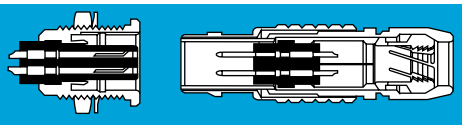


Insulator

Plastic material used by LEMO for manufacturing insulators is selected according to the electric and thermal properties required for the various connector types. Characteristics examined for the two connector types are:
– Dielectric strength;
– Comparative tracking index;
– Surface and volume resistivity;
– Continuous service temperature;
– Water absorption;
– Radiation resistance;
– Flammability rating
– Resistance to hydrocarbon.

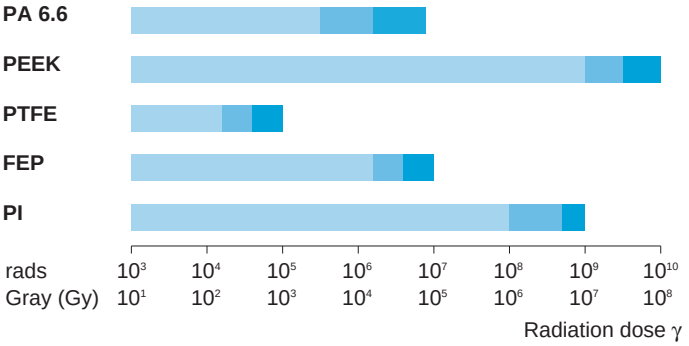
Mechanical and Electrical Properties

Mechanical characteristics of thermoplastics, such as PA 6.6, and PEEK, are improved by the addition of glass fibres. By adding glass fibres in the resin the performance of this material (mechanical strength and radiation resistance) is enhanced and water absorption rate is reduced. From an electric point of view, the addition of glass fibres improves dielectric strength.

Selection of the insulator

A number of thermoplastics have common characteristics, some of them are identical with other insulating materials. In this case, the insulator material is selected according to the specific difference in features to provide all the required parameters for the given type.

Radiation resistance



Damage
Minimum to slight (almost available usable)
Slight to medium (often satisfactory)
Medium to serious (not usable)

Note: technical data in this chapter provide general information on plastics used by LEMO as electrical insulators. LEMO reserves the right to propose new materials with better technical characteristics, and to withdraw, without notice, any material mentioned in the present catalogue or any other publications edited by LEMO S.A. and/or its subsidiaries. LEMO SA and its subsidiaries use only plastic granules, powder or bars supplied by specialized companies, and thus cannot in any case take responsibility with regard to this material.

Technical characteristics

Type	Standard	Units	PA6.6	PEEK	PTFE	FEP	PI
Dielectric strength	ASTM D 149 / IEC 60243	kV/mm	15-17	19-25	17.2-24	20	22
Volume resistivity at 50% RH and 23°C	ASTM D 257 / IEC 60093	Ω • cm	$5.8x10^{15}$	10^{16}	10^{18}	$> 10^{16}$	$> 10^{16}$
Surface resistivity	ASTM D 257 / IEC 60093	Ω	10^{12}	10^{15}	10^{17}	$> 10^{16}$	$> 10^{15}$
Thermal conductivity	ASTM C 177	W/K • m	0.21	0.25	0.23	0.24	0.35
Comparative tracking index	IEC 60112	V	CTI 600	CTI 150	CTI 500	–	–
Dielectric constant (10^6 Hz)	ASTM D 150 / IEC 60250	–	4	3.2-3.5	2-2.1	2.1	3.6
Dissipation factor (10^6 Hz)	ASTM D 150 / IEC 60250	–	–	< 0.005	< 0.0003	< 0.001	< 0.0034
Maximum continuous service temperature	UL 746	°C	120	250	260	200	350
Maximum short-time service temperature	–	°C	150	300	300	260	480
Minimum continuous service temperature	–	°C	–	-55	-200	-200	–
Water absorption in 24h at 23°C	ASTM D 570 / ISO R624	%	< 0.7	< 0.3	< 0.01	< 0.01	0.24
Radiation resistance	–	Gy	$5x10^3$	10^7	$2x10^2$	$2x10^4$	10^6
Flammability rating	ASTM D 635 / UL 94	–	–	V-0/3.2	V-0	V-0	–

Note: values of insulation resistance between contacts are given on page 177.

Designation		Symbol	Standard	Unipole			Multipole							
chemical	commercial			00	S	E	00	S	E	B	K	2C	2G	1D
Polyamide (glass fitted)	Nylatron®	PA 6.6	–					●	●					●
Polyether Ethercetone	Peek®	PEEK	–	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Polytetrafluorethylene	–	PTFE	ASTM D 1457-83	●	●	●								
Tetrafluorethylene	–	FEP	ASTM D 2116-81					○	○					
Polyimide	Vespel®	PI	–					○	○					

● First choice alternative ○ Special order alternative