

Application Note

Carrier-band Connector Sealing

The Carrier-band Hi-Rel taps and connectors can be completely sealed from moisture and other corrosives by using shrink tubing. A type of shrink tubing that works well for this application is Raychem's TCS-7. This shrink tubing has a hot-melt adhesive that liquefies when the tube is heated for shrinking and provides a moisture-proof seal when it cools. The shrink tubing also prevents the connectors from loosening due to vibration.

Use a 3 inch (8 cm) piece of the tubing. Once the connector has been screwed onto the tap, wrap the connector nut with electrical tape. The tape will prevent the hot-melt adhesive from gumming up the nut if the connection has to be taken apart at a later time.

The Hi-Rel tap has a built-in lip on each trunk and drop port. Put the shrink tubing over the lip (see figures below) and apply the heat only to the portion of the tubing by the lip. Let this cool for about 3 minutes. Reapply the heat to shrink down the rest of the tubing. (If heat is applied to all the tubing at once, the hot-melt adhesive becomes slippery and causes the tubing to slide off the lip of the tap). Be careful not to apply too much heat to the tap body because it is made of plastic and can melt.

