

Re: Laser printer draws current in a spike, what for?

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From: John Woodgate (jmw_at_jmwa.demon.contrasпам.yuk)

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I read in sci.electronics.design that Anthony Guzzi
<dukeofurl@sonic.net> wrote (in <maBYc.11003\$54.150804@typhoon.sonic.net
>) about 'Laser printer draws current in a spike, what for?', on Mon, 30
Aug 2004:

>~Dude17~ wrote:

>

>> X-No-Archive: Yes

>>

>> I've got a laser printer that draws current in spikes and it
>> makes the lights flicker as well as causing a UPS on the same circuit
>> to switch over to battery due to excessive dV/dT. Unfortunately, I
>> don't have a way of putting the printer on its own circuit unless I
>> want to use a long extension cord.

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>

>I have a Brother HL-1470N, at home, which exhibits the same symptoms.

>

>I too was thinking of posting about this. I am trying to figure out
>what to do about this. In my case, I simply moved it off of the UPS,
>but the lights flickering is still undesirable.

>

>Is there anything I can actually do about this?

You definitely did the right thing in moving it off the UPS. There is no justification, normally, for running a printer off a UPS, and, as you see, it is a very stressful load which could adversely affect the UPS life or reliability.

A laser printer sold in Europe must conform to EN 61000-3-2 and -3. The former is concerned (indirectly) with limiting the peak pulse current, cycle by cycle, while the latter is concerned with limiting flicker. But you'd need to run it from 240 V – either directly or with 120:240 transformer. The frequency doesn't matter.

According to US sources, problems such as you report never occur, and they don't need to implement the IEC versions of those ENs as US

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standards. So you are actually just imagining the flicker. (;-)

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Regards, John Woodgate, OOO - Own Opinions Only.

The good news is that nothing is compulsory.

The bad news is that everything is prohibited.

<http://www.jmwa.demon.co.uk> Also see <http://www.isce.org.uk>