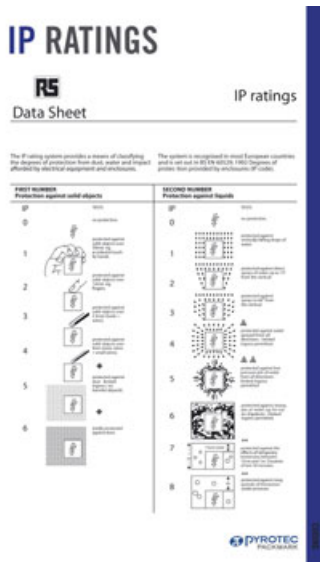


# IP ratings explained

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The Ingress Protection (IP) rating system provides an international standard for classifying the degrees to which electronic equipment and enclosures are sealed against dust, water, impact and other foreign bodies.



Developed and published by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the IP rating system is clear and unequivocal, making it possible for manufacturers to make informed choices when purchasing new equipment; and also to manage risks better on the production floor.

For instance, a manufacturer seeking a coder that is suitable for humid conditions and frequent pressurised water cleaning, may feel confused when having to choose between one machine that is described as “waterproof” and another that is described as “water resistant” in the marketing material. What is the actual difference?

This is where the IP rating system comes in very useful. The digits present in the IP code are linked to a clear description of the water protection that the enclosure in question offers. For instance, a ‘1’ indicates protection “against direct sprays of water up to 15° from the vertical”, whereas an ‘8’ indicates protection “against long periods of immersion under pressure”.

All IP codes follow the same format. The first number indicates the extent to which people are protected against moving parts, as well as the degree to which the enclosures are sealed against foreign bodies. The second digit defines the protection level that the enclosure offers against various forms of moisture or liquid.

For detailed tables describing how to interpret an IP rating, visit [Pyrotec PackMark](#). We can also provide expert technical advice and guidance on the ideal coding and labelling equipment for your organisation. Pyrotec PackMark is the sole distributor of Markem-Imaje, Harlands and ALtech equipment in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania.

If you're attending Propak Africa 2016 between the 15th and 18th of March, visit our stand (E18 in Hall 6) for live equipment demos and expert technical advice. This show is a special one for us as 2016 marks our 50th anniversary.

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