

Marking Requirements for UK BS1363 Plugs.

Introduction

The Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994 No. 1768) require that a standard plug be of a type approved, conforming to BS1363, and be legibly marked with or bear a label legibly marked with, words, marks or abbreviations clearly signifying approval by and identifying the body which approved the type in question.

These requirements may be fulfilled by providing the following information on all plugs:

- The ASTA Diamond Mark – refer to ASTA Guidance Document No 8
- ‘Approved by ASTA Lic XXX’ or ‘Approved by ASTA Ref XXX’ where XXX denotes the appropriate ASTA Licence or Reference Number. If there is limited space available the manufacturer may mark the plug ‘ASTA Lic XXX’ or ‘ASTA Ref XXX’
- The name, trade mark or identification mark of the manufacturer or responsible vendor, which may be duplicated on a removable fuse carrier.
- The number of the British Standard BS1363
- For rough use plugs the British Standard number shall be BS1363/A
- The word ‘FUSE’ or ‘FUSED’ on the external accessible surface of the plug.
- Where the fuse carrier is detachable it shall be identifiable to the plug by means of marking.
- For rewirable plugs the terminals intended for connection to various conductors shall be identified by the symbols given in Clause 7.5 of BS1363: Part 1: 1995.
- All rewirable plugs shall be marked on the engagement surface with the rated current 13A
- Rewirable plugs with screwless terminals shall be marked to show the length of conductor insulation to be removed before fitting the conductor to the terminal.
- Rewirable plugs shall have a removable tag or label indicating the rating of the fuse link fitted:

‘Fitted with a * ampere fuse’ where * denotes the rating of the fuse link fitted.
- Rewirable plugs shall be provided with adequate instructions for the safe connection of flexible cords.

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- Except where a plug is supplied directly to manufacturer for incorporation into other equipment, the free end of such an assembly shall have a label attached which shall include the following:
 - a) the statement: 'The flexible cord of this plug must be connected to a piece of equipment before being plugged into a socket-outlet.';
 - b) the maximum rating , in amperes, of the equipment to which it may be fitted (as given in the table below);
 - c) the colour code of the cores of the flexible cord as follows:
'IMPORTANT. Wires in the mains lead are coloured in accordance with the following code:
 Green/yellow Earth
 Blue Neutral
 Brown Live';
 - d) if the plug is fitted with a 2-core flexible cord, the following statement:
'This lead must not be used with equipment requiring the protection of an earth continuity conductor.'
- All non-rewirable plugs shall be marked with the rating of the fuse link fitted as listed below for the size of flexible cord fitted to the plug:

Flexible Cord Fitted	Plug Rating	Permissible Rating of Fuse Link Fitted				
		250V, 50Hz	3	5	7	10
0.50mm ²	3 Amperes	✓	✓ [#]	*	*	*
0.75mm ²	6 Amperes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
0.75mm ²	10 Amperes [@]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.00mm ²	10 Amperes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.25mm ²	13 Amperes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.50mm ²	13 Amperes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Notes:

- * - Non-rewirable plugs fitted with 0.50mm² flexible cords are not permitted to be supplied with fuse links greater than 3A or 5A. Non-rewirable plugs fitted with flexible cords greater than 0.50mm² are not permitted to be supplied with fuse links greater than 13A.
- # - A 5A fuse link is permitted in non-rewirable plugs fitted with 0.50mm² flexible cords used with certain types of equipment where the use of a 5A fuse link is necessary because of the high instantaneous inrush currents.
- @ - A 10 Ampere rating is only permitted where the length of the flexible cord fitted to the plug is less than 2 metres and where ASTA Approval has been granted for a 10Ampere rating when fitted with a 0.75mm² flexible cord.

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Details of the Marking requirements defined within the UK Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994 No. 3260) are defined within ASTA Guidance Document No. 3.

Further information relating to any aspect of product marking can be obtained directly from;