CLAIMS:

1. A bypass device for use in an electrical load control system comprising the electrical load and a controller for controlling power provided to the electrical load from a power source, the bypass device for connection in parallel with the electrical load, the bypass device comprising:

a detector for detecting when the controller is in a low conduction or off state; and

a bypass control for causing the bypass device to adopt a low impedance state when the detector detects that the controller is in the low conduction or off state.

2. A bypass device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising input terminals and wherein the detector comprises a high frequency component detector for detecting via the input terminals, high frequency components in a waveform of a voltage signal across the load.

3. A bypass device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the bypass control comprises a voltage limiter to limit the voltage across the input terminals of the bypass device to a maximum voltage value when the detector detects that the controller is in the low conduction or off state.

4. A bypass device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 further comprising a power source unit for providing power to at least one of the detector and the bypass control.

5. A bypass device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the detector is also for detecting when the controller is in a high conduction or on state and wherein the bypass control is also for causing the bypass device to adopt a high impedance state when the controller is in the high conduction or on state.

6. An electrical load control system for controlling power provided to the electrical load, comprising:

the electrical load;

a controller for controlling power provided to the electrical load from a power source; and

a bypass device in parallel with the electrical load wherein the bypass device is adapted to adopt a low impedance state when the controller is in a low conduction or off state.

7. An electrical load control system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the bypass device is adapted to adopt a high impedance state when the controller is in a high conduction or on state.

8. An electrical load control system as claimed in any one of claims 6 or 7 wherein the controller is a phase control dimmer circuit.

9. A method of controlling power delivered to an electrical load in an electrical load control system comprising the electrical load, a controller for controlling the power provided to the load, and a bypass device in parallel with the electrical load, the method comprising;

detecting when the controller is in a low conduction or off state; and

causing the bypass device to adopt a low impedance state when the controller is detected to be in the low conduction or off state.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of detecting when the controller is in a low conduction or off state comprises detecting the presence of high frequency components in the waveform of a power signal across the electrical load.

11. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 or 10 wherein the step of causing the bypass device to adopt a low impedance state comprises limiting the voltage across input terminals of the bypass device to a maximum voltage value.

CLAIMS:

1. A bypass device configured for use in an electrical load control system having an electrical load and a controller configured to control power provided to the electrical load from a power source, the bypass device configured to be connected in parallel with the electrical load, the bypass device comprising:

a detector configured to detect when the controller is in a low conduction or off state;

a bypass control configured to cause the bypass device to adopt a low impedance state when the detector detects that the controller is in the low conduction or off state;

wherein the bypass control comprises a voltage limiter configured to limit the voltage across input terminals of the bypass device to a specified maximum voltage value when the detector detects that the controller is in the low conduction or off state.

2. The bypass device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detector comprises a high frequency component detector configured to detect via the input terminals, high frequency components in a waveform of a voltage signal across the load.

3. The bypass device as claimed in claim 1 or 2 further comprising a power source unit configured to provide power to at least one of the detector and the bypass control.

4. The bypass device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the detector is also configured to detect when the controller is in a high conduction or on state and wherein the bypass control is also configured to cause the bypass device to adopt a high impedance state when the controller is in the high conduction or on state.

5. An electrical load control system comprising:

an electrical load;

a controller configured to control power provided to the electrical load from a power source; and

a bypass device in parallel with the electrical load, the bypass device configured to adopt a low impedance state when the controller is in a low conduction or off state, the bypass device including a voltage limiter configured to limit the voltage across input terminals of the bypass device to a specified maximum voltage value when the controller is in the low conduction or off state.

6. The electrical load control system as claimed in claim 5 wherein the bypass device is configured to adopt a high impedance state when the controller is in a high conduction or on state.

7. The electrical load control system as claimed in claim 5 or 6 wherein the controller is a phase control dimmer circuit.

8. A method of controlling power delivered to an electrical load in an electrical load control system comprising the electrical load, a controller for controlling the power provided to the load, and a bypass device in parallel with the electrical load, the method comprising;

detecting when the controller is in a low conduction or off state;

causing the bypass device to adopt a low impedance state when the controller is detected to be in the low conduction or off state;

wherein causing the bypass device to adopt the low impedance state includes limiting voltage across input terminals of the bypass device to a maximum voltage value.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of detecting when the controller is in a low conduction or off state comprises detecting the presence of high frequency components in the waveform of a power signal across the electrical load.