

READ ME FIRST

Safety and Radio-Frequency Interference

This document contains safety instructions and information about the radio-frequency interference characteristics of the hardware it accompanies. Read this document before installing and using the new hardware. If the hardware documentation contains a *Safety Information* section, disregard that section and refer to this document instead, additionally referring to the *Specifications* section in the hardware documentation when necessary.

Safety Information

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

Do *not* operate the module in a manner not specified in this document. Misuse of the module can result in a hazard. You can compromise the safety protection built into the module if the module is damaged in any way. If the module is damaged, return it to National Instruments (NI) for repair.

Do *not* substitute parts or modify the module except as described in this document. Use the module only with the chassis, modules, accessories, and cables specified in the installation instructions. You *must* have all covers and filler panels installed during operation of the module.

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

If you need to clean the module, use a soft, nonmetallic brush. Make sure that the module is completely dry and free from contaminants before returning it to service.

Operate the module 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, however, a temporary conductivity caused by condensation must be expected.
- Pollution Degree 3 means that conductive pollution occurs, or dry, nonconductive pollution occurs that becomes conductive due to condensation.

You *must* insulate signal connections for the maximum voltage for which the module is rated. Do *not* exceed the maximum ratings for the module. Do not install wiring while the module is live with electrical signals. Do not remove or add connector blocks when power is connected to the system. Avoid contact between your body and the connector block signal when hot swapping modules. Remove power from signal lines before connecting them to or disconnecting them from the module.

Operate the module 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 MAINS³ voltage. This category is for measurements of voltages from specially protected secondary circuits. Such voltage measurements include signal levels, 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 AC voltage for U.S. or 230 AC voltage for Europe). Examples of Installation Category II are measurements performed on household appliances, portable tools, and similar modules.

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.

- 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 (<1,000 V). Examples include electricity meters and measurements on primary overcurrent protection devices and on ripple control units.

FCC/Canada Radio Frequency Interference Compliance

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 Conformity¹, may cause interference to radio and television reception. Classification requirements are the same for

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

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.

Compliance to EU Directives

Users in the European Union (EU) should refer to the Declaration of Conformity (DoC) for information¹ 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.

