BS 1363-3:2023



BSI Standards Publication

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

Part 3: Adaptors – Specification

bsi.

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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This part of BS 1363 supersedes BS 1363-3:2016+A1:2018 which remains current and will be withdrawn on 30 June 2026.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;
- the requirements governing voltage and current ratings of adaptors incorporating electronic components have changed;
- new adaptor requirements have been added for the maximum number of socket-outlets on the same plane;
- 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 I gives details of the annex renumbering from the 2016 editions of BS 1363, Part 1 to Part 5 to the 2023 editions.

This publication can be withdrawn, revised, partially superseded or superseded. Information regarding the status of this publication can be found in the Standards Catalogue on the BSI website at bsigroup.com/standards, or by contacting the Customer Services team.

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.

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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").

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Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

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

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

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1 Scope

This part of BS 1363 specifies requirements for adaptors having insulating sleeves on the line and neutral plug pins and suitable for use with socket-outlets conforming to BS 1363-2:2023, with particular reference to safety in normal use. Adaptors specified in this part of BS 1363 are intended for household, commercial and light industrial purposes. The adaptors are suitable for the connection of portable 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. Adaptors incorporating electronic components detailed in Annex A are included within this part of BS 1363.

This standard also applies to shaver adaptors which have the earth pin replaced with a similarly dimensioned protrusion made of insulating material designated as an insulated shutter opening device (ISOD) designed to operate the shutter mechanism of a socket-outlet conforming to BS 1363-2:2023.

Adaptors 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 adaptor socket-outlets.

Assemblies comprising a plug and one or more portable socket-outlets connected together by a flexible cable are not considered to be adaptors according to this part of BS 1363.

An adaptor is mechanical by nature of construction. The product is therefore immune from electromagnetic interference.

An adaptor 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.

This British Standard does not cover devices within the scope of the following standards:

a) BS EN IEC 62368 series (direct plug-in devices);

b) BS EN IEC 60730 series; or

c) BS 8546.

*NOTE 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**, Clause **13** and Clause **14**, however their body outline need not be limited at a distance of 6.35 mm from the plug engagement surface.*

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes provisions, or limits the application, of this document[1)]. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 546:1950, *Specification – Two-pole and earthing-pin plugs, socket-outlets and socket-outlet adaptors*

BS 646:1958+A2:2013, *Specification for cartridge fuse-links (rated up to 5 amperes) for a.c. and d.c. service*

BS 1362:1973+A3:2021, *General purpose fuse links for domestic and similar purposes (primarily for use in plugs) – Specification*

BS 1363-1:2023, *13 A plugs, socket-outlets, adaptors and connection units – Part 1: Rewirable and non-rewirable 13 A fused plugs – Specification*

1) Documents that are referred to solely in an informative manner are listed in the Bibliography.

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