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**Service Bulletin:** Cleaning CEN Alternators

**Customer:** Mining

When used in applications where heavy airborne contamination is present, such as mining vehicle installations, alternators may become clogged with dirt and debris. In severe cases, clogging may restrict the flow of cooling air through the alternator, causing the alternator to overheat. This can result in lost performance and lead to premature alternator failure. Keeping alternators free of dirt and debris helps ensure optimum performance and extends operating life.

**CAUTION** *NEVER USE CHEMICALS TO CLEAN ALTERNATOR.*

To prevent initial build-up of debris, alternators must be cleaned at intervals determined by on-site vehicle maintenance personnel. CEN recommends first using compressed air to blow out debris in fan, fan guard, drain holes in shell, and airways at drive end and anti-drive end of alternator. You may need to remove the drive end cover plate. See illustration below for typical airway locations.

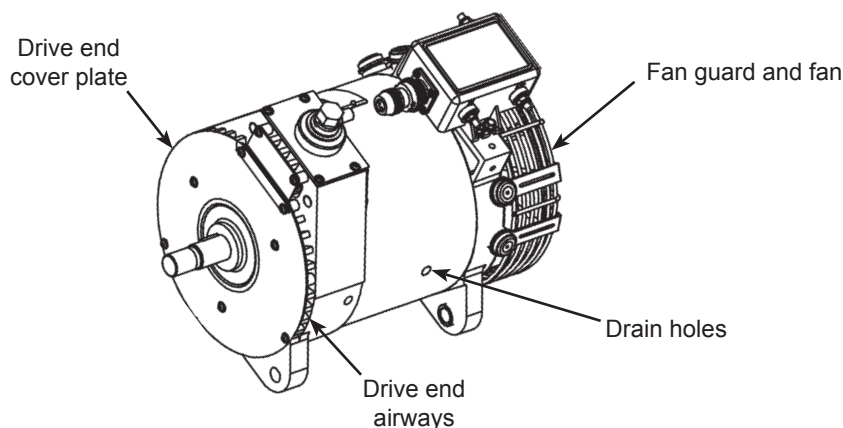
Thoroughly inspect fan, fan guard, drain holes, and airways after cleaning with compressed air. If any debris remains, gently remove it with a small soft-bristled brush, such as a soft-bristled toothbrush, to remove residual debris. If the drive-end cover plate was removed during inspection, reinstall it and torque screws to 2.3 Nm/20 lb. in.

In some cases, compressed air and a soft-bristle brush may not be enough to remove all debris. Only when circumstances warrant, CEN recommends further cleaning, using low-pressure water through a hose to wash out any remaining debris.

**CAUTION** *DO NOT USE HIGH PRESSURE WATER TO CLEAN ALTERNATOR. IF ALTERNATOR HAS A TWO-PIECE DRIVE END COVER PLATE, DO NOT SPRAY WATER INSIDE OF SHELL.*

In heavy contamination environments, using water under normal pressure through a hose may be the only way to remove debris. However, frequent use of water may eventually cause corrosion of internal components and lead to alternator failure. Therefore, frequent cleaning with water should only be considered when practical and cost-effective.

**CAUTION** *DO NOT SOAK ALTERNATOR IN A TUB OF WATER.*



**Please file this Service Bulletin with your CEN Literature.  
Please forward a copy of this information to the appropriate people in your company.**