Beckhoff — EK EtherCAT Couplers

EK1561



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The **EK1561** is an EtherCAT coupler produced by Beckhoff within the EK EtherCAT Couplers series. It connects a fieldbus segment to a modular set of Beckhoff I/O terminals and forwards process data between the **EtherCAT network** and the local E-bus. By integrating power contacts and signal conditioning in one housing, the unit serves as a compact gateway that distributes both control voltage and communication to adjacent terminal slices in industrial automation cells.

The coupler includes **support for distributed clocks**, allowing sub-microsecond synchronization of connected I/O devices for time-critical motion or measurement tasks. The internal E-bus receives up to **2 A**, providing power for a dense stack of digital or analog terminals before an auxiliary feed is needed. The unit has **three potential groups** with electrical isolation between the sections; this segmentation limits fault propagation when different supply domains share the same rail. All incoming power must meet the **SELV / PELV supply category**, ensuring that exposed contacts remain within safe extra-low-voltage limits during maintenance or service work.

The output side contains **three power contacts** that carry the load voltage to downstream terminals. Each contact can carry up to **10 A**, enabling actuators with moderate current demand to be wired without additional distribution blocks. These contacts carry the common **24 V power-contact line** that feeds relays, sensors, and small drives. The electronics inside the coupler operate from a separate **24 VDC logic supply**, which helps keep communication stable if field power is interrupted. The absence of a CoE interface simplifies configuration by limiting it to straightforward EtherCAT address mapping. The architecture also maintains deterministic cycle times when all

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power channels are fully loaded, supporting predictable process-data exchange across the connected terminal stack.

Specifications

Coe Interface:	No	**Distributed Clocks Support:**	Yes	**E-bus Supply:**	2 A
Potential Groups:	3	**Power Contact Count:**	3	**Power Contact Current:**	10 A
Power Contact Voltage:	24 V	**Supply Type:**	SELV / PELV	**Supply Voltage:**	24 VDC
Last Verified:	11/23/2026 9:25 AM				

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