

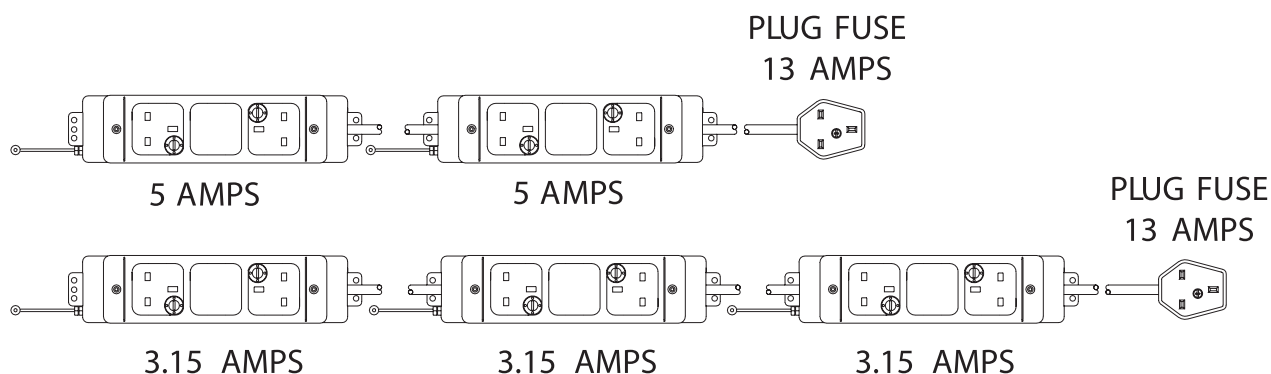
office furniture electrical safety

the role of BS 6396:2002

Electrical equipment and installations must be designed and tested to ensure their safety and to comply with statutory regulations, in particular the “Electricity At Work Regulations”. Relevant British Standards may be used as a means of demonstrating safety and compliance with the regulations. In the case of electrical systems in office furniture the relevant standard for systems connected to the mains supply by means of a 13A plug is BS 6396:2002.

Electrical accessories including power modules must meet electrical standards as set out in BS 6396 as part of the requirements for overall compliance of the desk or workstation electrical system. DPG/Form Fittings Power modules are manufactured to BS 5733 with production and quality traceability to assist with ensuring compliance of completed office furniture installations.

The diagrams below indicate the maximum number of socket outlets that may be connected from a single power supply cable fed from a 13 Amp BS 1363 plug and their relevant fuse ratings.



Sockets installed in office furniture are intended to supply office equipment with a rating not exceeding 5 Amp. With the publication of the 2002 edition of BS 6396 all sockets installed in office furniture must now be individually fused. Most desk based office electrical equipment will run within these constraints. Therefore the power modules should be used to feed office equipment only –not kettles, coffee makers, vacuum cleaners and fan heaters etc.

Personal Computer – CPU	2.00 Amp	Desk Lamp – 60W tungsten	0.25 Amp
Monitor – Colour CRT type.	1.50 Amp	Desk Lamp – Low Voltage	0.10 Amp
Lap-top computer	0.60 Amp	Fax Machine	2.00 Amp
Mobile phone charger	0.05 Amp	Desk Fan	0.25 Amp

The actual current drawn from the supply will vary depending on the precise nature of the equipment and the manufacturer. Equipment with ratings in excess of 5 Amp must be provided with its own dedicated power feed and it is acceptable to run this through the workstation cable management system.

For compliance with the “Electricity at Work Regulations” and BS 6396 all office furniture electrical installations when completed must be tested. Section 7 of BS 6396 sets out the procedures. These tests should also be carried out on re-configured desks and screens as well as new installations. Periodic inspections and tests must be carried out to fulfil the requirements of BS 6396 and the “Electricity at Work Regulations” in maintaining a safe working environment.

Tests should be performed by trained competent personnel and the results of the tests documented. Copies of the documentation should be passed to the client for safe keeping and future reference.

For more detailed information of cable management products or regulations pertaining to them, please contact DPG/Form Fittings Technical Sales Helpline.

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