



Electrical Guide for Organisers and Exhibitors

In this Guide you will find all the information you need to ensure that you place the correct electrical order for your stand. However, when considering what you need prior to ordering, if you do have a query, or you want to discuss a bespoke installation, you can contact our experienced and friendly electrical team at any time for advice and practical help.

- Showlite provides British Standard switched 13A socket outlets at different ratings depending on your requirements.
- Specifying and ordering the correct size sockets will ensure the smooth running of your stand and could even save you money!



What size socket do I need?

500w (2 amp)

- Lighting up to 500w
- Laptop
- Tablet
- PDQ machine
- Computer
- TV
- Small fridge
- Mobile phone charger



1kw - 1000w (5 amp)

- Lighting up to 1kw (1000w)
- Small travel kettle
- Small domestic microwave

2kw - 2000w (10 amp)

- NO lighting is to be plugged into a 2kw socket
- Microwave
- Freezer
- Small coffee machine
- Small vacuum cleaner

3kw - 3000w (13 amp)

- NO lighting is to be plugged into a 3kw socket
- Vacuum cleaner
- Jug kettle
- Catering coffee machines
- Coffee urn
- Freezer /commercial freezer
- Irons

What is the consumption of my appliance?



This is simple when you know how! Every appliance has a rating plate which will give you the information. From this rating plate we can see that this appliance is 230v which is suitable for use in the UK and the consumption is 900w.

This item requires a 1kw/1000w socket.

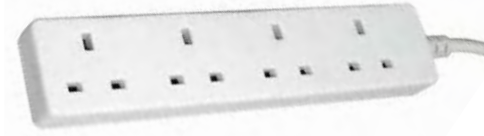
24 hour socket outlets are available by quotation

This is for guidance only. We recommend that you check the rating plate of your appliances so that you are 100% correct when you place your order.

Are there rules and regulations?

Yes, there are Rules and Regulations for the safe use of sockets at an exhibition!

KNOW THE RULES!



General rules

- All portable electrical equipment must be PAT tested prior to being brought to site, including Exhibitor's own lighting
- No fuse boards or any other types of distribution boxes can be plugged into a socket for an Exhibitor's own installation
- Lighting can be plugged into a socket at a rating no greater than 1kw

Extension lead rules

- The use of a 4 way extension lead per fixed socket outlet is subject to a maximum loading of 500w
- You are not permitted to plug an extension lead into a 1kw socket or greater
- 4 way Extension leads must be no longer than 2m
- 'Daisy chaining' or connecting multiple extension leads together is not permitted
- Multi-way blocks must not be used

Does my shell scheme stand need lighting?

We recommend as a minimum 1 x spotlight per 3m² of shell scheme stand space or 1 x fluorescent fitting per 3m². This should give you a basic amount of light for your stand. However, when you arrive on site and need advice or want to alter your original specification, we are on hand to help and we always carry a range of spares so you can easily add more lighting or sockets.



Is testing necessary?

Testing is a necessary procedure that needs to be carried out to protect all end users, several tests are required prior to and during build up to ensure your stands safe for energisation . Testing is a statutory requirement within the exhibition industry and therefore a standard charge is levied to help meet the costs for training/ relevant courses / investment to meet the required standards.



What if my stand requires more power?

Not enough power?

Showlite can provide a bigger power supply to your stand. Please contact us onsite if you require additional power.

We can provide:

- Single Phase Commando Sockets (Blue – 3 Pin 230v) Three
- Phase Commando Sockets (Red - 5 Pin 400v)
- Supplies larger than 125amp can be terminated via 400A and 660A power locks



These tables should be used as a guide only and where a manufacturer's guide is provided, please use their specification.

Single Phase Commando Sockets (Blue - 3 Pin 230V)

Supply Amp	Kw	Socket Amp
10	2.3	32
16	3.6	32
20	4.6	32
32	7	32
63	15	63
100	23	125

Three Phase Commando Sockets (Red - 5 Pin 400v)

Supply Amp	Kw	Socket Amp
10	7	32
16	11	32
20	14	32
32	22	32
63	45	63
100	70	125

Can i power my stand with a battery?

The use of batteries to provide mains stand power is strictly prohibited, as batteries are not currently considered to be a safe source of power. This is primarily due to the concern of being unable to identify power sources clearly within a stand and therefore to isolate power in case of a fire, as well as concerns over defects due to lack of maintenance and poor transportation and storage.

If a battery is being used at an event to power a stand this will be reported to the venue health and safety who will remove the power source from the show.

Does my stand require an earth bond?

- **Structural metallic** parts which are accessible from within the stand, vehicle, wagon, caravan, container or the stand itself shall be connected through the main protective bonding conductors to the main earth terminal within the unit. This applies to any hanging rig or structure whether out of reach or not.

In basic terms, the idea of bonding is to prevent electric shock. Let's use a kitchen as an example. If a washing machine were to develop a fault, the electrical current would travel down the earth cable. Without the earth connection, the metal outer casing of the washing machine could become 'live'. This is the same concept with a metal stand

- **Shell Stands** If you are a shell scheme stand your fuseboard is automatically bonded
If you are building a metal structure within a shell scheme stand i.e a BEMATRIX stand. You will need to order a bond
- **Space Only Stands** If you are building a stand of metal construction i.e octonorm, Trilite, BEMATRIX etc you will need to order a bond
- **Why is there a charge?** The charge is to cover labour and material costs.

All this information is available via <https://www.aev.org.uk/e-guide>