current, the transformer is overloaded; if too low, it's underloaded.