



# Starter Current Draw Test

**Meets NATEF Task:** (A6-C-1) Perform starter current draw tests; determine necessary action.  
(P-1)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time on Task \_\_\_\_\_

Make/Model/Year \_\_\_\_\_ VIN \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluation: 4 3 2 1

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Connect the starting and charging test leads (such as a Sun Electric VAT-40) as per the manufacturer's instructions.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Disable the ignition system or the fuel system to prevent the engine from starting.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Crank the engine observing the ammeter scale (disregard the initial higher amp reading).

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Starter amperage specifications for this vehicle = \_\_\_\_\_ amps.

**4-cylinder engine** = 150 to 185 amperes

**6-cylinder engine** = 160 to 200 amperes

**8-cylinder engine** = 185 to 250 amperes

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Starter amperage test results = \_\_\_\_\_ amps.

**OK** \_\_\_\_\_ **NOT OK** \_\_\_\_\_

**HINT:** If the amperage reading is higher than the maximum allowable, double check the battery condition before removing the starter motor for disassembly, testing, or replacement. An engine problem can also cause an excessive amperage reading. If the amperage reading is within specifications (less than the maximum allowable), yet the starter motor is operating slowly, check for excessive resistance in the battery cables.