



There are two main standards for industrial connectors: UL94 & UL1977

UL94

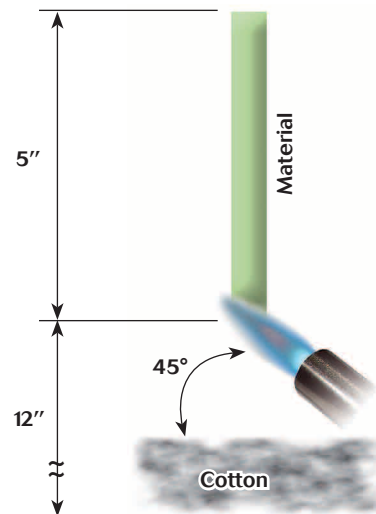
This standard is dedicated to plastics flammability. It characterises how the material burns in various orientation and thicknesses.

The UTS series has been rated at **V-0 & HB**.

Procedure: A specimen is supported in a vertical or horizontal position and a flame is applied to the bottom of the specimen. The flame is applied for ten seconds and then removed until flaming stops, at which time the flame is reapplied for another ten seconds and then removed. Two sets of five specimens are tested. The two sets are conditioned under different conditions.

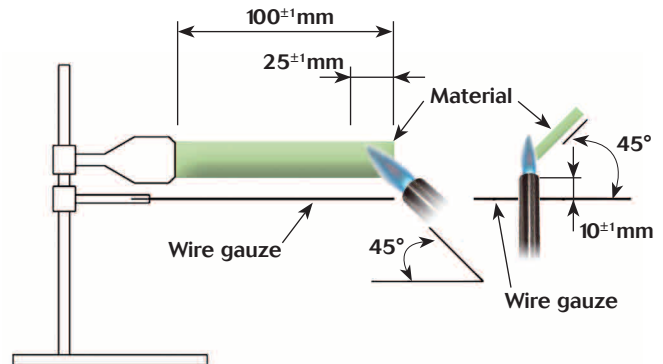
V-0 Vertical burning:

- Specimens must not burn with flaming combustion for more than 10 seconds after either test flame application.
- Total flaming combustion time must not exceed 50 seconds for each set of 5 specimens.
- Specimens must not burn with flaming or glowing combustion up to the specimen holding clamp.
- Specimens must not drip flaming particles that ignite the cotton.
- No specimen can have glowing combustion remain for longer than 30 seconds after removal of the test flame.



HB Horizontal burning:

- A material classed HB shall not have a burning rate exceeding 40 mm per minute over a 75 mm span for specimens having a thickness of 3.0 to 13 mm.
- A material classed HB shall not have a burning rate exceeding 75 mm per minute over a 75 mm span for specimens having a thickness less than 3.0 mm.
- A material classed HB shall cease to burn before the 100 mm reference mark.





UL 1977

There are several standards which deal with plug and receptacle. Each of them is only for a small area of applications. It could be telecommunication, Etc. The UL 1977 covers single and multipole connectors intended for factory assembly.

Requirements apply to devices in taking into account intensity and voltage. There are categories as follows:

	0	30 V (42 V peak)	600 V
0	Type 0	Type 1A	
8.3 A			
31 A	Type 1B	Type 2	
200 A		Type 3	
1000 A	Type 4		

According to above table, the level of performance that has to be reached could be different. Most of them are explained in the following page.

Insulating materials:

Material uses for electrical insulation, as a minimum, have to comply with the characteristics shown below:

• Minimum ratings for polymeric materials

Type	Flame rating	Relative thermal index (RTI) Electrical/mechanical w/o impact **/**
0	-	50/50
1A	HB	50/50
1B	HB	50/50
2	HB	50/50
3	HB	50/50
4	HB	50/50

* The RTI of the material shall not be lower than the temperature measured during the Temperature Test.

** For a thickness less than that for which a value has been established, the RTI of the minimum thickness with an established value shall be used.

Assembly:

Connector has to be keyed to prevent any mismatching that can damage the machine or hurt the user. In the same way, plugs and sockets have to be equipped to protect persons against contact with live parts.

Finally the identified grounding contact shall be located so that the corresponding electrical continuity has to be completed before any other contact.



UL1977

Spacing:

For a 250V max connector, distance through air or over material shall be 1.2mm whereas from 250V to 600V connector the spacing is 3.2 minimum. These distances have to be taken between uninsulated live parts as shown in the matrix below:

• **Applicability of spacing requirements**

Type	Uninsulated live part - uninsulated live part of opposite polarity	Uninsulated live part - uninsulated grounded metal part	Uninsulated live part - exposed dead metal part
0	No	No	No
1A	Yes	Yes	Yes
1B	Yes	Yes	No
2	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Yes	Yes	Yes

An alternative way to determine voltage rating is with the Dielectric-Withstand test. If during one minute there is no arc-over or breakdown the rated voltage is given as given below:

- a) 500 volts for a type 1B device
- b) 1000 volts plus twice rated voltage for types 1A, 2, 3 and 4 devices.

Marking:

A device shall be legibly marked with the manufacturer's trade name, trade mark, or other descriptive marking by which the organisation responsible for the product may be identified. (Exception: If the device is too small, or where the legibility would be difficult to attain, the manufacturer's name, trademark, or other descriptive marking may appear on the smallest unit container or carton)

The following shall be marked on the device or on the smallest unit container or carton or on a stuffer sheet in the smallest unit container or carton:

- a) The catalogue number or an equivalent designation
- b) The electrical rating in both volts and amperes, if assigned
- c) Whether ac or dc, if restricted
- d) Flammability class, if identified

Example - Marking for the arrangement 10-3: **10A 500V UL94 V-0**



IEC 61984

The norm is dedicated to connectors with rated voltage above 50V and up to 1000V and rated currents up to 125A per contact. But depending of your application connectors should be compliant with another standard. This has to be double checked with the customer.

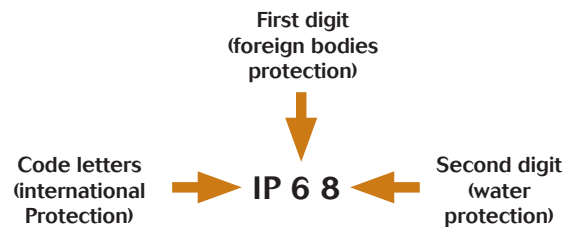
There are lot of constructional requirements and performances specified in that standard. Most of them are illustrated in greater details hereafter.

Provisions for earthing:

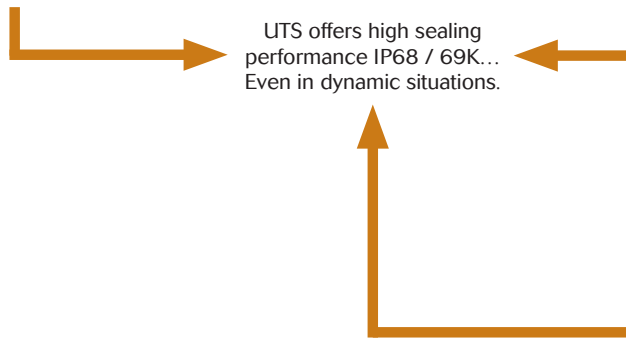
The UTS connector is intended to be used on Class II systems. Even if the purpose of our connector is not to interrupt current, we often see a need to add a protective earth contact. Then this one shall be a "First mate, last break" style. Critically, among all of the normal assumptions we make in designing a connector, this contact has to be considered as a live part and must be protected against electric shock by double or reinforced insulation.

IP Code:

IP is a coding system defined by the IEC 60529 to indicate the degrees of protection provided by an enclosure. The aim of this is to give information regarding the accessibility of live parts against ingress of water and other foreign bodies.



1 st digit	Degree of protection	2 nd digit	Degree of protection
0	No protection against accidental contact. No protection against solid foreign bodies.	0	No protection against water.
1	Protection against contacts with any large area by hand and against large solid foreign bodies with a diameter bigger than 50 mm.	1	Drip-proof. Protection against vertical water drips.
2	Protection against contacts with the fingers. Protection against solid foreign bodies with a diameter bigger than 12 mm.	2	Drip-proof. Protection against water drips up to a 15° angle.
3	Protection against tools, wires or similar objects with a diameter bigger than 2.5 mm. Protection against small solid bodies with a diameter bigger than 2.5 mm.	3	Spray-proof. Protection against diagonal water drips up to a 60° angle.
4	As 3 however diameter is bigger than 1 mm.	4	Splash-proof. Protection against splashed water from all directions.
5	Full protection against contacts. Protection against interior injurious dust deposits.	5	Hose-proof. Protection against water (out of a nozzle) from all directions.
6	Total protection against contacts. Protection against penetration of dust.	6	Protection against temporary flooding.
		7	Protection against temporary immersions.
		8	Protection against water pressure. Pressure to be specified by supplier.



In addition to the IEC 60529 we conjointly use the DIN 40050 part 9 which are dedicated to road vehicles. The main differences are:

- **First digit:** 5 replaced by 5K, 6 by 6K. In the DIN the tested equipment is not depressurized as it is in the IEC.
- **Second digit:** 5K and 6K has been added and are equivalent respectively to 5 and 6 but with higher pressure. 9K which represents the High pressure cleaning.

9K	High pressure hose-proof. Protection against high pressure water (out of a nozzle) from all directions.
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IEC 61984

Overvoltage

UTS connectors are qualified to be used on systems rated at Overvoltage category III

Per the IEC 60664-1 (formerly VDE 0110) each category is linked to the end application and where the device will be implemented:

- **Category IV** (primary overcurrent protection equipment):
Origin of the installation
- **Category III** (Any fixed installation with a permanent connection)
Fixed installation and equipment and for cases where the reliability and the availability is subject to special requirements
- **Category II** (Domestic appliances):
Energy consuming equipment to be supplied from the fixed installation
- **Category I** (Protected electronic circuit):
For connection to circuit in which measures are taken to limit transient overvoltage.

Pollution degree

Per the IEC 60664-1 (formerly VDE 0110) the environment affects the performance of the insulation. Particles can build a bridge between two metal parts. As a rule dust mixed with water can be conductive and more generally speaking metal dust is conductive. Finally, the standard defines 4 levels of pollution:

- **Degree 1** (Air conditioned dry room):
No pollution or only dry, non conductive pollution occurs. The pollution has no influence.
- **Degree 2** (Personal computer in a residential area):
Only non conductive pollution occurs except that occasionally a temporary conductivity caused by condensation is to be expected.
- **Degree 3** (Machine tools):
Conductive pollution occurs or dry non-conductive pollution occurs which becomes conductive due to condensation which is to be expected.
- **Degree 4** (Equipments on roof, locomotives):
Continuous conductivity occurs due to conductive dust, rain or other wet conditions.

Finally, the harsher the environment is, the longer clearance and creepage distances should be. Nonetheless, according the IEC 61984, enclosure rated at IP54 or higher can be dimensioned for a lower pollution degree. This applies to mated connectors disengaged for test and maintenance.

Marking

The marking should give enough details to the user to know what the main characteristics are and without going deep in technical documentation. Below examples identify the suitability of the connector:

- **Example 1:**
Marking of a connector with rated current 16A, rated voltage 400V, rated impulse voltage 6kV and pollution degree 3, 2 and 1 for use in any system, preferably unearthed or delta-earthed systems:

16A 400V 6kV 3

- **Example 2:**
Marking of a connector with rated current 16A, rated insulation voltages line-to-earth 250V, line-to-line 400V, rated impulse voltage 4kV and pollution degree 3, 2 and 1 for use in earthed systems:

16A 250V 400V 4kV 3



What is NEMA rating ?

• NEMA ratings vs IP ratings

Whereas IP ratings only consider protection against ingress of foreign bodies - first digit - and ingress of water (second digit), **NEMA** ratings consider these but also verify protection from external ice, corrosive materials, oil immersion, etc.

The correlation between NEMA & IP being limited only to dust and water, we can state that a NEMA type is *equivalent* to an IP rating but it is not possible to say the contrary.

Below a list of some NEMA standards:

Enclosure rating	IP20	IP22	IP55	IP64	IP65	IP66	IP67
Type 1	•						
Type 3				•			
Type 3R		•					
Type 3S				•			
Type 4						•	
Type 4X						•	
Type 6							•
Type 12			•				
Type 13					•		

- indicates compliance

Type 6 rating can be either Type 6 or Type 6P - please see below:



6	IP67	Enclosures constructed for either indoor or outdoor use to provide a degree of protection to personnel against incidental contact with the enclosed equipment, falling dirt, hose-directed water, the entry of water during occasional temporary submersion at a limited depth and damage from external ice formation.
6P	IP67	Enclosures constructed for either indoor or outdoor use to provide a degree of protection to personnel against incidental contact with the enclosed equipment, falling dirt, hose-directed water, the entry of water during prolonged submersion at a limited depth and damage from external ice formation.