

General statement by Multi-Contact on mating connectors of different make

Multi-Contact clearly dissociates itself from connections made with MC connectors and connectors from other manufacturers due to the high demands placed on safety and reliability of PV installations.

Connectors that have not been produced by MC but appear mateable with MC components, and sometimes are being advertised as “compatible with MC” by the manufacturers do not meet the requirements for safe, stable electrical connections and must not be mated with MC connectors for safety reasons. Multi-Contact does not take any responsibility for damages that result from such connections which have not been approved by MC.

Loss of certification

The MC4 connectors made by Multi-Contact are TÜV certified only in combination with connectors from the MC4 product range. Any other connections are not TÜV recognized. When other manufacturers advertise a TÜV certified connection of their connectors with MC products, this does not refer to the connection as such. Only partial tests have been made in such cases.

Technical risks and long-term performance

No long-term experience is available with cross-mating from the field. Experts question the forecast capability of short-term tests and accelerated aging tests with regard to the quality of a connection over a time span of 25 years or more. PV connectors are safety components which contribute to the operational safety (both personal and functional) of the installation. When connectors of different make are mated, this aspect is not guaranteed.

Contact elements and insulation elements must be perfectly matched to the last detail. Over a long period of time this may only be ensured by continuous in-process tests which are run in-house by the manufacturer. Multi-Contact has been on the market with PV connector systems for over 15 years, looking back on according experience from both research and development as well as long-term performance of missions of connections. Simultaneously, characteristics of the connections are being recorded in test fields, proving a good long-term behaviour. For cross-mated connections this certainty is no longer given.