CLAIMS

1. A socket for coupling electrically to a plug, the socket comprising:

a mating means disposed on the socket for mating with a matching means on the plug, said mating means configured to be adjustable between a compatible mode and an incompatible mode; and

an electrical contact on the socket for coupling electrically to a conducting terminal of the plug,

wherein when in the compatible mode, the mating means allows the electrical contact to contact the conducting terminal, and when in the incompatible mode, the mating means substantially prevents the electrical contact from contacting the conducting terminal.

2. The socket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mating means and the electrical contact are disposed on a same surface of the socket.

3. The socket as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the mating means is selected from the group consisting of a protrusion, projection, abutment, and extension~~comprises an abutment,~~; and the matching means is selected from the group consisting of a hole, slot depression, recess, opening, and aperture~~comprises a recess~~.

4. The socket as claimed in claim 1 to 2, wherein the mating means is selected from the group consisting of a hole, slot depression, recess, opening, and aperture~~comprises a recess,~~; and the matching means is selected from the group consisting of a protrusion, projection, abutment, and extension~~comprises an abutment~~.

5. The socket as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein the protrusion, projection, abutment, or extension is electrically non-conductive.

6. The socket as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein the protrusion, projection, abutment, or extension is positionally slidable between the compatible mode and the incompatible mode.

7. The socket as claimed in claim 6, wherein the protrusion, projection, abutment, or extension is reversibly securable at predetermined positions.

8. The socket as claimed in claim 4, wherein the mating means is reversibly sealable to be positionable in the compatible mode or in the incompatible mode.

9. The socket as claimed in any of the preceding claims, further comprising plural electrical contacts on the socket for electrically coupling to plural conducting terminals of the plug to establish electrical connections therebetween when in the compatible mode.

10. The socket as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the socket is a relay socket.

11. The socket as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the plug is a relay plug.

12. The socket as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein when in use in the compatible mode, a voltage rating configuration of the socket matches or is compatible to a voltage rating configuration of the plug.

13. The socket as claimed in claim 6, wherein the protrusion, projection, abutment, or extension is slidable on a guide disposed on the surface of the socket.

14. The socket as claimed in claim 13, wherein the guide comprises a retaining means for reversibly securing the protrusion, projection, abutment, or extension at at least one of the predetermined positions.

15. The socket as claimed in claim 14, wherein the protrusion, projection, abutment, or extension comprises a flange portion; and wherein the retaining means comprises a slot for releasably engaging the flange portion of the protrusion, projection, abutment, or extension at the at least one of the predetermined positions.

16. The socket as claimed in any one of claim 7 to 15, wherein the incompatible mode comprises at least two different predetermined positions at which the mating means is positionable.

17. The socket as claimed in claim 16, further comprising an indicating means for visually indicating to a user the different predetermined positions at which the mating means is positionable.

18. A plug for coupling electrically to a socket as claimed in any of the preceding claims, the plug comprising:

a matching means on the plug for mating with the mating means disposed on the socket; and

a conducting terminal for coupling electrically to the electrical contact on the socket,

wherein when in the compatible mode, the matching means allows the electrical contact to contact the conducting terminal, and when in the incompatible mode, the matching means substantially prevents the electrical contact from contacting the conducting terminal.

19. The socket as claimed in any of claims 1 to 17, wherein the mating means is disposed on a socket housing of the socket.