

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

ENGINE STARTING OPTIONS

Applied Compression offers several engine starting systems each designed for specific requirements, client preference and available gas pressures. These starter options include:

1. **CONVENTIONAL (NON EXPLOSION PROOF) 12 VDC/24 VDC ELECTRIC STARTER**
– With this system the operator would typically test for the presence of gas vapors prior to starting and if no gas is detected the operator would proceed with starting.

This system is only suitable for open (well ventilated) compressor packages that are not housed in a building and where permitted by local codes.

2. **AIR/GAS STARTERS** – Offers the least expensive explosion proof starting option provided adequate gas pressure or a source of starting air are available. Gas starters may be turbine or vane type, although the turbine type is most widely used.
3. **EXPLOSION PROOF ELECTRIC STARTER** – If an explosion proof starting system is required and adequate gas pressure or starting air are not available for a gas starter to function, an explosion proof electric starter can be provided.

This system consists of an explosion proof 12 or 24 VDC electric starter, an explosion proof contactor and sealed Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM) batteries.

4. **NON-ELECTRIC (SPRING TYPE) STARTERS** – On some smaller engines mechanical spring-type starters may be used.

Spring starters are based on the concept of storing enough energy in a powerful spring to start an engine. Spring starters are manually operated, requiring someone to hand-wind a starter (no electricity/batteries or air compression is required). When the spring has enough energy to start the engine, the starter is manually tripped to start the engine.