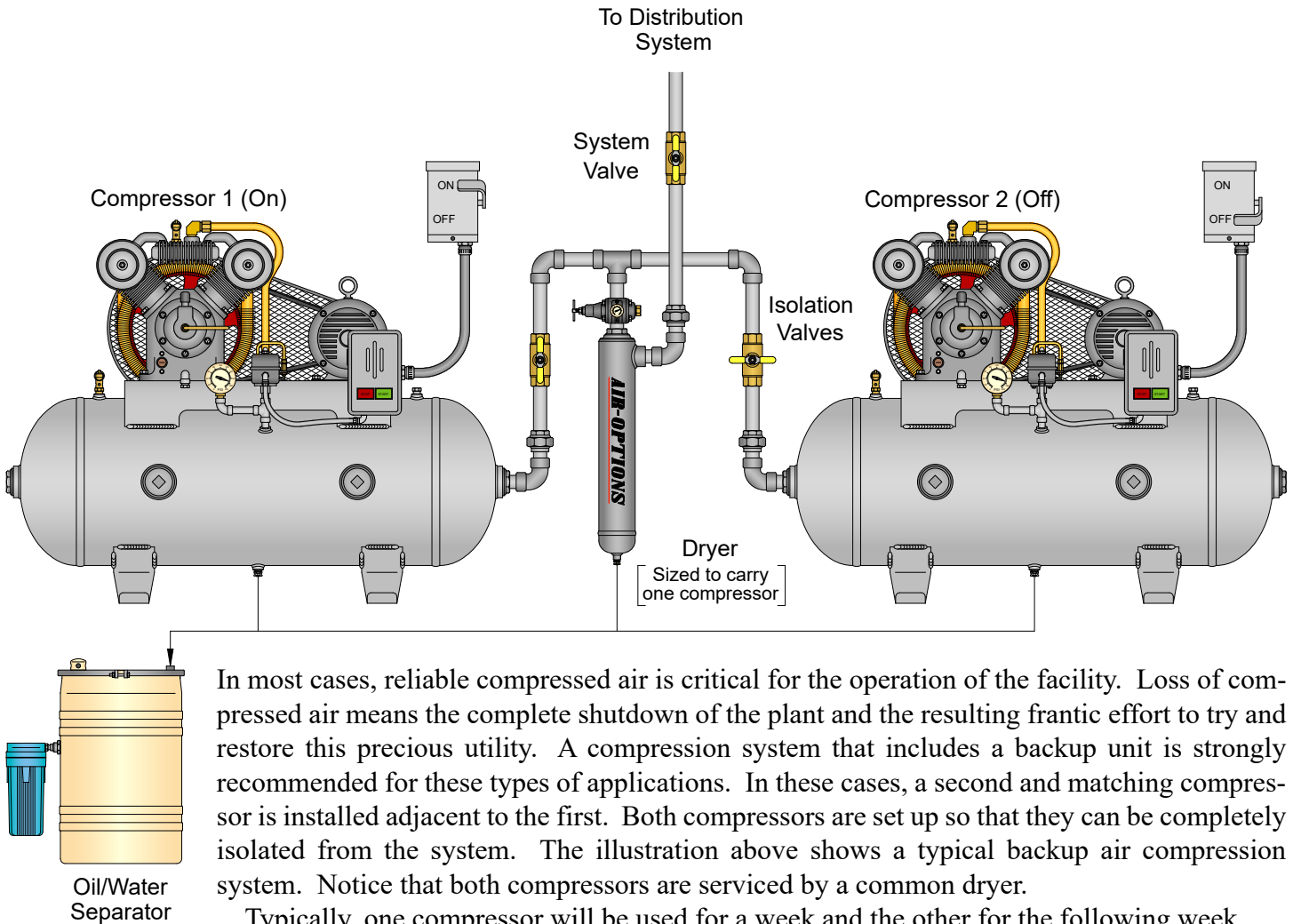


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## Back-Up Compression System

by Brian S. Elliott



In most cases, reliable compressed air is critical for the operation of the facility. Loss of compressed air means the complete shutdown of the plant and the resulting frantic effort to try and restore this precious utility. A compression system that includes a backup unit is strongly recommended for these types of applications. In these cases, a second and matching compressor is installed adjacent to the first. Both compressors are set up so that they can be completely isolated from the system. The illustration above shows a typical backup air compression system. Notice that both compressors are serviced by a common dryer.

Typically, one compressor will be used for a week and the other for the following week.

The weekly toggling of the compressors ensures that neither unit receives undue wear and tear. Additionally, a system like this allows easy access for routine maintenance. The compressor that is offline can be serviced at the discretion of the maintenance department without interrupting the plant's operation. It should be noted that a back-up compression system should not be confused with a peak demand system. For more information on peak demand systems, see our technical bulletin Num. 63 titled "Peak Demand Air Compression Systems."

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