BASE—These fuse units are tested in accordance with the procedures described in ANSI Standard C37.41-1981, and they are rated to comply with ANSI Standard C37.46-1981. As required by these standards, the minimum melting current is not less than 200% of fuse-unit amperes rating, and the minimum melting and total clearing curves are based on tests starting with the fuse unit at an ambient temperature of 25°C and no initial load.

CONSTRUCTION—Fusible elements are silver, helically coiled, and of solderless construction.

TOLERANCES—Curves are plotted to maximum test points. All variances are minus.

APPLICATION—Like all high-voltage fuses, these fuse units are intended to accommodate overloads not to interrupt them. Accordingly, they feature fusible elements which are designed with a minimum melting current of 200% of the fuse-unit amperes rating (for fuse units rated 100 amperes or less) or 240% of the fuse-unit amperes rating (for fuse units rated over 100 amperes). As a result, these fuse units have considerable peak-load capabilities; however, they should never be exposed to loading in excess of the peak-load tolerance in melting current—compared to 20% in current plus 40% in terms of time. The application of these two factors will give a time interval between the adjusted minimum melting curve and the total clearing curve greater than in the case of S&C speed options.

COORDINATION—These curves represent the total time required for a fuse unit to melt and interrupt a fault current, and should be followed in coordination problems where fuses are applied as "protecting" devices.

Any prolonging reduces melting time. With respect to the "protected" fuse, the effect of prolonging must be determined and adjustments made to its minimum melting curve:

1. When close coordination is required.
2. When, regardless of the preciseness of coordination, the protected fuse is subjected to temporary overloads.

There are cases where the coordination requirements may be very exacting, for example, in coordinating a transformer primary fuse with a secondary breaker and a source-side breaker. The time interval between the operating characteristics of the two breakers may be very narrow. Under these circumstances there must be an extremely short time interval between the minimum melting and the total clearing characteristics of the fuse.

The fuse units represented by these curves possess this short time interval feature, since—having a nondamageable fusible element construction—they require:

1. As little as 10% total tolerance in melting current—compared to the 20% tolerance of many fuses (20% and 40% respectively in terms of time).
2. No "safety-zone" or setback allowances.

This narrow time band normally will provide the desired coordination, if the selected S&C Slow Speed fuse unit does not meet the coordination requirements, check to see if the same ampere rating in the S&C Standard Speed will satisfy.

Sometimes a selected ampere rating will fail to meet the coordination requirements in any available speed. In this case the selection of another ampere rating for either the protecting or protected fuse usually will satisfy requirements.

Do not assume that other fuses that do not employ S&C’s silver, helically coiled fusible element construction can better resolve a coordination impasse than the use of another ampere rating in one of the S&C speed options. Such other fuses, including "time-lag" speeds, "super-slow" speeds, and "high-surge" speeds, require the use of "safety-zone" or setback allowances and, in addition, they have larger construction tolerances (plus 20% in current; plus 40% in terms of time). The application of these two factors will give a time interval between the adjusted minimum melting curve and the total clearing curve greater than in the case of S&C speed options.