

BS6396:2008

The updated Standard was published mid November 2008 with changes to the title and scope to include educational furniture. The 2002 version was withdrawn.

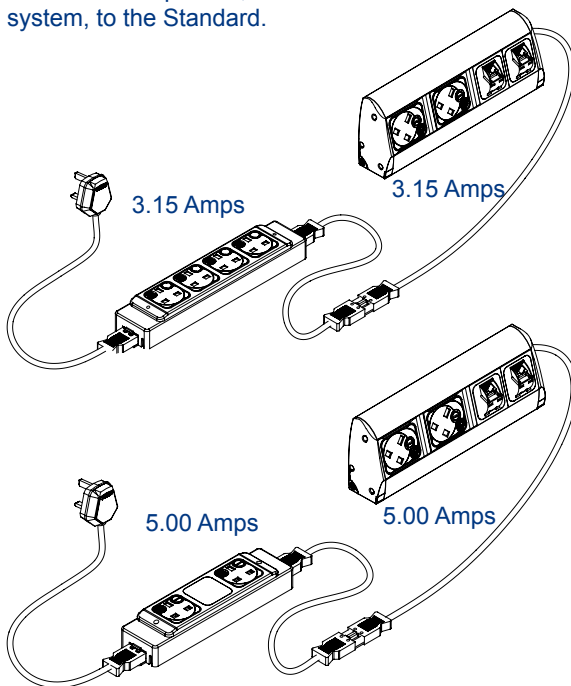
All electrical systems and installations in the work environment must comply with the 'Electricity at Work Regulations'.

This is a statutory requirement where failure to comply may lead to prosecution. Electrical systems installed in office furniture must meet these regulations and now educational furniture is included.

A means of establishing a credible compliance to the regulations is by adherence to British Standards relevant to the type of installation. BS6396* was established to provide a specification for the safe installation and use of electrical systems on or in office furniture and now educational furniture where the electrical system is connected to the mains supply using a 13Amp plug.

Where the connection to the supply is direct or via an under floor track connector then BS7671 – The IEE Wiring Regulations - will apply to the installation. (please see following pages for further detail)

Electrical accessories used in office and educational furniture installations must be manufactured to relevant electrical Standards, as set out in BS6396, as part of the requirements for overall compliance, of the workstation or screen electrical system, to the Standard.



*BS6396 requires that all sockets installed in accordance with the Standard must be individually fused. The diagrams show the maximum number of sockets and their fuse ratings that may be connected to a single 13Amp mains plug feeding from the building supply.

Sockets installed in or on office and educational furniture are intended to supply power to equipment whose rating does not exceed 5Amp, the maximum fuse rating allowed in the sockets by BS6396. Most office electrical equipment will run within the 5Amp maximum. This does not include kettles, fan heaters or vacuum cleaners.

Below are some typical examples of office equipment and their running current requirements.

Computer CPU	>2.0 Amp
Monitor CRT type	>1.5 Amp
Lap-top Computer	>1.0 Amp
Desk Lamp	0.25 Amp
Printer or Fax Machine	>2.0 Amp

For compliance with BS6396 and the Electricity at Work Regulations all office and educational furniture electrical installations must be tested to ensure their safety before being handed over for use. This applies to reconfigured as well as new installations. Section 7 of BS6396 details the procedure. Periodic inspection and tests to the same requirements should also be carried out to ensure the continued safety of the office installations. These tests must be carried out by suitably trained personnel and the results documented.



If you have any doubts or concerns regarding present or future electrical installations within office furniture please contact office electrics.



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