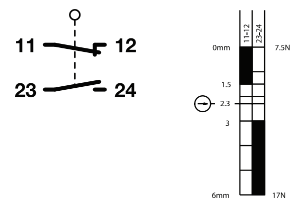
Switching function example

NC = Normally-closed contact
NO = Normally-open contact

PLEASE NOTE - Due to size limitations, the 3 contact versions are only available in larger switch body styles.

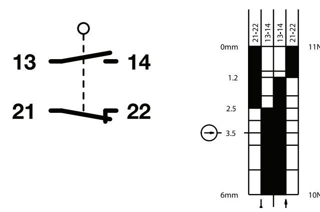
U1Z

Slow-action contact, 1 NC, 1 NO



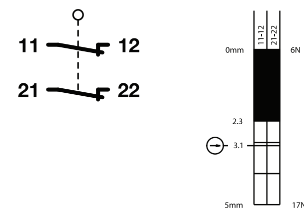
SU1Z

Snap-action contact, 1 NC, 1 NO



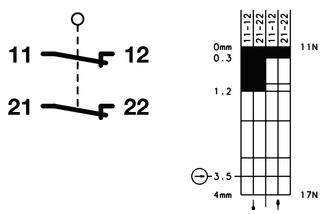
A2Z

Slow-action contact, 2 NC



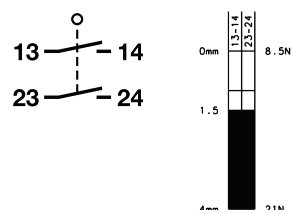
SA2Z

Snap-action contact, 2 NC



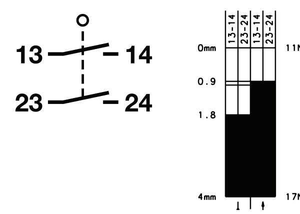
E2

Slow-action contact, 2 NO



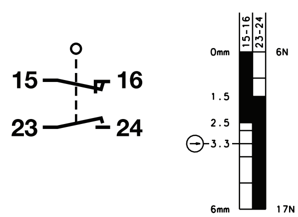
SE2

Slow-action contact, 2 NO



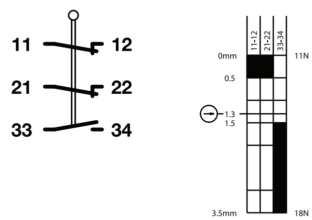
UV1Z

Slow-action contact,
with overlapping contacts,
1 NC, 1 NO



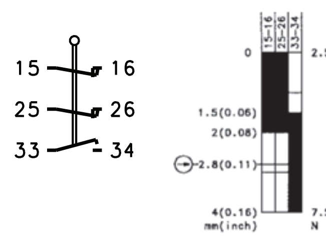
U15Z

Slow-action contact, 2 NC, 1 NO



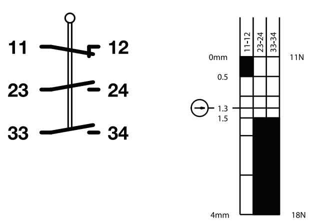
UV15Z

Slow-action contact,
with overlapping contacts,
2 NC, 1 NO



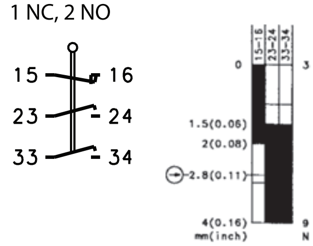
U16Z

Slow-action contact, 1 NC, 2 NO



UV16Z

Slow-action contact,
with overlapping contacts,
1 NC, 2 NO



The actuating forces and travel distances are subject to tolerances.
In Type 1 and Type 2 position switches, the tolerances are independent of the switching system and switching function.

Function	Tolerance
Switching travel	± 0.25 mm
Switching angle	± 3.5°
Switching force in N	± 10%
Actuating torque in	± 10%

Table 1

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Switching systems

The switching element is the heart of all electromechanical switching devices and must be properly matched to the application. Essentially there are two basic types of switching systems that are different terms of their mechanical design and their range of application:

- Slow-action contacts
- Snap-action contacts

Slow-action contacts

- When activated, the normally-closed and normally-open contact functions correspond to the movement of the impact pin
- The approach speed controls the contact opening (closing) time
- Large distance/actuating travel between normally-closed and normally-open contact function
- The switching points are identical in forward and reverse travel

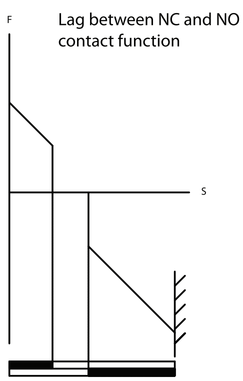


Fig. 1 shows the contact force during the switching cycle of a slow-action contact.

Overlap

- The switching principle of slap-action contacts makes overlapping of the NC/NO contact function possible. The term overlap refers to the area, in which both the normally-closed contact as well as the normally-open contact are closed in connection with a changeover switch with delay.

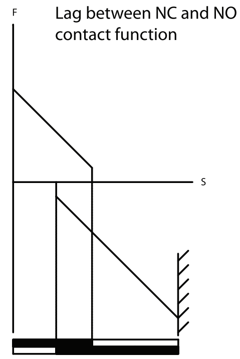


Fig. 2 shows the contact force during the switching cycle of a slow-action contact with overlap.

Snap-action contact

- When activated, the normally-closed contact function is immediately followed by the normally-open contact function
- In this configuration there is no overlap of the NC/NO contacts. The switch provides a distinct OR-function.
- The changeover accuracy is not dependent on the approach speed
- Offers effective suppression of DC arcing
- Reliable contact activation for extremely slow approach speeds
- The snap mechanism triggers the full opening width of the contact on reaching the changeover point
- Due to the change of force in the mechanical system, a different switching point occurs in forward and reverse travel. The lag is referred to as hysteresis.

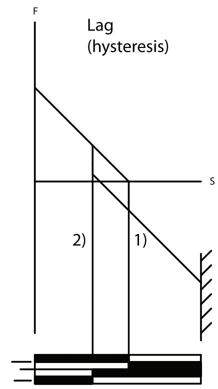


Fig. 3 shows the contact force during the switching cycle of a snap-action contact.

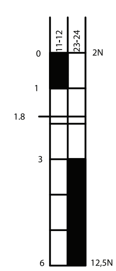
1) Changeover point in forward travel
2) Changeover point in reverse travel

Switching diagram

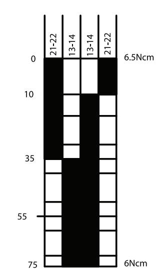
The switching diagram describes the function of the switching device in detail.

It combines the mechanical input variables that act on the contact system via the actuator with the electrical output variables. The user can determine the following information from the switching diagram:

- Mechanical input variables (force, travel, torque, angle)
- Electrical contact-making in forward and reverse travel
- Terminal designation
- Point at which positive opening is achieved
- Type of contact system



Slow-action contact



Snap-action contact

■ Contact closed
□ Contact open

Contact designation

In accordance with DIN 50013 and DIN 50005 the terminal designations of the contact elements are always made up of two digits.

The contact rows are numbered consecutively with the first digit indicating the order of the actuation. Contacts of a switching element that belong together have the same allocating digit.

The second digit is the function digit that indicates the type of contact element.

1–2 Normally-closed contact
3–4 Normally-open contact
5–6 Normally-closed contact with delayed opening
7–8 Normally-open contact with delayed closing

Protection class

The protection class of an enclosed device indicates the degree of protection. The degree of protection includes the protection of persons against contact with parts under voltage and the protection of equipment against the infiltration of foreign bodies and water. BERNSTEIN standard enclosures mainly correspond to protection classes IP65 and IP67. Higher protection ratings are also available for individual customer solutions. In accordance with DIN EN 60521 (IEC 529), the numerals used in the protection rating denote the following:

1st digit Degree of protection against contact and infiltration of foreign bodies

2nd digit Degree of protection against infiltration of water

Example IP65:

6 =
- Complete protection against contact with components under voltage or with internal moving parts
- Protection against dust infiltration

5 =
- A water jet directed from all directions at the device must not have damaging effects
- Protection against water from a hose

Enclosures

Limit switches are supplied either in a molded enclosure or a metal enclosure. Which material is to be selected for a specific application depends on the ambient conditions, the location as well as several other factors.

Molded limit switches provide protective insulation and are resistant to many aggressive chemicals and liquids. The formation of condensation water in moist environments with extreme temperature fluctuations is significantly reduced with molded enclosures.

In insulation-enclosed switches the switching elements are integrated directly in the molded enclosure and are therefore not replaceable (complete switching devices).

Metal-enclosed limit switches are able to withstand high mechanical loads, they can also be used wherever hot metal chips and sparks occur and are resistant to many solvents and detergents. The switching elements in metal-enclosed switches are often integrated in the metal enclosure as modular built-in switches. The enclosure has a VDE-compliant connection for the PE conductor.

Safety switches

The range of applications for limit switches has changed over time. Limit switches were previously used primarily to detect product and end of travel positions, today they are increasingly assuming functions designed to protect persons and products in machine, equipment and plant construction.

The BERNSTEIN range of safety switches offers the right solution for the most diverse applications in many branches of industry. Particularly when it comes to safety, users appreciate the fact that they are able to source all required safety switches and receive professional advice from one place.

The main factors governing the selection of safety equipment include the ambient conditions, installation situation and risk analysis.

A switching device that can be used for safety functions is identified by the standardised symbol conforming to EN 65000-41 and EN 65000-42. The switches can, of course, also be used for pure position monitoring purposes.

Safety switches are divided into two categories, Type 1 and Type 2. The difference is in the actuating elements which are completely integrated in the enclosure in Type 1 and separated from the switching element in Type 2.

Type 1

Type 2

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= Mechanical positive opening action

The term positive opening action refers to contact separation as the direct result of a defined movement of the switch actuator by means of non-spring parts. All parts involved in contact separation must be directly connected. The positive opening distance describes the minimum travel distance from the start of actuation of the operating element up to the point where positive opening action of the opening contacts is completed.

DIN EN 60947-5-1 defines two types of positive opening action contacts:

Type Za

- Positively opening contacts not galvanically isolated

Type Zb

- Positively opening contacts galvanically isolated

Galvanic isolation describes the isolation of electrically conducted parts by insulating material or by air gaps.

In switching devices with several contact elements, galvanically isolated contact elements make it possible to switch voltages with different potential (e.g. normally-closed contact in safety circuit, normally-open contact for indicator).

In accordance with the appropriate safety requirements, protective devices (guards) must be mounted on machines, devices and systems that perform hazardous movements. Safety switches in the form of electromechanical switching devices are used to create safe access to these guarded areas, since they offer the following advantages:

- High degree of safety
- Non-susceptibility to interference
- Safety status easily checked on site

Direct mechanical drives or coupling elements in the form of levers, rods, gearwheels etc. are necessary to ensure optimum operation of these safety components.

Switching devices that are used for safety functions must be identified with the symbol internationally standardized in accordance with DIN EN 60947-5-1.
In defining the class of switching devices, this symbol denotes two important properties that must be met for personal protection applications:

- Mechanical positive opening action
- Disruptive breakdown voltage > 2.5 kV

Disruptive breakdown voltage

In accordance with DIN EN 60947-5-1, the open contacts must be able to maintain a minimum surge voltage of 2.5 kV without disruptive breakdown.

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