

SOCKET OUTLET WITH SWITCH

The document has been confirmed during the LVD Adco working group meeting 23 (11 March 2009)





In the European countries (29) there are four different socket outlet systems in common use: These being Type E, Type F "Schuko", Type G and Type K. These are illustrated in below. (See figure I).

Socket outlets for domestic use are outside the scope of the Low Voltage Directive (LVD) and therefore not to be CE-marked. Switches for households and similar fixed electrical installations are in the scope of the LVD and therefore are to be CE-marked.

Question: How should socket outlets with an incorporated switch be addressed?

Answer: In countries with the system, Type E and Type F socket outlet are generally supplied without a switch, those with switches generally being a socket outlet assembly and a switch assembly supplied as a common assembly, these should be CE-marked. In countries with Type K, the socket outlet is delivered both as an integrated unit build together with a switch and as a single modular socket outlet without a switch. In countries with the system Type G system generally use a switched socket outlet. In Type G and Type K systems, switched socket outlets being a complete assembly, i.e. a single product, only used as a part of the National plug and socket outlet system and therefore being excluded from the LVD and as a consequence of this should not be CE-marked.

Figure I

| | |
|---|---|
| Type E | Type F "Schuko" |
|  |  |
| Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Poland, Slovakia | Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Island, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. |
| Type G | Type K |
|  |  |
| . Cyprus, Ireland, Malta, United Kingdom. | Denmark |

Note that most of the European countries have national legislation that imposes special requirements on Plugs and Socket outlets for domestic use. Plugs and socket

outlets for domestic use are in the scope of the General Product Safety Directive 2001/95/EC, due to the lack of specific community legislation.