SOUTHWEST MICROWAVE

THE PERFORMANCE LEADER IN MICROWAVE CONNECTORS

# Average Power Ratings for Coaxial Connectors

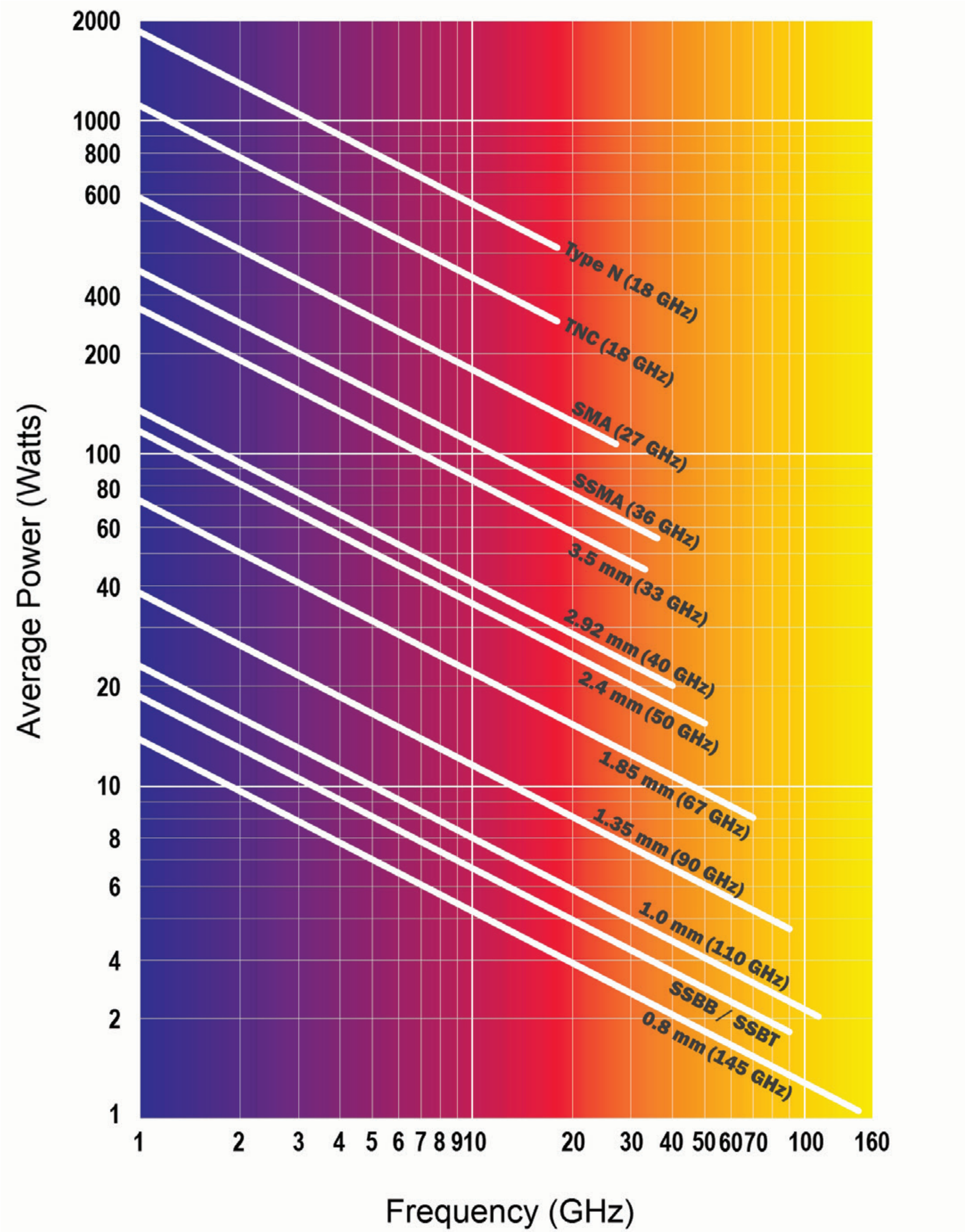
The following graph summarizes industry acceptable average power rating for a variety of coaxial connector types. The key characteristic that determines average power handling capabilities for mated coaxial connectors is its ability to pass high current and keep heat-rise to a moderate temperature. This heating directly relates to contact resistance. Contact resistance is a function of contact surface area. Therefore properly formed center contacts are critical. If connectors are long, then conductor length resistance may start to dominate. The average power rating decreases with frequency because the resistive losses increase with frequency.

High power failure is caused by the generation of heat at the contacting surfaces.

When the contact resistance approaches surface resistance including skin effect, the ultimate power handling level will be approached. Application results are affected by heat-sinking of the connector plus the connector's construction and use of higher-temperature materials. Another limiting factor is altitude because of the connector's increasing inability to dissipate heat as altitude increases. Power derating factors for temperature and altitude are provided on the following table.

Thus, there is not an absolute power handling figure for a connector type. Results may vary from supplier-to-supplier due to design, materials and manufacturing latitudes taken by each. Therefore published power ratings are typically approximations.

# Coaxial Connector Average Power Handling Graph



# *Typical Average Power Derating Factors*

| TEMPERATURE °C | DERATING FACTOR | ALTITUDE X 1000 FT. | DERATING FACTOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 1.20 | 0 | 1.0 |
| 40 | 1.0 | 20 | .80 |
| 80 | .80 | 30 | .70 |
| 120 | .60 | 40 | .60 |
| 160 | .40 | 50 | .50 |
| 200 | .20 | 60 | .40 |
| 240 | .05 | 70 | .30 |

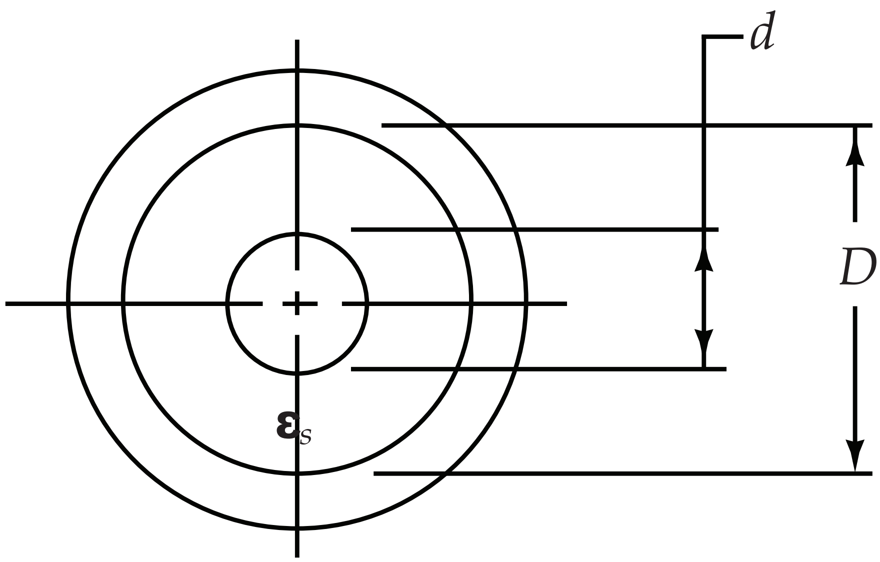
**Example Calculation:**

**At 120°C and 60,000 ft.**
**Derate average power by .60 x .40**
**or average power x .24**

## PEAK POWER

Peak Power limitation is due to high voltage break down. This break down is directly dependent upon the dielectric strength of the total device. This break down typically takes place where a short air path may exist. The peak power rating is not frequency dependent.

A typical calculation example:




**A. VOLTAGE BREAKDOWN** 25 °C at Sea Level

$$E_\delta = \frac{d}{2} \ln\left(\frac{D}{d}\right) * \varepsilon_s$$

$\varepsilon_S$ = dielectric strength
= 25,000 volts / inch in air
= 300,000 volts / inch in TFE Fluorocarbon (Teflon)

**B. PEAK POWER**

$$\text{Pk P} = \left(\frac{E_\delta / \sqrt{2}}{Zo}\right)^2$$ Perfect Load

$$\text{Pk P} = \left(\frac{E_\delta / \sqrt{2}}{4Zo}\right)^2$$ Short or Open Circuit

The above treatment covers situations for short duration pulses and is treated independently of corona initiation.