

## BS6396

### Electrical systems in office furniture and screens

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 therefore meet these Regulations.

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 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.

Electrical accessories used in office 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 and are intended to supply power to equipment whose rating does not exceed 5Amp, the maximum fuse rating allowed in the sockets by BS6396:2008.

Most office electrical equipment will run within the 5Amp maximum. But this does not include kettles, fan heaters or vacuum cleaners. Below are some typical examples of office equipment and their typical current running 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 furniture electrical installations must be tested to ensure their safety before being handed over for use. This applies to reconfigured as well new installations. Section 7 of BS6396:2002 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.

Changes in the 2002 revision of BS6396 require that all sockets installed in accordance with the Standard must be individually fused. The above 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.

To Comply with BS6396 any electrical system being fed from one 13 amp UK plug must NOT exceed the following configuration:-

- (A) Six individually Fused sockets rated at 3.15 amps each or
- (B) Four individually fused sockets at 5 amps each.

## Exclusions To BS6396

If the connection to the mains supply is by another form (Not a 13A UK Plug) Then BS6396 does not apply.

## 2015 Amendments

The Update in 2015 incorporates the use of 30mA RCD protection. The new Amendments to BS 6396 now require new electrical installations in desks to incorporate a 30mA RCD protection device if the current fixed wiring does not.

Tel: +44 (0) 1276 600 775  
 Tel: +44 (0) 1276 600 622

Email: [sales@floorbox.co.uk](mailto:sales@floorbox.co.uk)  
 Web: [www.floorbox.co.uk](http://www.floorbox.co.uk)

Tass Cable Management Limited  
 Unit 1, Leonard House  
 38a Rosemary Lane  
 Blackwater  
 Camberley  
 Surrey  
 GU17 0LT