

What is a Class II external power supply?

The use of a Class II external power supply is straightforward, with the main difference compared to a Class I product being that it requires only 2-core main leads for secure operation. Protection is maintained by double or reinforced insulation, rather than relying on both protective earthing and basic insulation.

Does a Class II power supply need a protective earth?

While a Class II power supply does not require a protective earth, some lower power Class II products find applications in Class I systems, and Class II applications often use a functional earth in the system. The Class II supply is designed to meet EMC requirements for emissions and immunity.

Does a Class 2 power supply need a safety ground?

A safety ground is a requirement for all Class I devices. A Class II component, or open frame power supply, needs no earth connection for safe operation.

What is a Class 3 power supply?

Class III - where the input is connected to a safety extra-low voltage (SELV) circuit meaning no further protection, such as earthing, is required. Download Your Essential Guide to Power Supplies - a must-have technical resource for system designers.

Does a Class II power supply have a low impedance path?

The Class II supply is designed to meet EMC requirements for emissions and immunity. However, if the output of the supply is connected to a safety earth or a functional ground, it will create a low impedance path for noise, altering the power supply's characteristic performance.

How does a Class I power supply work?

Class I power supplies protect the user through at least one layer of basic insulation first. It then uses a ground wire chassis -- a grounding connection usually on the casing of the source -- that grounds the hazardous voltage before it reaches the user should the basic insulation fail. A safety ground is a requirement for all Class I devices.

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