



# Guide to selecting the right electrical connector

**ElectroShield's sales director, Dan Hughes, shares five connector checks buyers can confirm upfront to speed quotes, reduce rework and keep production on schedule**

**E**lectrical connectors rarely get much attention until something goes wrong. Incorrect selections lead to quote delays, engineering push-back, production stoppages and last-minute scrambles with distributors.

Buyers who understand a few core connector fundamentals can avoid these issues entirely. More importantly, they can drive clearer conversations with suppliers, receive accurate quotes faster and ensure the right parts arrive on time. The following five considerations help purchasers move from reactive ordering to confident, informed sourcing.

**1 Match contact count and amperage to the real load:** Knowing the required number of contacts and the amperage per contact allows buyers to ask the right questions upfront. Instead of relying on vague descriptions, purchasers can specify current requirements, duty cycle and temperature considerations when engaging distributors. This leads to faster, more accurate quoting and prevents engineering from rejecting parts due to insufficient current capacity. It also avoids costly reorders caused by connectors that technically fit but cannot handle the load in real-world conditions.

**2 Choose the correct connector style and specification:** Understanding

connector standards such as MIL-DTL-5015, MIL-DTL-26482 or M12 gives buyers leverage in supplier conversations. Distributors can immediately narrow options, confirm compatibility and identify approved alternates when shortages arise. From an internal standpoint, selecting the correct specification minimizes engineering objections and eliminates production issues caused by mating incompatibility. Standardized connector families also improve long-term availability, reducing the risk of scrambling for replacements later in the product lifecycle.

**3 Verify RoHS compliance and what it actually covers:** Buyers who can clearly state RoHS requirements avoid back-and-forth with suppliers and compliance teams. Knowing whether a connector is fully RoHS compliant or covered by an exemption ensures the correct part is quoted the first time. This reduces delays caused by compliance reviews and prevents late-stage surprises that stall shipments. It also builds credibility with engineering and quality teams, who expect purchasers to validate and not assume regulatory requirements.

**4 Understand housing material and plating choices:** Connector housing plating is a frequent source of miscommunication. Buyers familiar with options such as zinc, chromate,

electroless nickel and cadmium can specify finishes accurately based on the application environment. This clarity helps distributors quote the correct configuration without assumptions and prevents production issues caused by corrosion or premature wear. It also reduces internal conflict when parts arrive, since material selections align with environmental and durability expectations from the start.

**5 Confirm required certifications and environmental ratings:** Knowing which certifications and ratings are actually required allows buyers to avoid over-specifying and overpaying, while still meeting application needs. Clear certification requirements help distributors respond quickly and reduce quote revisions. Internally, it prevents engineering and production from rejecting parts due to missing approvals or unnecessary certifications that drive up cost and lead time. The result is smoother procurement and fewer last-minute escalations.

In short, informed buying protects timelines, budgets and credibility long after the purchase order is issued.

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