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(54) Title: DC POWER CONTROL OF SWITCHING DEVICES ✓

(57) Abstract

A system for controlling the connection of power from a mains supply (11) to electrical devices (22) by way of switching devices (19). The system includes a low voltage, direct current power supply (10), a plurality of command units (15) connected to and powered from the power supply by way of an electrical connection (14), and a plurality of switching devices (19) connected to and powered from the power supply by way of the electrical connection (14). Respective ones (15A, 15B and 15C) of the command units are arranged to generate uniquely coded pulse-form command signals and to feed the command signals to a central processing unit (18) by way of the electrical connection (14), and the central processing unit is arranged to generate pulse-form actuating signals having codes determined by respective ones of the command signals. The central processing unit is arranged to feed the actuating signals to the switching devices (19) by way of the electrical connection (14). The power supply (10) incorporates a voltage regulator (11) which includes circuitry which functions to detect the presence of the pulse-form signals on the electrical connection (14), and the voltage regulator includes means for modulating the output voltage of the power supply between two discrete levels responsive to and at a rate corresponding with that of the pulse-form signals.

