TABLE 537: WHICH DEVICE FOR WHICH KIND OF SWITCHING

CAN A PLUG AND SOCKET BE EMERGENCY SWITCHING?

Chapter 46 names four kinds of isolation and switching: isolation (462), functional switching (463), switching off for mechanical maintenance (464) and emergency switching (465). Table 537.4 has columns for three of them, and they are not interchangeable:

TYPE	WHAT IT IS FOR
Functional switching	Everyday on and off, in normal use
Emergency switching	Cutting the supply fast, to remove a hazard
Isolation switching	Making a circuit safe to work on

BS 7671 · Table 537.4 sets out which devices are acceptable for each. For **functional switching**, for example, it marks fuses, disconnectors, luminaire connecting devices and luminaire supporting couplers **No**, and switch-disconnectors and isolating switches **Yes**.

> **The standing question:**
> can you use a BS 1363 plug and socket for emergency switching? Look it up in the table — do not answer from memory.

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