Overcurrent. Any current in excess of the rated current of equipment or the ampacity of a conductor. It may result from overload, short circuit, or ground fault. (CMP-10)

Informational Note: A current in excess of rating may be accommodated by certain equipment and conductors for a given set of conditions. Therefore, the rules for overcurrent protection are specific for particular situations.

Δ **Overcurrent Protective Device, Branch-Circuit. (Branch-Circuit Overcurrent Protective Device)** A device capable of providing protection for service, feeder, and branch circuits and equipment over the full range of overcurrents between its rated current and its interrupting rating. (CMP-10)

The protection provided may be overload, short-circuit, or ground-fault, or a combination, depending on the application.

N **Overcurrent Protective Device, Current-Limiting. (Current-Limiting Overcurrent Protective Device)** A device that, when interrupting currents in its current-limiting range, reduces the current flowing in the faulted circuit to a magnitude substantially less than that obtainable in the same circuit if the device were replaced with a solid conductor having comparable impedance. (240) (CMP-10)

A current-limiting protective device is one that cuts off a fault current in less than one-half cycle, thus preventing short-circuit currents from building up to their full available values. Most electrical distribution systems can deliver high ground-fault or short-circuit currents to components such as conductors and service equipment. Those components can be damaged or destroyed by high fault currents, resulting in serious burndowns and fires. Properly selected current-limiting OCPDs, such as the ones shown in Exhibit 100.20, limit the let-through energy to an amount that does not exceed the rating of the components in spite of high available short-circuit currents.

EXHIBIT 100.20 Class R current-limiting fuses with rejection feature to prohibit the installation of non–current-limiting fuses. *(Courtesy of Eaton, Bussmann Division)*

Overcurrent Protective Device, Supplementary. (Supplementary Overcurrent Protective Device) A device intended to provide limited overcurrent protection for specific applications and utilization equipment such as luminaires and appliances. This limited protection is in addition to the protection provided in the required branch circuit by the branch-circuit overcurrent protective device. (CMP-10)

The definition of *supplementary overcurrent protective device* makes two important distinctions between OCPDs. First, the use of a supplementary device is specifically limited to a few applications. Second, where it is used, the supplementary device must be in addition to and protected by the more robust branch-circuit OCPD.

The devices used to provide overcurrent protection are different, and the differences are found in the product standards UL 489, *Molded-Case Circuit Breakers, Molded-Case Switches, and Circuit-Breaker Enclosures,* and UL 1077, *Supplementary Protectors for Use in Electrical Equipment*.

N **Overhead Gantry.** A structure consisting of horizontal framework, supported by vertical columns spanning above electrified truck parking spaces, that supports equipment, appliances, raceway, and other necessary components for the purpose of supplying electrical, HVAC, internet, communications, and other services to the spaces. (626) (CMP-12)

Overload. Operation of equipment in excess of normal, full-load rating, or of a conductor in excess of its ampacity that, when it persists for a sufficient length of time, would cause damage or dangerous overheating. A fault, such as a short circuit or ground fault, is not an overload. (CMP-10)

N **Packaged Therapeutic Tub or Hydrotherapeutic Tank Equipment Assembly.** A factory-fabricated unit consisting of water-circulating, heating, and control equipment mounted on a common base, intended to operate a therapeutic tub or hydrotherapeutic tank. Equipment can include pumps, air blowers, heaters, lights, controls, sanitizer generators, and so forth. (680) (CMP-17)

Panelboard. A single panel or group of panel units designed for assembly in the form of a single panel, including buses and automatic overcurrent devices, and equipped with or without switches for the control of light, heat, or power circuits; designed to be placed in a cabinet, enclosure, or cutout box placed in or against a wall, partition, or other support; and accessible only from the front. (CMP-9)

N **Panelboard, Enclosed. (Enclosed Panelboard)** An assembly of buses and connections, overcurrent devices, and control apparatus with or without switches or other equipment, installed in a cabinet, cutout box, or enclosure suitable for a panelboard application. (CMP-9)

N **Park Electrical Wiring Systems.** All of the electrical wiring, luminaires, equipment, and appurtenances related to electrical