24 V DC DIN-Rail Power Supplies — Sizing, Boost Reserves, Redundancy and DC-UPS

cBallast Technical Sourcing · Control power supplies · issued 2026-10-06 · cballast.com/documents/din-rail-24vdc-power-supply-sizing

Sizing a switch-mode 24 V DC supply with real headroom, why boost or power-reserve ratings matter for valve and motor loads, single-phase versus three-phase input, enclosure-temperature derating, paralleling and redundancy modules, and when a DC-UPS belongs in front of the PLC — with stocked Phaseo, SITOP, QUINT and Mean Well examples.

Sizing: current, then margin, then inrush

Add up the 24 V loads (PLC, I/O, relays, valves, HMIs, sensor rails), then buy 20–30 % above that sum — supplies running at their ceiling run hot and die young, and every panel grows. The ampere classes stack cleanly: a 3 A / 72 W Phaseo feeds a small relay panel, the 10 A / 240 W class (same class as the stocked Mean Well NDR-240-24) is the typical machine-panel heart, and 20 A three-phase-input units carry distributed I/O systems. Then check the dynamic reserve: industrial ranges deliver a boost — often 1.2–1.5 × rated for short periods — that rides through solenoid-valve pull-in and motor-brake surges a bare consumer supply would fold under. Siemens' SITOP range (about 130 stocked line items) made this reserve its signature.

The checks after the ampere number

Input side: wide-range single-phase (100–240 V AC) suits most panels; three-phase input units balance the load and keep output through one lost phase.

Temperature derating: ratings hold to around 50–60 °C ambient and taper above — the inside of a sealed enclosure in an engine room is the rating that counts, not the workshop air.

Paralleling and redundancy: only units designed for it share load; true N+1 uses a redundancy (decoupling) module so one failed supply cannot drag the bus down.

Buffering: a DC-UPS such as the stocked Phoenix QUINT-UPS 24 DC/5 A or QUINT4 40 A class holds the 24 V bus through dips and controlled shutdowns — cheaper than one lost batch per voltage sag, and nearly 60 QUINT items are quotable.

Distribution: fuse or electronically protect per branch at the supply's rail — a shorted sensor cable should drop one circuit, not the PLC. Branch wiring lands cleanly with the terminal-block system and twin ferrules.

Some 330 control-power line items are stocked across Phaseo, SITOP, QUINT, Mean Well and others. Send the load list — or just the failed unit's full type code — and a sized, in-stock equivalent with any redundancy or buffer modules comes back quoted within 24 hours.

Frequently asked questions
How many amps of 24 V DC supply does my panel need?Sum every consumer's nameplate current at 24 V, add the planned spare I/O, then size the supply 20–30 % above the total — a panel drawing 7 A belongs on a 10 A unit, not an 7.5 A one.Can I connect two 24 V power supplies in parallel?Only models specified for parallel operation, set to matched output voltages — otherwise one unit hogs the load. For availability rather than capacity, use two supplies behind a redundancy module instead.Why does the PLC reboot when a big valve fires?The surge pulls the 24 V bus below the PLC's undervoltage threshold — a supply with dynamic boost reserve, a larger ampere class, or a DC-UPS buffer in front of the control circuit each solve it.Do 24 V supplies lose capacity in hot enclosures?Yes — full rating typically holds to 50–60 °C ambient and derates above, and enclosure air runs well over room temperature. Size against the datasheet's derating curve at the real internal temperature.What is the difference between a DC-UPS and a redundant supply?Redundancy covers a failed supply; a DC-UPS covers a failed or sagging mains, bridging with stored energy for ride-through or a clean shutdown. High-availability panels use both.

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