DOES IT COMPLY?

EXTENSION LEAD SAFETY CHECK-LIST

This checklist explains simple measures to help safeguard against being deceived into buying counterfeit and non-compliant extension leads.

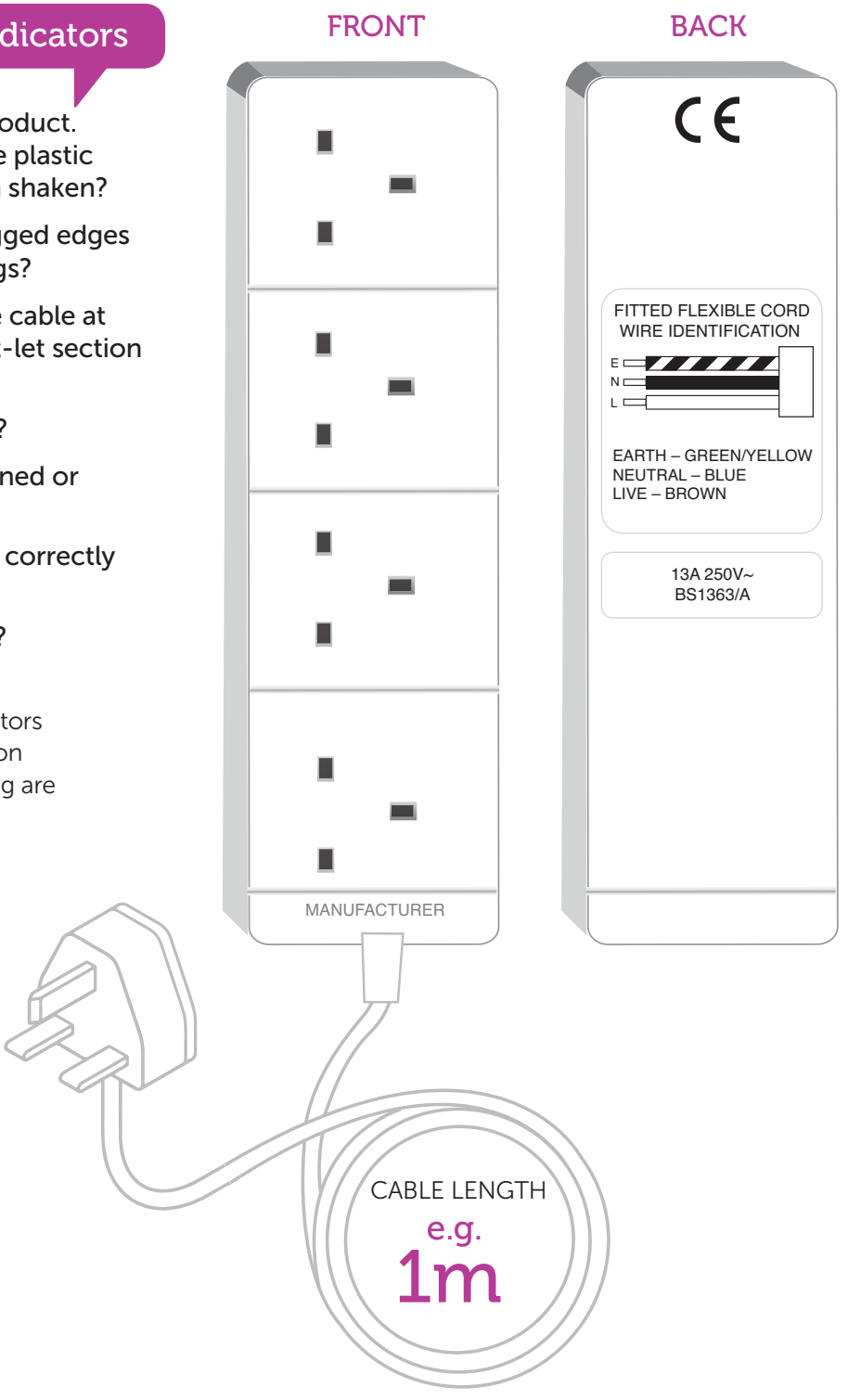
Non-compliant products present significant risks to people and property and carry serious consequences for the distributor, retailer, and general public. Non-compliant products could cause fire or electric shock, potentially resulting in lethal consequences. Choose your extension leads with care. The main function of an extension lead is to provide a temporary connection to electrical power in areas where there are no fixed electrical socket outlets.

CHECK 1 – Initial Quality Indicators

- Check the build quality of the product. Does it have imperfections in the plastic mouldings or does it rattle when shaken?
- Presence of excess material / jagged edges on the outer casing of mouldings?
- Are there signs of damage to the cable at the entry point to the socket out-let section or plug?
- Is the extension lead CE marked?
- Does it have illegible, poorly aligned or smudged markings?
- Is the cable extension lead rated correctly as 13A?
- Is the cable length as advertised?

One or more of the above quality indicators could indicate a non-compliant extension lead. Extension leads without CE marking are non-compliant.

The Performance criteria for extension leads is defined by the product standards BS 5733 and applicable parts of BS 1363-2. Manufacturers/suppliers must be able to provide, when requested, the relevant documentation (to prove compliance with this standard.

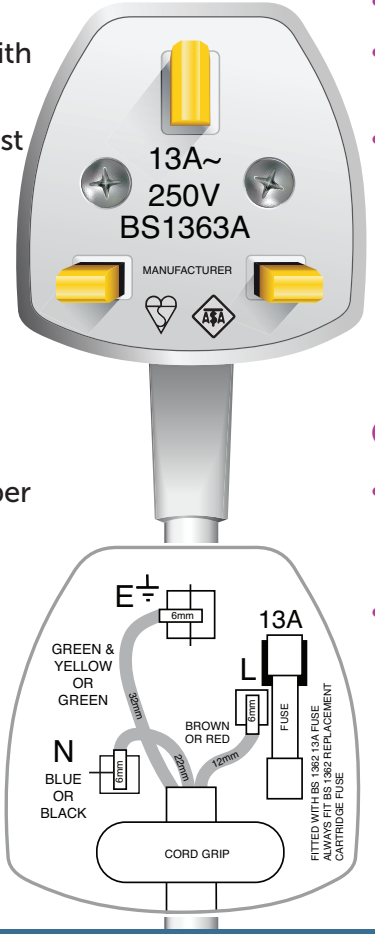


CHECK 2 – Specific Checks relating to the Portable Socket Outlet Section

- Portable socket-outlets shall comply with BS 1363-2
- Non BS1363-2 socket-outlets shall not be used e.g. Universal socket outlets
- Portable socket-outlets incorporating surge protection devices (SPDs) or USB charging ports must comply with BS 1363-2 Annex I
- The portable socket-outlet shall be marked with:
  - Manufacturer's or vendor's name or trademark
  - The British Standard number 'BS 1363/A'
  - Rated current '13 A'
  - Rated voltage
- Do the shutters return to the fully closed position after use?

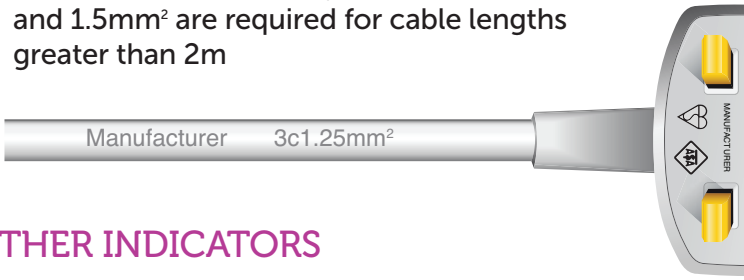
CHECK 3 – Specific Checks relating to the plug

- Plugs shall comply with BS 1363-1
- Rewireable and non-rewireable plugs shall be marked '13A'
- Plug fuses shall comply with BS 1362 and be rated 13A
- The 13A plug and fuse must be marked with a third-party approval body **e.g.** the BSI kite mark, or the ASTA diamond mark
- The plug fuse shall be marked with:
  - Manufacturer's name or mark
  - British Standard number 'BS 1362'
  - Rated current '13A'
- Rewireable plugs shall be provided with wiring instructions (wiring card)



CHECK 4 – Specific Checks relating to the cable

- The flexible cable shall be marked with: Manufacturer's name or trademark
- Applicable Harmonised code e.g. 'H05VV-F'
- Number of cores and the cross-sectional area e.g. '3c1.25mm²'
- Flexible cables shall have a minimum cross-section of 1mm² for lengths up to 2m. 1.25mm² and 1.5mm² are required for cable lengths greater than 2m



OTHER INDICATORS

- Purchasing Channel – do you know and trust the person / organisation offering you this extension lead?
- A low-cost extension lead may be too good to be true

Well-known brands, trademarks and certification marks – don't escape the notice of the counterfeiter seeking a quick profit. Only purchase extension leads from an authorised supplier. Your safety and that of the end user are your responsibility. If you are in doubt check with the brand owner/certification body.

If you have any concerns or suspicions about the authenticity and/or the claims being made in respect of the extension lead, the following courses of action should be considered to safeguard your customers and your business. Ask your supplier for documentary evidence of compliance. Check with relevant test authorities, where appropriate or contact BEAMA on **0207 793 3020** or **info@beama.org.uk** or visit **beama.org.uk**

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