

DC - AC Upgrade Guide for Heavy Industry

SAF Drives Inc.

A practical path to modern drives,
improved uptime, and lower
obsolescence risk.

If you're still running DC drives, you're not alone.

Legacy DC drive systems can run for decades, but most plants eventually reach a point where downtime exposure and parts availability make upgrades unavoidable.

Why Teams Upgrade DC Systems

DC systems often become a liability when:

- Parts and support are difficult to source
- Downtime events are increasing
- Troubleshooting takes longer than it should
- Reliability and maintainability no longer meet production needs



What Changes in a DC - AC Upgrade

A DC - AC upgrade affects more than the drive. It impacts controls, integration, and startup planning.

Typical Benefits Include:

- Reduced obsolescence risk
- Improved reliability and diagnostics
- Easier long-term maintenance support
- Higher efficiency and energy savings

Where Upgrades Deliver the Most Value

DC - AC upgrades matter most when equipment is:

- Uptime-critical
- Difficult to replace quickly
- Causing recurring downtime risk

Take the Next Step:

Request a Drive Obsolescence & Downtime Risk Review

Reach out to get a focused 2-week sprint to identify your top 3 failure points and deliver a clear retrofit path and shutdown plan.

Key Considerations:

- Motor / application requirements
- PLC/HMI/network integration
- Commissioning and cutover planning

How to Reduce Retrofit Risks

Retrofit failures usually come down to execution.

Best Practices:

- Confirm scope and integration requirements early
- Test before commissioning
- Plan cutover around shutdown windows
- Validate stability before ramping production

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