~~Plug~~Socket Device

The invention relates to a socket device for connecting a plug, particularly in hazardous areas. The socket device may be a wall socket, a flange socket, a coupler or similar means. It comprises a housing, for example, with at least one flange socket having a socket insert with at least one bushing.

A corresponding material for such socket devices, in particular for the housings thereof, is polyamide, glass-fiber reinforced and impact-resistant polyester, stainless steel or a similar material. The corresponding flange socket may have two, three, four, five or also multiple poles. As a rule, such a flange socket is detachably closed by a protective cap. The socket device is particularly used in hazardous areas charged with gas or dust and fixed to a wall, the floor, a mesh cable tray, a tube or the like by a separate device holder.

The socket device serves to connect by means of the plug mobile or stationary apparatus in those areas, which are supplied with power by the socket device.

It is the object of the present invention to improve a socket device of the above-described type such that a user can decide in an easy and safe manner whether the socket device is ready for use.

This object is achieved by the features of patent claim 1. The solution according to the invention is particularly characterized in that at least one indicator lamp is visible on an exterior surface of the housing of the socket device. This lamp can indicate, for example, that the socket device is ready for the power supply. To realize such an indication it is generally sufficient if the indicator lamp is switched on or off. If the indicator lamp is switched on this is an indication that a corresponding power supply is provided by socket device.

To allow the indicator lamp to be seen in a simple manner from different positions, the indicator lamp may protrude at least partially from the housing’s exterior.

If the socket device is used in hazardous areas it may be a further advantage when the indicator lamp comprises a particularly explosion