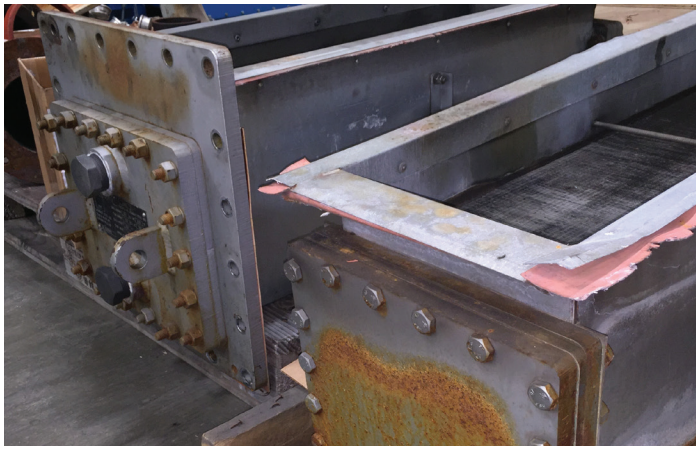
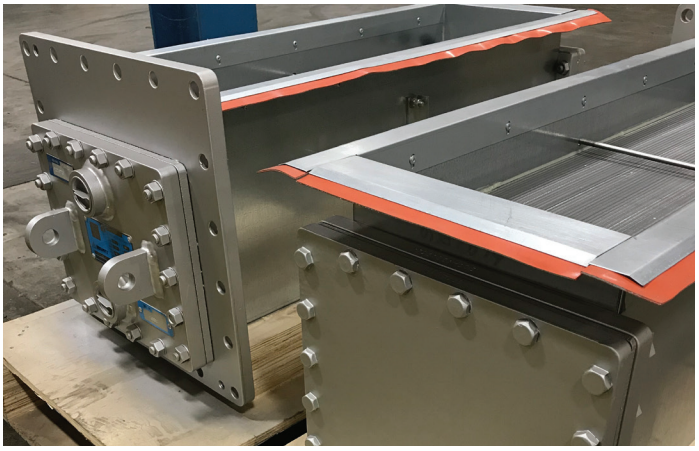
Intercooler Maintenance

Why is my compressor not producing enough air?

Does it seem like your compressor is working harder but producing less air? Have you noticed a rise in your electrical costs? This may indicate that your intercoolers may need serviced or possibly replaced.



Worn/Dirty Intercoolers

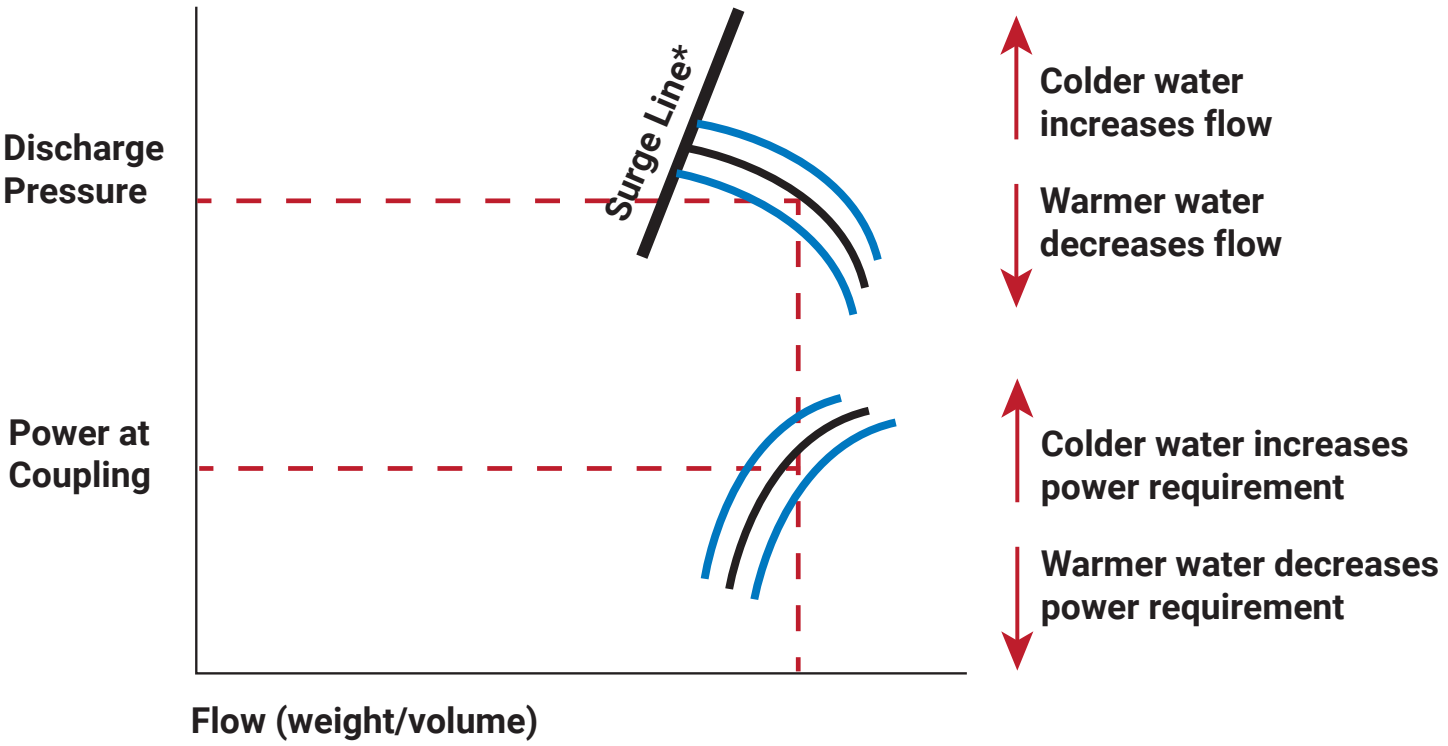


New/Cleaned Coolers

Dirty or aged intercoolers can increase air temperature and reduce air density in the compression stage, resulting in a reduction in the efficiency range, or turndown. Ultimately, this will decrease the flow produced. In the summer months, heat and humidity can exacerbate this situation, further compromising a compressor's capacity.

All of these factors create the perfect environment for a surge, which occurs when inlet flow is reduced to a degree that is insufficient to overcome the discharge pressure of the compressor. Compressors that experience surge are operating in a state of aerodynamic instability. This can be harmful to various compressor components.

Worn/Dirty Intercoolers Negatively Impact Surge Line



Worn/dirty intercoolers negatively impact surge line

Replacement of aged or fouled intercoolers can help restore the original pressure, maintain efficiency and capacity, and avoid surge.

With this in mind, FS-Elliott's scheduled maintenance guidelines call for annual inspection of all heat exchangers including intercoolers, aftercoolers and oil coolers.

Contact your authorized FSE Channel Partner or Sales Representative today to schedule a cooler inspection.

MEMBER OF CAGI Compressed Air & Gas Institute

class zero oil-free ISO 8573-1

LLOYD'S REGISTER LRQA ISO 9001

ISO 9001- certified for the design and manufacture of centrifugal compressors.

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