Siemens Low-Voltage Code Decoder — 3RT, 3RV, 3RU, 3VA, 5SL and 3SU Explained

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What the leading groups in Siemens low-voltage order numbers mean — 3RT2 contactors, 3RV motor-protection breakers, 3RU/3RB overload relays, 3VA moulded-case breakers with their 3VA9 accessories, 5SL miniature breakers and 3SU1 pushbuttons — with worked examples from the catalogue and the checks that prevent a wrong panel part.

The family prefixes

Siemens LV order numbers (MLFB codes) start with a family group that instantly places the device:

Prefix | Family | Catalogue example |

3RT2 | SIRIUS power contactors | 3RT2 contactor, 3-pole |

3RH2 | Auxiliary (control) contactors | quoted with the matching 3RT2 |

3RU / 3RB | Thermal / electronic overload relays | sized to the contactor frame |

3RV | Motor-protection circuit breakers | combination starters with 3RT2 |

3VA | SENTRON moulded-case breakers | 3VA9263-0JA12 box terminal (3VA9 = accessories) |

5SL | Miniature circuit breakers | 5SL6363-7 (C63, 3-pole) |

5SV | Residual-current devices | paired with 5SL in distribution boards |

3SU1 | Pushbuttons and pilot devices (Ø22) | 3SU1 label holder |

Worked examples

5SL6363-7 reads as: 5SL = MCB; 6 = the 6 kA breaking-capacity series; the next digits carry pole count and rating — this one is a C-curve 63 A three-pole, exactly as the catalogue row states. Siemens' 5SL4 and 5SL7 siblings shift the breaking capacity (10 kA class and higher) while keeping the logic.

3VA9263-0JA12: 3VA9 marks a SENTRON accessory; the digits that follow bind it to a frame — here a box terminal for the 3VA2 250 A frame, 25–185 mm² (a number so often mistyped as "3VA9463" that the catalogue page lists the misprint). Breaker-side, 3VA1/3VA2 encode frame and breaking class before the trip-unit digits.

3RT2 contactors scale through frame sizes S00–S3 and beyond: the two digits after 3RT2 fix frame and AC-3 rating, the following group the contact complement, and the final letters the coil voltage — always read the coil code from the old unit, not assumed from the panel voltage.

Checks before ordering a replacement

Full MLFB from the device face — dash suffixes change coils, terminals and auxiliaries.

Coil voltage group on contactors; AC and DC coils are different part numbers.

Accessory compatibility by frame: a 3VA9 accessory fits only its stated 3VA frame; the same is true of 3RU overloads on 3RT2 frames.

Breaking capacity class on 5SL/3VA must meet the board's prospective fault current — see the selectivity guide.

Browse the stock base at Siemens electrical components (about 7,000 line items) — quotations within 24 hours, dispatch from European supplier stock.

Frequently asked questions
What does 5SL63 mean on a Siemens MCB?5SL = miniature circuit breaker, 6 = the 6 kA series; the following digits give poles and rating — 5SL6363-7 is the C-curve 63 A three-pole in that series.What is the difference between 3RT and 3RH?3RT2 are power contactors for motor and load switching; 3RH2 are auxiliary contactors for control logic — same SIRIUS platform, different duty.Which overload relay fits a 3RT2 contactor?A 3RU (thermal) or 3RB (electronic) sized to the same SIRIUS frame — frame match first, then the current setting range around the motor's rated current.What does 3VA9 mean?Accessory for the SENTRON 3VA breaker family — terminals, locks, auxiliaries — each bound to a specific frame size stated in its description.Can I order from a partial Siemens number?Send what the nameplate shows: the family group usually survives even on worn labels, and the quotation confirms the full MLFB against frame, coil and accessory data.

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