Grundfos Type Key Decoder — CR, CM, NB, MAGNA3 and UPS References Explained

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How to read a Grundfos nameplate: CR/CRI/CRN flow-and-stage logic, CM horizontal multistage, NB end-suction sizes, MAGNA3 and UPS circulator codes, and the version-letter block (pump version, connection, materials, elastomer, shaft seal) that decides whether two otherwise identical references interchange.

The two numbers everyone reads first

Family | Format | Worked example from stock |

CR / CRI / CRN vertical multistage | CR [nominal flow m³/h] - [number of stages] | CR10-5: 10 m³/h frame, 5 stages — I = stainless wetted parts, N = all-stainless |

CM / CME horizontal multistage | CM [flow] - [stages] | CM5-3, CM10-3; E adds an integrated speed drive |

NB / NK end-suction (EN 733 pattern) | NB [discharge DN] - [nominal impeller Ø] | NB32-125, NB65-200 |

MAGNA3 / UPS circulators | [port DN] - [max head, dm] | MAGNA3 25-80 = DN25, 8 m; UPS 25-40 = DN25, 4 m; F suffix = flanged, with port-to-port length stated (40-100 F, 220 mm) |

The letter block is where substitutions go wrong

After the size, Grundfos appends a version block — on the stocked CR10-5 it reads A-A-A-E-HQQE, on the CM5-3 A-R-A-E-AQQE. The groups cover pump version, pipe-connection standard, material execution and the elastomer, and the final four letters are the shaft seal code, decoded letter by letter in the companion seal guide. Two CR10-5s with different blocks can differ in flange standard, O-ring compound and seal faces — all three bite during installation or CIP. Quote the entire string from the nameplate, never the bare size.

Service logic per family

CR: wear parts ship as complete overhaul kits per frame — KIT-CR1 and upward — covered in depth in the CR overhaul-kit guide; the shaft seal is a separate cartridge ordered by code and shaft size.

NB: kits per size (KIT-NB32, KIT-NB50); impeller diameter in the type key tells you the hydraulics without the curve book.

Circulators replace as complete units; match DN, head class, port-to-port length and voltage — the figures are all in the reference.

Around 370 Grundfos line items are stocked — pumps, kits, seals — browsable at the brand page. For duty-point questions behind the type key (does a CR10-5 actually fit the system?), the pump-curve guide walks the method.

Frequently asked questions
What does CR10-5 mean on a Grundfos pump?A vertical multistage in the 10 m³/h nominal-flow frame with 5 impeller stages. Head scales with stage count — the same frame runs from a handful of stages to dozens — and the letters after it carry materials, connection and seal.Is a CRI pump interchangeable with a CR?Hydraulically they share the frame logic; the difference is material execution — CRI runs stainless wetted parts, CRN all-stainless, against the CR's cast-iron/stainless mix. Aggressive or potable media decide the letter, not the duty point.How do I read MAGNA3 40-100 F?DN40 ports, 10 m maximum head, flanged (F) — and the catalogue row states the port-to-port length (220 mm here), which must match the pipework cut-out on a swap.What does the E mean in CME or CRE?An integrated frequency-converter motor — the pump self-regulates to a setpoint instead of running fixed speed. The hydraulic type key reads the same; control wiring and settings come on top.Can I order a Grundfos pump from the nameplate alone?Yes — the full type key plus the product number on the plate pins the exact build. With both quoted, a 24-hour quotation confirms the current equivalent (Grundfos periodically supersedes product numbers while keeping the type key).

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