Notes Regarding Couplings

General

Couplings serve to connect two shafts in order to transmit the driving power (transmission of speed and torque). As different applications lead to most diverse requirements for couplings, there is a large number of different types of couplings with sometimes contradictory characteristics available on the market. If possible, the shafts should be supported right besides the couplings in order to avoid unnecessary vibration. This is particularly important for elastic couplings.

Torque Values

Depending on the type of coupling, the torques stated refer to either the maximum value or the nominal torque. The maximum permissible torque must never be exceeded (risk of fracture). The nominal torque is the value valid for the permissible permanent load (e.g. for elastic couplings). This value should be exceeded only as exception and for short times, and only up to the maximum permissible torque. Depending on the type of drive unit used and the type of shock load, the nominal torque of the drive unit has to be multiplied with the respective operating factor taken from the table below:

Operating Torque = Driving Torque x Operating Factor

The operating torque of the drive unit must not exceed the nominal torque of the coupling.

The driving torque can be derived from the driving power with the following formula:

$$T_{[Nm]} = 9550 \cdot \frac{P\ [kW]}{n\ [min^{-1}]} \cdot S$$

Operating Factors

Type of Shock Load	Type of Drive Unit: Electric Engines, Steam Turbines, Shaftings	4 - 6 Cylinder Combustion Engines	1 - 3 Cylinder Combustion Engines
Weak shock load **Low starting torque, uniform operation** small light generators, small centrifugal pumps, small blowers, light machine tools, light transmissions	1.0	1.25	1.75
Medium shock load **Medium starting torque, slight torque fluctuations** larger conveying machinery, large blowers, centrifugal pumps and generators, large machine tools and wood working machines, rapid presses, flower mills and food grinders, shears, punches, grinding machines, washing machines, transmissions	1.25	1.5	2.0
Strong shock load **High starting torque, strong shocks, alternating sense of rotation.** centrifuges, gang saws, paper calender, roller tables, wet presses, ball and rod mills, heavy rolling mills for metal, rubber rolling mill, reciprocating machines without flywheel, cement mills, stone breakers	1.5	2.0	2.5

Rigid Couplings

These couplings do not compensate for misalignment of the shaft neither in axial nor in radial direction. They should therefore only be used with perfectly aligned shafts. Shocks and vibration are transferred without any damping.

Torsionally-Stiff Couplings

These couplings transmit the rotational movement synchronously with hardly any damping. Depending on the type of coupling more or less angular and/or axial displacement can be compensated.

Elastic Couplings

With these couplings an elastic intermediate ring usually dampens the shocks of the driving unit. In types without this ring, the coupling body is elastic. Due to the small endurance strength of the shock-dampening components, the nominal torque of the coupling is much lower than the maximum torque. The elastic rings are available as spare parts.

For couplings with elastics inserts, following factors have to be considered, additional to the standard operating factors above:

Temperature-factor

Temperatur	–30 °C to +30 °C	to +40 °C	to +60 °C	to +80 °C
Factor	1,0	1,2	1,4	1,8

Starting-factor

Starts per hour	100	200	400	800
Factor	1,0	1,2	1,4	1,6

Friction Clutches and Sliding Hubs

These clutches or hubs are used if the torque must only be transmitted up to a certain, adjustable value. If the set maximum value is exceeded the coupling device starts slipping. If the torque falls below the limit again, the slipping stops. Thus for safety reasons a separate stop mechanism for the drive unit might be required.

Friction clutches usually serve to connect two shafts. Sliding hubs usually serve to mount a drive wheel (chain wheel, drive pulley, spur gear, friction wheel, or similar) on a shaft.

Some types can be used for both applications as, e.g., either a drive wheel or a shaft connection can be flange mounted. Combinations of elastic coupling and friction clutch can also be supplied.