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FieldPoint™ Read Me First

Safety and Radio-Frequency Interference

This document contains safety instructions and information about the radio-frequency interference characteristics of the FieldPoint hardware. Read this document before installing and using the new hardware.

Safety Information

The following section contains important safety information that you *must* follow when installing and using FieldPoint products.

Do *not* operate the FieldPoint product in a manner not specified in the user manual or operating instructions. Misuse of the product can result in a hazard. You can compromise the safety protection built into the product if the product is damaged in any way. If the product is damaged, return it to National Instruments for repair.

Do not substitute parts or modify the FieldPoint product. Use the product only with FieldPoint modules, accessories, and cables.

For Compact FieldPoint, you *must* connect the protective earth (PE) ground terminal on the cFP-BP-*x* backplane to the system safety ground. The backplane PE ground terminal has the following symbol stamped beside it: ⏚. Connect the backplane PE ground terminal to the system safety ground using 14 AWG (1.6 mm) wire with a ring lug. Use the 5/16 in. panhead screw shipped with the backplane to secure the ring lug to the backplane PE ground terminal.

Do *not* operate FieldPoint products in an explosive atmosphere or where there may be flammable gases or fumes. If you need to operate FieldPoint products in such an environment, the FieldPoint products *must* be in a suitably rated enclosure.

If you need to clean a FieldPoint product, use a soft nonmetallic brush. The product *must* be completely dry and free from contaminants before you return it to service.

Operate the product only at or below Pollution Degree 2. Pollution is foreign matter in a solid, liquid, or gaseous state that can reduce dielectric strength or surface resistivity. The following is a description of pollution degrees:

- Pollution Degree 1 means no pollution or only dry, nonconductive pollution occurs. The pollution has no influence.
- Pollution Degree 2 means that only nonconductive pollution occurs in most cases. Occasionally, condensation can cause temporary conductivity.
- Pollution Degree 3 means that conductive pollution occurs, or dry, nonconductive pollution occurs which becomes conductive due to condensation.

You *must* insulate signal connections for the maximum voltage for which the FieldPoint product is rated. Do *not* exceed the maximum ratings for the product. Do *not* install wiring while the product is live with electrical signals. Do *not* remove or add terminal bases or connector blocks when power is connected to the FieldPoint system. Avoid contact between your body and the signal wiring when hot-swapping modules.

Operate FieldPoint products at or below the *installation category*[1] marked on the hardware label. Measurement circuits are subjected to *working voltages*[2] and transient stresses (overvoltage) from the circuit to which they are connected during measurement or test. Installation categories establish standard impulse withstand voltage levels that commonly occur in electrical distribution systems. The following is a description of installation categories:

- Installation Category I is for measurements performed on circuits not directly connected to the electrical distribution system referred to as *MAINS*[3] voltage. This category is for measurements of voltages from specially protected secondary circuits. Such voltage measurements include signal levels,

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[1] *Installation categories*, also referred to as *measurement categories*, are defined in electrical safety standard IEC 61010-1.

[2] *Working voltage* is the highest rms value of an AC or DC voltage that can occur across any particular insulation.

[3] *MAINS* is defined as a hazardous live electrical supply system that powers equipment. Suitably rated measuring circuits may be connected to the MAINS for measuring purposes.

special equipment, limited-energy parts of equipment, circuits powered by regulated low-voltage sources, and electronics.

- Installation Category II is for measurements performed on circuits directly connected to the electrical distribution system. This category refers to local-level electrical distribution, such as that provided by a standard wall outlet (for example, 115 V for U.S. or 230 V for Europe). Examples of Installation Category II are measurements performed on household appliances, portable tools, and similar products.
- Installation Category III is for measurements performed in the building installation at the distribution level. This category refers to measurements on hard-wired equipment such as equipment in fixed installations, distribution boards, and circuit breakers. Other examples are wiring, including cables, bus-bars, junction boxes, switches, socket-outlets in the fixed installation, and stationary motors with permanent connections to fixed installations.
- Installation Category IV is for measurements performed at the primary electrical supply installation (<1,000V). Examples include electricity meters and measurements on primary overcurrent protection devices and on ripple control units.

Compliance with FCC/Canada Radio Frequency Interference Regulations

Determining FCC Class

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has rules to protect wireless communications from interference. The FCC places digital electronics into two classes. These classes are known as Class A (for use in industrial-commercial locations only) or Class B (for use in residential or commercial locations). All National Instruments (NI) products are FCC Class A products.

Depending on where it is operated, this Class A product could be subject to restrictions in the FCC rules. (In Canada, the Department of Communications (DOC), of Industry Canada, regulates wireless interference in much the same way.) Digital electronics emit weak signals during normal operation that can affect radio, television, or other wireless products.

All Class A products display a simple warning statement of one paragraph in length regarding interference and undesired operation. The FCC rules have restrictions regarding the locations where FCC Class A products can be operated.

Consult the FCC Web site at `www.fcc.gov` for more information.

FCC/DOC Warnings

This equipment generates and uses radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in strict accordance with the instructions in this manual and the CE marking Declaration of Conformity[1], may cause interference to radio and television reception. Classification requirements are the same for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Canadian Department of Communications (DOC).

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by NI could void the user's authority to operate the equipment under the FCC Rules.

Class A

Federal Communications Commission

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in which case the user is required to correct the interference at their own expense.

Canadian Department of Communications

This Class A digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations.

Cet appareil numérique de la classe A respecte toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le matériel brouilleur du Canada.

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[1] The CE marking Declaration of Conformity contains important supplementary information and instructions for the user or installer.

Compliance with EU Directives

Users in the European Union (EU) should refer to the Declaration of Conformity (DoC) for information[1] pertaining to the CE marking. Refer to the Declaration of Conformity (DoC) for this product for any additional regulatory compliance information. To obtain the DoC for this product, visit `ni.com/hardref.nsf`, search by model number or product line, and click the appropriate link in the Certification column.

[1] The CE marking Declaration of Conformity contains important supplementary information and instructions for the user or installer.

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