

Re: Relay ratings

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>Subject: Relay ratings
>From: "Rylos" unknown
>Date: 9/14/2004 10:29 AM Central Daylight Time
>Message-id: <XdSdnbYEu-f5k9rcRVn-rg@buckeye-express.com>
>
>Hello All,
>
>I have a relay which has a rating of 1A at 24VDC. The current rating is
>pretty obvious but is the voltage rating the maximum open circuit voltage
>across it's terminals? Thanks.
>
>-Dave
>

The relay is rated to switch a 24VDC resistive load at 1 amp for the manufacturer-specified number of times before failure. That number can be anywhere between 20,000 and millions, depending on the spec sheet. If you use a higher DC voltage, you will get excessive arcing at contact open/close, which will reduce life, pit the relay contacts and possibly cause them to spot weld together on make. Usually it's rated that way because of contact separation and contact separation speed.

Good luck
Chris