Power Board Inlets and Outlets:

Recognising Style and Type

There are many types of inlets and outlets on the market and the 2 main types widely used are:
CEE Form - pronounced C form
56 series - these are actually called Australian style industrial outlets; however commonly referred to as 56 series which is the trade marked name that Clipsal sell this style of product under.

Pin Connection Types

The inlets also come with 4 and 5 pin connection types. This is simply determined by counting the number of pins or connection points on the power supply source outlet to determine if it is a 5 pin (main type used) or a 4 pin.

5 pin outlets/inlets (called 4 pole + Earth) will have 5 conductors (wires) fitted = 3 phases + neutral + earth connected to them.

4 pin outlets/inlets (called 3 pole + Earth) will have 4 conductors (wires) fitted = 3 phases + earth connected to them. The 4 pin will not have a neutral and this will require changes to be made to a standard 415 V board to operate correctly. Please note RCDs may not correctly function without the correct and proper alterations nor will 240 V outlets.

*****If you are connecting boards to a power source with no neutral conductor, or using a standard board without a neutral conductor, please call us prior to ordering.

56 Series Style Inlet

Generally, most worksites typically have these fitted, but this varies hugely between sites and requirements.
They typically come in 2 main sizes 32 A and 50 A.

CEE Form Inlets

These are industry standard on almost every 3 phase (415 V) power board for the inlet (incoming supply) and any cascade connections (how boards are daisy chained together).
They come as standard in 3 main sizes on 415 V boards – 32, 63 & 125 A.

*When ordering a board ensure that the inlet size and type is what is required for plugging into the power source outlet.

Adaptor Lead

To enable connection of the power board correctly and safely, we do have a variety of adaptor leads available to convert from 56 series and many other brands and types of power source outlets to the inlets of the connecting board.

Inlets – What do you require?

1. Type or make: CEE / 56 series / other
2. Amperage size for example 20 A, 32 A etc. (will be marked on the outlet as required by law)
3. No. of pins – this is the number of holes /pins on the power supply source and is typically 5. If it is not 5 then it will be 4 pin and there is no neutral supply (typically) – If your power source supply has only 4 pins, please call us to clarify what is required.

CEE Socket Outlets (415 V – 5 pin = "4 pin + earth")

CEE outlets are typically used for daisy chaining the boards (connecting one board to the next board – also referred to as "cascading") The most common sizes are 32, 63 & 125 A.

Typically, any CEE outlet will not be RCD protected and designed for cascade connection. It should also be clearly marked as a "cascade connection" on the board with a label adjacent to the outlet.

56 Series Socket Outlets (415 V – 5 pin = "4 pin + earth")

This is by far the most commonly used type of connection in Australia for connecting equipment and/or tools to power boards.
They are typically available in:
240 V – 10 A and 15 A outlets
415 V – 20, 32, 40 and 52 A outlets

Please also refer to our power board operating instructions for more information.

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