

cFP-RLY-421

Eight-Channel SPST Relay Module

These operating instructions describe how to install and use the National Instruments cFP-RLY-421 relay module. For details on configuring and accessing the cFP-RLY-421 over a network, refer to the user manual for the FieldPoint network module you are using.

Features

The cFP-RLY-421 is a Compact FieldPoint relay output module with the following features:

- Eight single-pole single-throw (SPST) relay channels
- Switching capacity 1.5 A at 35 VDC or 250 VAC
- LED relay status indicators
- Hot swappable
- -40 to 60 °C operation
- 250 V_{rms} maximum isolation voltage
- 2,300 V_{rms} transient overvoltage protection

Power Requirement

The cFP-RLY-421 is powered by the FieldPoint network module through the backplane bus. The cFP-RLY-421 is a high-power consumption module, which may limit the number of I/O modules that you can connect to a single network module.

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Before you configure a FieldPoint system that uses a cFP-RLY-421 module, calculate the total power consumption of the I/O modules on the FieldPoint bank. You can find the power requirement specification in the operating instructions for each I/O module. The maximum power the network module can supply is specified in the network module user manual. Make sure the total power requirement for all of the I/O modules in the bank is less than the maximum power available from the network module.

Suppose you have a bank with a cFP-2000 network module, four cFP-RLY-421 modules, and four cFP-DI-301 modules. The cFP-2000 can supply up to 9 W. The cFP-RLY-421 requires 1.7 W, and cFP-DI-301 requires 0.325 W. The four cFP-RLY-421 and four cFP-DI-301 modules require a total of 8.1 W:

$$4 \times 1.7 \text{ W} + 4 \times 0.325 \text{ W} = 8.1 \text{ W}$$

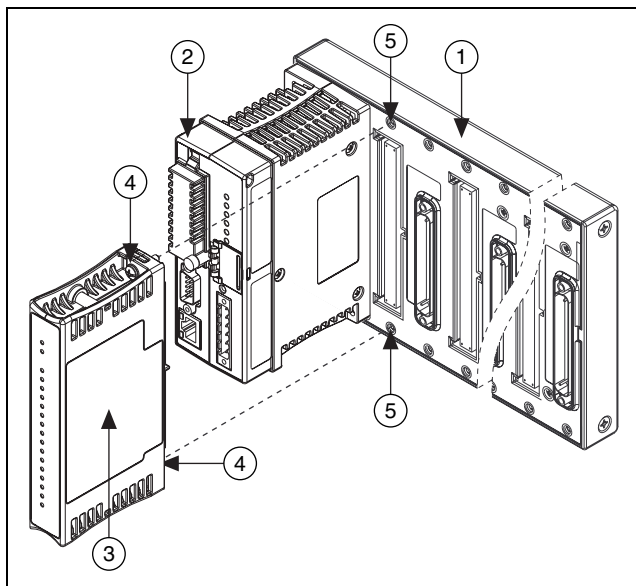
This configuration meets the 9 W power requirement.

Installing the cFP-RLY-421

The cFP-RLY-421 mounts on a Compact FieldPoint backplane (cFP-BP-*x*), which provides operating power to the module. Installing the cFP-RLY-421 onto a powered backplane does not disrupt the operation of the bank.

To install the cFP-RLY-421, refer to Figure 1 and complete the following steps:

1. Align the captive screws on the cFP-RLY-421 with the holes on the backplane. The alignment keys on the cFP-RLY-421 prevent backward insertion.
2. Press firmly to seat the cFP-RLY-421 on the backplane.
3. Using a number 2 Phillips screwdriver with a shank of at least 64 mm (2.5 in.) length, tighten the captive screws to 1.1 N · m (10 lb · in.) of torque. The nylon coating on the screws prevents them from loosening.



- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 cFP I/O Module | 4 Screw Holes |
| 2 Captive Screws | 5 cFP Backplane |
| 3 cFP Controller Module | |

Figure 1. Installing the cFP-RLY-421

Wiring the cFP-RLY-421

The cFP-CB-*x* connector block has connections for each of the eight cFP-RLY-421 relay channels and for an external supply to power field devices. If you are using the cFP-RLY-421 in a *hazardous voltage* application, you must use the cFP-CB-1 connector block or a suitable hazardous voltage cable. A hazardous voltage is a voltage greater than $42.4 V_{\text{peak}}$ or 60 VDC.



Caution Ensure that hazardous voltage wiring is performed only by qualified personnel adhering to local electrical standards.

Each relay channel of the cFP-RLY-421 has two terminals: one NO (normally open) and one IC (isolated common).

Table 1 lists the terminal assignments for the signals of each channel.

Table 1. Terminal Assignments

Channel	Terminal Numbers	
	NO	IC
0	1	2
1	3	4
2	5	6
3	7	8
4	9	10
5	11	12
6	13	14
7	15	16

All of the COM terminals are connected internally and all of the V_{SUP} terminals are connected internally. NI does not recommend using them with the cFP-RLY-421.

Table 2. V_{SUP} and COM Terminal Assignments

V_{SUP}	COM
17	18
19	20
21	22
23	24
25	26
27	28
29	30
31	32



Caution Cascading power between two modules defeats isolation between those modules. Cascading power from the network module defeats all isolation between modules in the FieldPoint bank.

Connecting Loads to the cFP-RLY-421

Wire an external power supply to the load and IC terminal of the individual channel as shown in Figure 2. This method of wiring keeps the electrical connections of the cFP-RLY-421 within safe current limits.

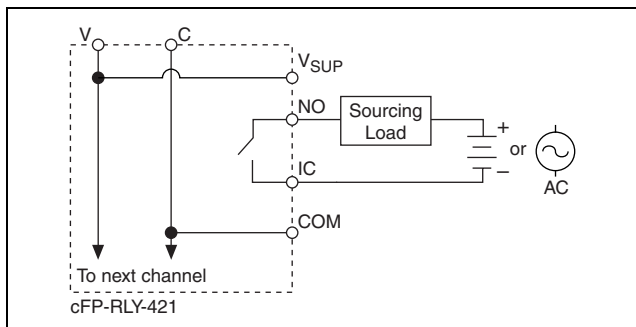


Figure 2. Connecting a Load

The cFP-RLY-421 has eight SPST (Single-Pole-Single-Throw) electromechanical relays. The power-up state is off (open) to ensure safe installation. In the ON state, the NO and IC contacts connect to form a short circuit. In the ON state, there is an effective resistance of 100 m Ω between the NO and IC terminals, which causes a voltage drop. For example, if the current is 1.5 A, the voltage drop across the NO and IC terminals is 0.15 V.

The amount of current the relay can switch depends on the voltage, the type of load, and ambient temperature. Refer to the [Specifications](#) section for more information.

Protecting Contacts for Inductive Loads

When inductive loads are connected to the relays, a large counter-electromotive force may occur at relay switching time because of the energy stored in the inductive load. These flyback voltages can severely damage the relay contacts and greatly shorten the life of the relay.

It is best to limit flyback voltages by installing a flyback diode across an inductive DC load or a metal oxide varistor (MOV) across an inductive AC load. Refer to the [Guidelines for Selecting Contact Protection Circuits](#) section for more information.

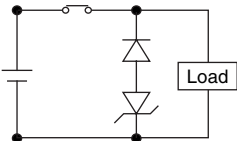
In addition, the cFP-RLY-421 has internal protection MOVs to prevent excessively high voltage from being applied across the contacts. The MOVs are located between the NO and IC contacts of each relay. However, National Instruments still recommends the use of a protection circuit across an inductive load. The flyback protection causes a small leakage current, which is detailed in the [Specifications](#) section.

Guidelines for Selecting Contact Protection Circuits¹

Proper selection is critical, as the use of a contact-protection device can extend contact life. When mounting the protection device, always locate it near the immediate area of the load or contact. Typically, you should mount a protective device within 18 in. of the load or contact.

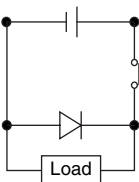
Typically, contact-protection circuits are provided for an overview, but you should thoroughly examine the circuit you are planning to use.

Diode and Zener Diode Circuit

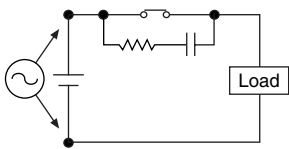
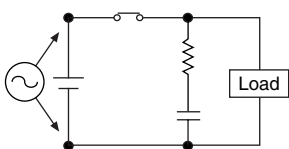
Diagram	Notes
 <p>The diagram shows a DC circuit. On the left is a battery symbol. A switch is connected in series with the positive terminal. The circuit then splits into two parallel paths. The top path goes through a standard diode (arrow pointing right) to the load. The bottom path goes through a Zener diode (arrow pointing left) to the load. Both paths rejoin and return to the negative terminal of the battery.</p>	Use in DC applications only.
	Use when diode circuit causes too long release time.
	Use zener diode with zener voltage about equal to power supply voltage.

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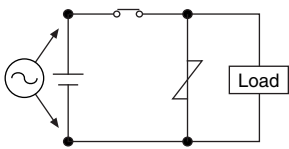
Diode Circuit

Diagram	Notes
	Use in DC applications only.
	Compared to RC type, circuit delays release time (2 to 5 times values stated in catalog).
	For larger voltages, use diode with reverse breakdown 10 times circuit voltage and forward load circuit.
	For smaller voltages, use reverse breakdown voltage of 2 to 3 times power supply voltage.

CR Circuits

Diagram	Notes
	Circuit A is suitable for AC or DC applications, but if used with AC voltage, impedance of the load should be smaller than the CR circuit's. Do not utilize for timer loads, as leakage current can cause faulty operations.
	Circuit B is suitable for AC or DC. If the load is a relay or solenoid, release times lengthen. Effective when connected to both contacts, power supply voltage across the load is 100 to 200 V.

Varistor Circuit

Diagram	Notes
	Effective for AC and DC applications.
	Circuit slightly delays release time. Effective when connected to both contacts, power supply voltage across the load is 100 to 200 V.

In-Rush Current

The type of load and its in-rush current characteristics, together with switching frequency, can cause contact welding. For loads with in-rush current, measure the steady state current and in-rush current to determine the proper relay. Some typical types of loads and the in-rush current they create are summarized in the following chart.

Type of Load	In-Rush Current
Resistive load	Steady-state current
Solenoid load	10 to 20 times the steady-state current
Motor load	5 to 10 times the steady-state current
Incandescent lamp load	10 to 15 times the steady-state current
Mercury lamp load	Approximately 3 times the steady-state current
Sodium vapor lamp load	1 to 3 times the steady-state current
Capacitive load	20 to 40 times the steady-state current
Transformer load	5 to 15 times the steady-state current

Status Indicators

Figure 3 shows the status indicator LEDs on the cFP-RLY-421.

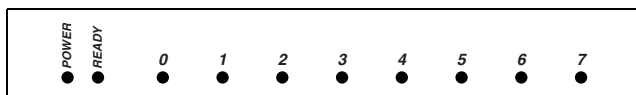


Figure 3. Status Indicators

After you insert the cFP-RLY-421 into a backplane and apply power to the network module, the green **POWER** indicator lights and the cFP-RLY-421 informs the network module of its presence. When the network module recognizes the cFP-RLY-421, it sends initial configuration information to the cFP-RLY-421. After the cFP-RLY-421 receives this initial information, the green **READY** indicator lights and the module is in normal operating mode.

In addition to the green **POWER** and **READY** indicators, each channel has a numbered, green output state indicator that lights when the channel is in the ON state.

Upgrading the FieldPoint Firmware

You may need to upgrade the FieldPoint firmware when you add new I/O modules to the FieldPoint system. For information on determining which firmware you need and how to upgrade the firmware, go to ni.com/info and enter `fpmatrix`.

Isolation and Safety Guidelines



Caution Read the following information before attempting to connect the cFP-RLY-421 to any circuits that may contain hazardous voltages.

This section describes the isolation of the cFP-RLY-421 and its compliance with international safety standards. The field wiring connections are isolated from the backplane. The isolation is provided by the module, which has optical and galvanic isolation barriers designed and tested to protect against transient fault voltages of up to 2,300 V_{rms}. The cFP-RLY-421 provides *double insulation* (compliant with IEC 61010-1) for working voltages of 250 V_{rms}¹. Safety standards (such as those published by UL and IEC) require the use of double insulation between hazardous voltages and any human-accessible parts or circuits.

Never try to use any isolation product between human-accessible parts (such as DIN rails or monitoring stations) and circuits that can be at hazardous potentials under normal conditions, unless the product is specifically designed for such an application, as is the cFP-RLY-421.

Even though the cFP-RLY-421 is designed to handle applications with hazardous potentials, follow these guidelines to ensure a safe total system:

- The cFP-RLY-421 has a safety isolation barrier between the I/O channels and the inter-module communication bus. There is no isolation between channels unless otherwise noted. If any of the channels on a module are wired at a hazardous potential, make sure that all other devices or circuits connected to that module are properly insulated from human contact.

¹ *Working voltage* is defined as the signal voltage plus the common-mode voltage. *Common-mode voltage* is the voltage of the module with respect to ground.

- Do *not* share the external supply voltages (the V and C terminals) with other devices (including other FieldPoint devices), unless those devices are isolated from human contact.
- You *must* connect the protective earth (PE) ground terminal on the cFP-BP-*x* backplane to the system safety ground. The backplane PE ground terminal has the following symbol stamped beside it: \oplus . Connect the backplane PE ground terminal to the system safety ground using 14 AWG (1.6 mm) wire with a ring lug. Use the 5/16 in. panhead screw shipped with the backplane to secure the ring lug to the backplane PE ground terminal.
- As with any hazardous voltage wiring, make sure that all wiring and connections meet applicable electrical codes and commonsense practices. Mount backplanes in an area, position, or cabinet that prevents accidental or unauthorized access to wiring that carries hazardous voltages.
- The isolation of the cFP-RLY-421 is certified as double-insulated for working voltages of 250 V_{rms}. Do *not* use the cFP-RLY-421 as the only isolating barrier between human contact and working voltages of more than 250 V_{rms}.
- Operate the cFP-RLY-421 only at or below Pollution Degree 2. Pollution Degree 2 means that only nonconductive pollution occurs in most cases. Occasionally, however, a temporary conductivity caused by condensation must be expected.
- Do *not* operate FieldPoint products in an explosive atmosphere or where there may be flammable gases or fumes. If you need to operate FieldPoint products in such an environment, the FieldPoint products *must* be in a suitably rated enclosure.
- Operate the cFP-RLY-421 at or below Installation Category II. Installation Category II is for measurements performed on circuits directly connected to the low-voltage installation. This category refers to local-level distribution, such as that provided by a standard wall outlet.

Specifications

The following specifications are typical for a range of -40 to 60 °C unless otherwise noted.

Relay Characteristics

Number of channels.....	8
Relay type.....	1 SPST, nonlatching
Maximum switching capacity (resistive load) -40 to 60 °C	
AC.....	1.5 A at 250 VAC
DC.....	1.5 A at 0 to 35 VDC 1 A at 55 VDC 0.4 A at 120 VDC
Minimum switching load.....	10 mA at 5 VDC
On resistance.....	100 mΩ
Off-state leakage (120 VDC/250 VAC)	

Frequency	Off-State Leakage
DC	0.12 μA
50/60 Hz	8 μA

Expected life

Mechanical.....	20×10^6 operations min
Electrical (at 30 cpm).....	300,000 operations at 1.5 A, 35 VDC; 100,000 operations at 1.5 A, 250 VAC

Maximum switching frequency

Mechanical.....	20 operations per second
Electrical.....	1 operation per second at maximum load

Relays operate time..... 6 ms typical, 8 ms max

Relays release time..... 3 ms typical, 4 ms max

Relay bounce time..... 3 ms max

Contact material..... Gold-plated silver cadmium
oxide

Physical

Indicators Green **POWER** and **READY** indicators, 8 green output state indicators

Weight

cFP-RLY-421 130 g (4.5 oz)

Power Requirements

Power from network module 1,700 mW

Isolation Voltage

Maximum isolation voltage 250 V_{rms}

Channel-to-channel isolation No isolation between channels

Transient overvoltage 2,300 V_{rms}

Environmental

FieldPoint modules are intended for indoor use only. For outdoor use, they must be mounted inside a sealed enclosure.

Operating temperature -40 to 60 °C

Storage temperature -55 to 85 °C

Humidity 10 to 90% RH, noncondensing

Maximum altitude 2,000 m; at higher altitudes the isolation voltage ratings must be lowered

Pollution Degree 2

Shock and Vibration

Operating vibration, random (IEC 60068-2-64) 10–500 Hz, 5 g_{rms}

Operating vibration, sinusoidal (IEC 60068-2-6) 10–500 Hz, 5 g

Operating shock (IEC 60068-2-27) 50 g, 3 ms half sine, 18 shocks at 6 orientations; 30 g, 11 ms half sine, 18 shocks at 6 orientations

Safety

This product is designed to meet the requirements of the following standards of safety for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use:

- IEC 61010-1, EN 61010-1
- UL 3121-1, UL 61010C-1
- CAN/CSA C22.2 No. 1010.1

For UL, hazardous location, and other safety certifications, refer to the product label or to ni.com.

Electromagnetic Compatibility

CE, C-Tick, and FCC Part 15 (Class A) Compliant

Emissions.....	EN 55011 Class A at 10 m FCC Part 15A above 1 GHz
Immunity.....	EN 61326:1997 + A2:2001, Table 1



Note For EMC compliance, you *must* operate this device with shielded cabling.

CE Compliance

This product meets the essential requirements of applicable European Directives, as amended for CE Marking, as follows:

Low-Voltage Directive (safety).....	73/23/EEC
Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (EMC)	89/336/EEC



Note Refer to the Declaration of Conformity (DoC) for this product for any additional regulatory compliance information. To obtain the DoC for this product, click **Declarations of Conformity Information** at ni.com/hardref.nsf/.

Where to Go for Support

For more information about setting up the FieldPoint system, refer to these National Instruments documents:

- FieldPoint network module user manual
- Other FieldPoint I/O module operating instructions
- FieldPoint connector block operating instructions

Go to ni.com/support for the most current manuals, examples, and troubleshooting information.

For telephone support in the United States, create your service request at ni.com/ask and follow the calling instructions or dial 512 795 8248. For telephone support outside the United States, contact your local branch office:

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