Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Installation couplers

Part 1: General requirements

Standards Australia

STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND
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This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee EL-004, Electrical Accessories. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 26 September 2003 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 12 November 2003. It was published on 28 November 2003.

The following are represented on Committee EL-004:

Australasian Railway Association
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association
Canterbury Manufacturers Association, New Zealand
Consumer Electronic Suppliers Association
Consumers Federation of Australia
Electricity Supply Association of Australia
Energy Safety Service, New Zealand
International Accreditation New Zealand
National Electrical and Communications Association
Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association
Regulatory Authorities (Electrical), Australia
Testing Interests (Australia)

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Originated as AS 3131—1990.
Previous edition AS/NZS 61535.1(Int):2001.
Jointly revised and redesignated as AS/NZS 61535.1:2003.

Jointly published by Standards Australia International Ltd, GPO Box 5420, Sydney, NSW 2001 and Standards New Zealand, Private Bag 2439, Wellington 6020

ISBN 0 7337 5539 9

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee EL-004, Electrical Accessories, to supersede AS/NZS 61535.1(Int):2001, *Installation couplers,* Part 1*: General requirements*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide Australian and New Zealand industry (including manufacturers, test laboratories, regulators and installers) with general and safety requirements and test methods for installation couplers. It is based on document IEC 23/256/CDV being the draft of Standard IEC 61535 *Installation Couplers intended for permanent connection,* Part 1*: General requirements.* The essential safety requirements in AS/NZS 3820 that could be applicable to installation couplers are covered in this Standard.

Due to delays in finalizing the IEC Standard, EL-004 decided to publish the IEC draft requirements as an Interim Standard to allow Australian and New Zealand manufacturers, regulators, test laboratories and users to have access to the new requirements being developed by the IEC for installation couplers. The Interim Standard has been re-published as this Standard, which will be further reviewed when the IEC standard itself is published.

The only change between the Interim Standard and this edition is the change to the test speed in Clause 17, from 0.8 m/s to 0.3 m/s to correct an error.

Requirements for the following topics are still being developed:

(a) Installation couplers to be used at ambient temperatures higher than 25°C.

(b) Installation couplers intended for installations subject to frequent reconfiguration.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is for information and guidance only.

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1 SCOPE

This Standard applies to installation couplers with two- to five- poles with or without earthing contact and with a rated voltage up to and including 500 V a.c. and a rated current up to and including 32 A for permanent connection in indoor installation systems according to AS/NZS 3000.

NOTE: Installation couplers according to this Standard are used in prefabricated houses, installation cavities (such as suspended floors and ceilings) cable trays and trunking, or in commercial show rooms, mobile or fixed stands at fairs or other exhibitions. They are also used in home and office furniture especially in office screens and partition walls.

Installation couplers are a system which can replace connecting and junction boxes or other connecting devices and are intended for connection and disconnection without load.

Installation couplers complying with this Standard are suitable for use at rated current in ambient temperatures not normally exceeding 25°C, but occasionally reaching 35°C.

This Standard does not apply to the following:

(a) Appliance couplers for household and similar general purposes within the scope of AS/NZS 3109.1.

(b) Plugs and socket outlets within the scope of AS/NZS 3112.

(c) Cord extension sockets within the scope of AS/NZS 3120.

(d) Socket-outlet adaptors within the scope of AS/NZS 3122.

(e) Plugs, socket-outlets and couplers for general industrial applications within the scope of AS/NZS 3123.

NOTES:

1 This Standard may be used as a guide for installation couplers that fall outside of the scope of the Standard (e.g. for six-pole installation couplers, seven-pole installation couplers and installation couplers having a rated current greater than 32 A).

2 Installation couplers with additional contacts for voltages other than supply voltages are outside of the scope of this Standard, but the Standard may be used for the accessories involved, where applicable.

3 Guidance for the use of installation couplers is given in Appendix A.

4 Installation couplers are not intended to replace socket-outlet systems.