

CTL DECISION SHEET (DSH)

Standard(s) (incl. year)	Subclause(s)	Tracking No.	Year
IEC 60884-1:2002+ AMD1:2006+AMD2:2013, Edition 3.0	11.1	PDSH 2045	2016
Category			
INST			
Subject	Keywords	Developed by	Approved at
Connection of earthing contact vs. connection of current-carrying contacts	Earthing contact, connection, current-carrying contact	ETF 4	2017 CTL Plenary Meeting
Question			
When verifying a socket-outlet against clause 11.1, is it acceptable to use a plug of the same system as that of the socket-outlet, but modifying this plug by reducing the length of earth pin to the same as that of the current-carrying contacts?			
Decision			
<p>No, this is not acceptable.</p> <p>The requirements according to clause 11.1 “Accessories with earthing contacts shall be so constructed that when inserting the plug the earth connection is made before the current-carrying contacts of the plug become live” and “When withdrawing the plug, the current-carrying pins shall separate before the earth connection is broken” shall be verified by checking the compliance of the socket-outlet with the relevant standard sheet. If the dimensions of the socket-outlet are found to be in compliance with the relevant standard sheet then the requirements according to clause 11.1 are fulfilled.</p> <p>In exceptional cases where a relevant standard sheet for a socket-outlet is not available, as an alternative, a test plug may be used as a gauge to verify the compliance of the socket-outlet, but this test plug shall comply with the relevant standard sheet.</p>			
Explanatory notes			
<p>The underlying CTL enquiry for this CTL decision was initiated by a CBTL based on the information from a manufacturer that a socket-outlet fully compliant to IEC 60884-1, had been declared failed by a testing laboratory located in a non-member country arguing the requirements of clause 11.1 were not fulfilled. The problem was that the verification was made by testing and using a plug of the same system as the one of the socket-outlet but with a modified length of the earth pin. By doing so, the plug is obviously no more complying to IEC 60884-1, is no more of the same system as the one of the socket-outlet, and is not defined by IEC 60884-1 as a “test plug” gauge to verify the requirements of clause 11.1.</p> <p>Therefore the CBTL intended to get evidence by means of a CTL decision about the harmonized practice for checking the compliance of socket-outlets with the requirements according to clause 11.1.</p>			