Glossary of Terms

1. Drop-out - The Ampere Turn value at which the normally-open contacts held closed by a magnetic field will reopen as field strength is reduced

2. Pull-In - The Ampere Turn value at which the normally-open contacts close or where changeover occurs with Form C switches. Lower AT values indicate higher sensitivity.

3. Operate Time - The delay between coil energization to the last contact closure bounce. This value depends on energization coil configuration and the amount of magnetic field overdrive.

4. Release Time - The delay between coil de-energization and contact switch opening including any 'ringing'

5. Resonant Frequency - The natural frequency of the reed switch contacts at which the switch is susceptible to false operation

6. Shock/Impact - The recommended maximum level of shock/impact without false operation or damage occurring to the switch

7. Temperature - The safe range of temperatures for the switch to operate within data sheet specifications. Higher temperature use shortens contact life. The switch should not be subject to temperature shocks between storage and operation.

8. Vibration - The recommended maximum level of constant vibration for operation without false switching

9. Capacitance - The electrical capacitance between the overlapping contact reeds.

10. Contact Form - Form A is single-pole, single throw and is normally open
Form C is single-pole, double throw and break before make

11. Carry Current - The maximum recommended current allowable after contacts have closed and 'bounce' has ceased. Exceeding this value may cause contact chatter

12. Switching Current - The maximum recommended current at contact closure. The type of contact material and its thickness determine the value of this specification

13. Contact Resistance - The maximum resistance across closed contacts measured using 4 wire measurement techniques with 10AT overdrive. Switching voltage 50mV. Switching current 10mA

14. Insulation Resistance - The minimum open circuit resistance across the glass path at 40% RH. Washing the switch in alcohol and avoiding touching the glass body will maintain the highest values of insulation.

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15. Breakdown Voltage - The maximum voltage that the switch can withstand without leakage between open contacts. This value does not include leakage across the glass. Breakdown may cause ionization of the inert gas within the switch leading to even lower breakdown voltage until ionization has subsided.

16. Switching Voltage - The maximum voltage that the contacts can switch without damage to the contact area or change in specifications.

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