

Monitoring critical heater operation

APPLICATION A146

Type of Company: [Manufacturer, Gasketing](#)

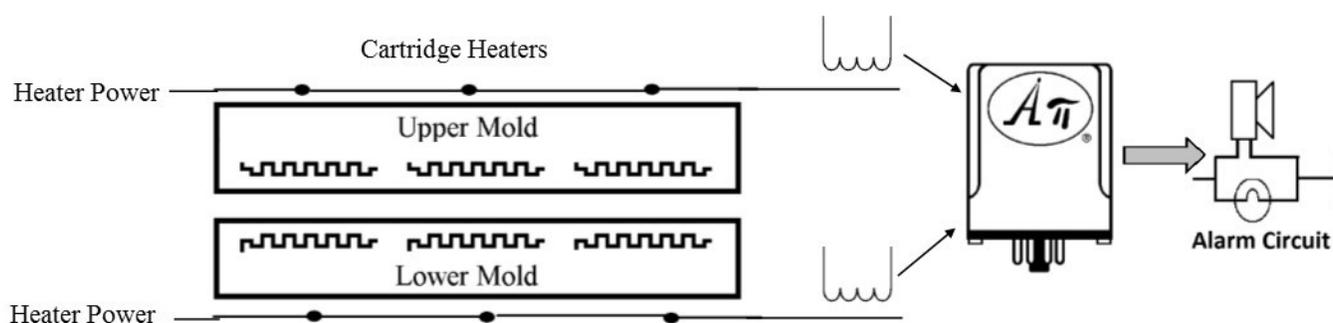
Location: [Illinois](#)

A gasket is a mechanical seal which allows for "less-than-perfect" mating surfaces on machine parts where they can fill irregularities. Gaskets are traditionally produced by cutting from sheet materials, but use of injection molded gaskets is increasing. Liquid silicone rubber or thermoplastic rubber are commonly specified for injection molded gaskets, use in electronics, and rugged enclosures with demanding sealing requirements in outdoor conditions.



The Engineering Issue

- The engineer has a requirement to monitor the operation of both the upper and lower heaters in the mold used to manufacture gaskets.
- If any one heater in either the upper or lower mold becomes defective, the gasket will have a "cold" spot and will be rejected by QC. Since all defective material is scrapped, it is imperative that both the operator and the maintenance technician are immediately notified of a defective heater.



The engineer used an API 1600 G. The API 1600 G monitors the current from a CT connected to the heaters. If the current draw is "low," the relay contacts sound both an alarm and a light to notify both the maintenance technician and the operator. The result is less scrap and a higher yield.

Problem. Solved.