BS 1363-2:2023

BSI Standards Publication

13 A plugs, socket-outlets, adaptors and connection units

Part 2: 13 A switched and unswitched socket-outlets – Specification

bsi.

Contents

Summary of pages
This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages I to VI, pages 1 to 89, an inside back cover and a back cover.

Foreword

Publishing information

This part of BS 1363 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 30 June 2023. It was prepared by Technical Committee PEL/23, *Electrical accessories*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to the committee manager.

Supersession

This part of BS 1363 supersedes BS 1363-2:2016+A1:2018 which remains current and will be withdrawn on 30 June 2026.

Relationship with other publications

BS 1363 is published in the following parts:

- *Part 1: Rewirable and non-rewirable 13 A fused plugs – Specification;*
- *Part 2: 13 A switched and unswitched socket-outlets – Specification;*
- *Part 3: Adaptors – Specification;*
- *Part 4: 13 A fused connection units: switched and unswitched – Specification;*
- *Part 5: Fused conversion plugs – Specification.*

Information about this document

This is a full revision of the document, and introduces the following principal changes:

- the Scope now covers operating frequencies from 50 Hz to 60 Hz;
- current carrying parts made of brass are required to have a minimum content of 58% copper;
- a new definition has been included for individually protected socket-outlet (IPS) and includes tests and requirements for IPS;
- new requirements have been added for switch actuating force test for double-pole switches;
- mounting box clearance requirements for flush mounted socket-outlets have been modified;
- Annex requirements for incorporated electronic components have been modified, specifically, USB circuits intended for charging portable devices with the addition of the abnormal condition.

The numbering of figures within this standard remains as in the previous version; however, future revisions will implement consecutive numbering throughout.

Annex J gives details of the annex renumbering from the 2016 editions of BS 1363, Part 1 to Part 5 to the 2023 editions.

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Where websites and webpages have been cited, they are provided for ease of reference and are correct at the time of publication. The location of a webpage or website, or its contents, cannot be guaranteed.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "shall".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Requirements in this standard are drafted in accordance with the *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards:2022*, subclause **G.1.1**, which states, "Requirements should be expressed using wording such as: 'When tested as described in Annex A, the product shall ...'". This means that only those products that are capable of passing the specified test will be deemed to conform to this standard.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is used (e.g. "organization" rather than "organisation").

Contractual and legal considerations

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In particular, attention is drawn to the following specific regulations:

- The Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994. SI No. 1768 [1].

1 Scope

This part of BS 1363 specifies requirements for 13 A switched and unswitched shuttered socket-outlets for household, commercial and light industrial purposes, with particular reference to safety in normal use. The socket-outlets are suitable for the connection of appliances, sound vision equipment, luminaires, etc. in a.c. circuits only, operating at voltages not exceeding 250 V r.m.s. and frequencies from 50 Hz to 60 Hz using plugs in accordance with BS 1363-1:2023. Additional requirements are included for socket-outlets suitable for electric vehicle charging.

Requirements are specified for 13 A shuttered socket-outlets in single or multiple arrangements, with or without associated controlling switches, for flush mounting in suitable boxes, e.g. conforming to BS 4662:2006+A1:2009, or for surface or panel mounting or for portable use. Fixed socket-outlets are intended for use with cables conforming to BS 6004:2012+A1:2020 and cables to the relevant part of BS EN 50525, having copper conductors. Portable socket-outlets are intended for use with flexible cables conforming to the relevant part of BS EN 50525. Socket-outlets incorporating fuse links, Circuit Breakers for Equipment (CBE), switches and indicator lamps are included within the scope of this part of BS 1363. Socket-outlets incorporating electronic components as detailed in Annex A are included within the scope of this part of BS 1363.

This standard does not apply to socket-outlets incorporating screwless terminals for the connection of external conductors of the following types:

a) insulation-piercing connecting devices; or

b) twist-on connecting devices.

Socket-outlets conforming to this standard are shuttered and therefore do not require the use of additional means to shield the current carrying contacts when no plug is present in the socket-outlet.

Certain installations require the inclusion of intumescent and acoustic pads and this might have an effect on the conformance of the socket-outlet to the requirements of this standard. This might influence temperature rise and internal clearances. Verification of suitability of the socket-outlet needs to be obtained from the manufacturer.

*NOTE 1 In order to maintain safety and interchangeability with plugs and socket-outlets it is necessary that these products conform to the requirements of Clause **10** and Clause **14** of this part of BS 1363, however their body outline need not be limited at a distance of 6.35 mm from the plug engagement surface.*

NOTE 2 Requirements for electromagnetic compatibility for socket-outlets that incorporate electronic devices are given in Annex A.

NOTE 3 A socket-outlet that does not incorporate electronic devices does not emit intolerable electromagnetic interference since significant electromagnetic disturbances are only generated during insertion and withdrawal which are not continuous.

NOTE 4 A socket-outlet that does not incorporate electronic devices is mechanical by nature of construction. The product is therefore immune from electromagnetic interference.

NOTE 5 Individually protected socket-outlets (IPS) are only intended to provide supplementary overcurrent protection downstream of the IPS. Individually protected socket-outlets are intended for use in circuits where fault protection is already assured upstream of the socket-outlet.

NOTE 6 Individually protected socket-outlets (IPS) are rated at 13 A. The maximum load current is restricted by the fitted fuse/CBE for its particular application.

NOTE 7 Recommendations for products incorporating BS 1363-2 socket-outlets are given in Annex I.

