

# SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

## NI VB-8012

### NI VirtualBench™ All-In-One Instrument

This document includes compliance precautions and connection information for the National Instruments VB-8012.



**Note** The guidelines in this document are specific to the NI VB-8012.

## Safety Guidelines

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The following section contains important safety information that you must follow when installing and using the hardware.

Do not operate the hardware in a manner not specified in this document and in the user documentation. Misuse of the hardware can result in a hazard. You can compromise the safety protection if the hardware is damaged in any way. If the hardware is damaged, return it to National Instruments for repair.



**Hazardous Voltage** This icon denotes a warning advising you to take precautions to avoid electrical shock.



**Caution** Do *not* operate the VirtualBench in a manner not specified in this document. Product misuse can result in a hazard. You can compromise the safety protection built into the product if the product is damaged in any way. If the product is damaged, return it to National Instruments for repair.

Clean the hardware with a soft, nonmetallic brush. Make sure that the hardware is completely dry and free from contaminants before returning it to service.

Do not substitute parts or modify the hardware except as described in the *NI VirtualBench Help*. Use the hardware only with the accessories and cables specified in the *NI VirtualBench Help* or specifications.

Do not operate the hardware in an explosive atmosphere or where there may be flammable gases or fumes.

You must insulate signal connections for the maximum voltage for which the hardware is rated. Do not exceed the maximum ratings for the hardware. Do not install wiring while the hardware is live with electrical signals. Do not remove or add connector blocks when power is connected to the system. Avoid contact between your body and the connector pins when hot-swapping hardware. Remove power from signal lines before connecting them to or disconnecting them from the hardware.

Operate the hardware only at or below Pollution Degree 2. Pollution is foreign matter in a solid, liquid, or gaseous state that can reduce dielectric strength or surface resistivity. The following is a description of Pollution Degrees:

- Pollution Degree 1 means no pollution or only dry, nonconductive pollution occurs. The pollution has no influence. Typical level for sealed components or coated PCBs.
- Pollution Degree 2 means that only nonconductive pollution occurs in most cases. Occasionally, however, a temporary conductivity caused by condensation must be expected. Typical level for most products.
- Pollution Degree 3 means that conductive pollution occurs, or dry, nonconductive pollution occurs that becomes conductive due to condensation.

Operate the hardware at or below the measurement category<sup>1</sup> marked on the hardware label. Measurement circuits are subjected to working voltages<sup>2</sup> and transient stresses (overvoltage) from the circuit to which they are connected during measurement or test. Measurement categories establish standard impulse withstand voltage levels that commonly occur in electrical distribution systems. The following is a description of measurement categories:

- Measurement Categories CAT I and CAT O (Other) are equivalent and are for measurements performed on circuits not directly connected to the electrical distribution system referred to as MAINS<sup>3</sup> voltage. This category is for measurements of voltages from specially protected secondary circuits. Such voltage measurements include signal levels, special hardware, limited-energy parts of hardware, circuits powered by regulated low-voltage sources, and electronics.
- Measurement Category II is for measurements performed on circuits directly connected to MAINS. This category refers to local-level electrical distribution, such as that provided by a standard wall outlet (for example, 115 AC voltage for U.S. or 230 AC voltage for Europe). Examples of Measurement Category II are measurements performed on household appliances, portable tools, and similar hardware.
- Measurement Category III is for measurements performed in the building installation at the distribution level. This category refers to measurements on hard-wired hardware such as hardware in fixed installations, distribution boards, and circuit breakers. Other examples are wiring, including cables, bus bars, junction boxes, switches, socket outlets in the fixed installation, and stationary motors with permanent connections to fixed installations.
- Measurement Category IV is for measurements performed at the primary electrical supply installation typically outside buildings. Examples include electricity meters and measurements on primary overcurrent protection devices and on ripple control units.

To obtain the safety certification(s) for this product, visit [ni.com/certification](http://ni.com/certification), search by model number or product line, and click the appropriate link in the Certification column.

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<sup>1</sup> Measurement categories, also referred to as overvoltage or installation categories, are defined in electrical safety standards IEC 61010-1 and IEC 60664-1.

<sup>2</sup> Working voltage is the highest rms value of an AC or DC voltage that can occur across any particular insulation.

<sup>3</sup> MAINS is defined as a hazardous live electrical supply system that powers hardware. Suitably rated measuring circuits may be connected to the MAINS for measuring purposes.

## Safety Voltages

Connect only voltages that are within these limits.

### DMM Isolation Voltages



**Hazardous Voltage** This icon denotes a warning advising you to take precautions to avoid electrical shock.

Channel-to-earth ground

Continuous .....	300 V, Measurement Category II
Withstand .....	3,000 V <sub>rms</sub> , verified by a 5 s dielectric withstand test

Measurement Category II is for measurements performed on circuits directly connected to the electrical distribution system. This category refers to local-level electrical distribution, such as that provided by a standard wall outlet, for example, 115 V for U.S. or 230 V for Europe.



**Caution** Do not connect the VirtualBench to signals or use for measurements within Measurement Categories III or IV.

### DC Power Supply Isolation Voltages

+25 V and -25 V-to-earth ground continuous .....60 VDC, Measurement Category I



**Note** Measurement Categories CAT I and CAT O (Other) are equivalent. The input circuits are not intended for direct connection to the MAINS building installations of Categories CAT II, CAT III, or CAT IV.

## Power Requirements

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**Caution** The protection provided by the VB-8012 can be impaired if it is used in a manner not described in the user documentation.

Voltage input range .....	100 to 240 VAC, 50/60 Hz
Power consumption .....	100 W maximum
Power input connector .....	IEC C13 power connector
Power disconnect .....	The AC power cable provides main power disconnect. Do not position the equipment so that it is difficult to disconnect the power cable. Depressing the front panel power button does not inhibit the internal power supply.

## Preparing the Environment

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Ensure that the environment you are using the NI VB-8012 in meets the following specifications.

Operating temperature .....	0 to 40 °C
Cooling .....	Forced air circulation (positive pressurization) through a fan. Fan speed automatically adjusts according to operating conditions. Intake and exhaust locations are on rear of device. Ensure that the intake and exhaust locations are not obstructed.
Pollution Degree .....	2
Maximum altitude .....	2,000 m
Indoor use only.	



**Note** Refer to the *NI VirtualBench VB-8012 Specifications* on [ni.com/manuals](http://ni.com/manuals) for complete specifications.

## Electromagnetic Compatibility Guidelines

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This product was tested and complies with the regulatory requirements and limits for electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) stated in the product specifications. These requirements and limits provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the product is operated in the intended operational electromagnetic environment.

This product is intended for use in industrial locations. However, harmful interference may occur in some installations, when the product is connected to a peripheral device or test object, or if the product is used in residential or commercial areas. To minimize interference with radio and television reception and prevent unacceptable performance degradation, install and use this product in strict accordance with the instructions in the product documentation.

Furthermore, any modifications to the product not expressly approved by National Instruments could void your authority to operate it under your local regulatory rules.




**Caution** To ensure the specified EMC performance, operate this product only with shielded cables and accessories.

## Connecting to the VB-8012


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### Connecting to the Mixed Signal Oscilloscope


 **Caution** Exceeding the maximum input voltage ratings, which are listed in the *NI VirtualBench VB-8012 Specifications* document, can damage the device and the computer. National Instruments is not liable for any damage resulting from such signal connections.

### Connecting to the Function Generator (FGEN)


The FGEN BNC connector is the analog waveform output terminal from which standard functions and arbitrary waveforms are generated. The maximum output levels from this connector depend on the type of load termination.


 **Caution** Exceeding the maximum output ratings, which are listed in the *NI VirtualBench VB-8012 Specifications* document, can damage the device and the computer. National Instruments is not liable for any damage resulting from such signal connections.

### Connecting to the External Trigger (TRIG)

 **Caution** Exceeding the maximum input voltage ratings or maximum output ratings, which are listed in the *NI VirtualBench VB-8012 Specifications* document, can damage the device and the computer. National Instruments is not liable for any damage resulting from such signal connections.

### Connecting to the Digital I/O

 **Caution** Exceeding the maximum input voltage ratings or maximum output ratings, which are listed in the *NI VirtualBench VB-8012 Specifications* document, can damage the device and the computer. National Instruments is not liable for any damage resulting from such signal connections.


 **Caution** Never connect the +3.3 V power terminal to analog or digital ground or to any other voltage source on VirtualBench or any other device. Doing so can damage the device and the computer. NI is not liable for damage resulting from such a connection.


Digital I/O


Screw terminal wiring .....0.1 to 2.0 mm<sup>2</sup> (30 to 14 AWG)


Torque.....0.25 N · m (2.2 lb · in.)

### Connecting to the DC Power Supply

 **Caution** Exceeding the maximum output ratings, which are listed in the *NI VirtualBench VB-8012 Specifications* document, can damage the device and the computer. National Instruments is not liable for any damage resulting from such signal connections.

 **Caution** Do not exceed 60 VDC from any terminal to ground when cascading power supplies.

 **Caution** The NI VB-8012 DC power supply does not provide isolation when using the +6 V channel.


 **Note** Always use twisted pair wire for connections to the DC power supply.

DC power supply

Screw terminal wiring .....0.1 to 2.0 mm<sup>2</sup> (30 to 14 AWG)

Torque.....0.25 N · m (2.2 lb · in.)

### Connecting to the Digital Multimeter (DMM)

 **Caution** Exceeding the maximum input voltage ratings, which are listed in the *NI VirtualBench VB-8012 Specifications* document, can damage the device and the computer. National Instruments is not liable for any damage resulting from such signal connections.

## Where to Go Next

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The following documents contain information that you may find helpful as you use this document:

- The *NI VirtualBench Quick Start*, packaged with your NI VirtualBench all-in-one instrument, describes how to install and configure NI VirtualBench and confirm it is operating properly.
- The *NI VirtualBench Help*, which can be launched from NI VirtualBench software by clicking the ? icon, contains complete information about using your VirtualBench hardware and application.
- The *NI VirtualBench VB-8012 Specifications*, found on [ni.com/manuals](http://ni.com/manuals), lists the specifications for your VirtualBench.

## Worldwide Support and Services

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National Instruments corporate headquarters is located at 11500 North Mopac Expressway, Austin, Texas, 78759-3504. National Instruments also has offices located around the world. For telephone support in the United States, create your service request at [ni.com/support](http://ni.com/support) or dial 1 866 ASK MYNI (275 6964). For telephone support outside the United States, visit the Worldwide Offices section of [ni.com/niglobal](http://ni.com/niglobal) to access the branch office websites, which provide up-to-date contact information, support phone numbers, email addresses, and current events.

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