
PXle-4138

Specifications

2025-09-24



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These specifications apply to the PXIe-4138.

Definitions

Warranted specifications describe the performance of a model under stated operating conditions and are covered by the model warranty.

Characteristics describe values that are relevant to the use of the model under stated operating conditions but are not covered by the model warranty.

- **Typical** specifications describe the performance met by a majority of models.
- **Nominal** specifications describe an attribute that is based on design, conformance testing, or supplemental testing.

Specifications are **Warranted** unless otherwise noted.

Conditions

Specifications are valid under the following conditions unless otherwise noted.

- Ambient temperature¹ of $23\text{ °C} \pm 5\text{ °C}$
- Calibration interval of 1 year
- 30 minutes warm-up time
- Self-calibration performed within the last 24 hours
- NI-DCPower Aperture Time property is set to 2 power-line cycles (PLC)
- Fans set to the highest setting if the PXI Express chassis has multiple fan speed settings

1. The ambient temperature of a PXI system is defined as the temperature at the chassis fan inlet (air intake).

Cleaning Statement



Notice 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.

PXIe-4138 Pinout

The following figure shows the terminals on the PXIe-4138 connector.

Figure 1. PXIe-4138 Connector Pinout

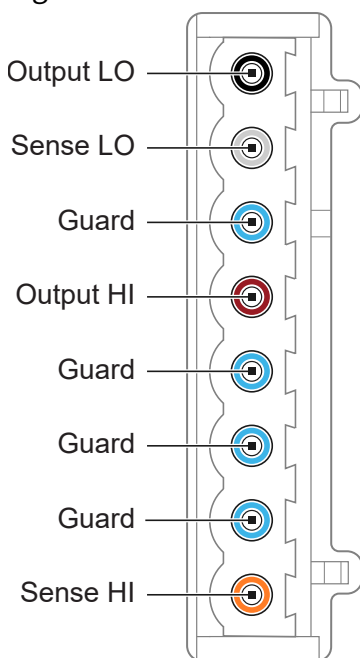


Table 1. Signal Descriptions

Signal Name	Description
Output LO	LO force terminal connected to channel power stage (generates and/or dissipates power). Positive polarity is defined as voltage measured on HI > LO.
Sense LO	Voltage remote sense input terminals. Used to compensate for $I \cdot R$ voltage drops in cable leads, connectors, and switches.
Guard	Buffered output that follows the voltage of the

Signal Name	Description
	HI force terminal. Used to drive shield conductors surrounding HI force and Sense HI conductors to minimize effects of leakage and capacitance on low level currents.
Output HI	HI force terminal connected to channel power stage (generates and/or dissipates power). Positive polarity is defined as voltage measured on HI > LO.
Sense HI	Voltage remote sense input terminals. Used to compensate for $I \cdot R$ voltage drops in cable leads, connectors, and switches.

Device Capabilities

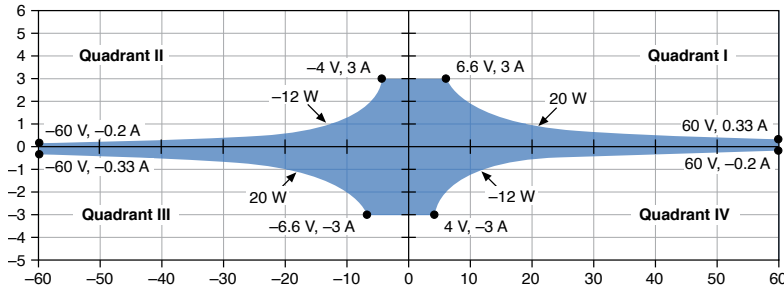
The following table and figure illustrate the voltage and the current source and sink ranges of the PXIe-4138.

Table 2. Current Source and Sink Ranges

DC voltage ranges	DC current source and sink ranges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600 mV • 6 V • 60 V² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 μA • 10 μA • 100 μA • 1 mA • 10 mA • 100 mA • 1 A • 3 A

- The PXIe-4138 does not support configurations involving voltage $> |42.4 \text{ V}|$ when Sequence Step Delta Time Enabled is set to TRUE.

Figure 2. Quadrant Diagram



DC sourcing power is limited to 20 W, regardless of output voltage.³



Caution Limit DC power sinking to 12 W. Additional derating applies to sinking power when operating at an ambient temperature of $>45\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. If the PXI Express chassis has multiple fan speed settings, set the fans to the highest setting.

Related reference:

- [Sinking Power vs. Ambient Temperature Derating](#)

Voltage

Table 3. Voltage Programming and Measurement Accuracy/Resolution

Range	Resolution (noise limited)	Noise (0.1 Hz to 10 Hz, peak to peak), Typical	Accuracy ($23\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) \pm (% of voltage + offset) ⁴	Tempco \pm (% of voltage + offset)/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$, $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $55\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
			$T_{\text{cal}} \pm 5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ⁵	
600 mV	1 μV	4 μV	0.02% + 100 μV	0.0005% + 1 μV
6 V	10 μV	12 μV	0.02% + 600 μV	
60 V	100 μV	120 μV	0.02% + 6 mV	

Related reference:

3. Power limit defined by voltage measured between HI and LO terminals.
4. Accuracy is specified for no load output configurations. Refer to **Load Regulation** and **Remote Sense** sections for additional accuracy derating and conditions.
5. T_{cal} is the internal device temperature recorded by the PXIe-4138 at the completion of the last self-calibration.

- [Load Regulation](#)
- [Remote Sense](#)

Current

Table 4. Current Programming and Measurement Accuracy/Resolution

Range	Resolution (noise limited)	Noise (0.1 Hz to 10 Hz, peak to peak), Typical	Accuracy (23 °C ± 5 °C) ± (% of current + offset)	Tempco ± (% of current + offset)/°C, 0 °C to 55 °C
			$T_{cal} \pm 5 \text{ °C}^6$	
1 μ A	1 pA	8 pA	0.03% + 200 pA	0.0006% + 4 pA
10 μ A	10 pA	60 pA	0.03% + 1.4 nA	0.0006% + 22 pA
100 μ A	100 pA	400 pA	0.03% + 12 nA	0.0006% + 200 pA
1 mA	1 nA	4 nA	0.03% + 120 nA	0.0006% + 2 nA
10 mA	10 nA	40 nA	0.03% + 1.2 μ A	0.0006% + 20 nA
100 mA	100 nA	400 nA	0.03% + 12 μ A	0.0006% + 200 nA
1 A	1 μ A	4 μ A	0.03% + 120 μ A	0.0006% + 2 μ A
3 A	10 μ A	40 μ A	0.083% + 1.8 mA	0.002% + 20 μ A

Noise

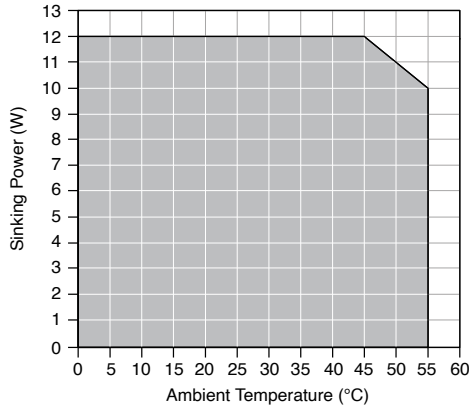
Wideband source noise	<20 mV peak-to-peak in 60 V range, device configured for normal transient response, 10 Hz to 20 MHz, typical
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Sinking Power vs. Ambient Temperature Derating

The following figure illustrates sinking power derating as a function of ambient temperature.

6. T_{cal} is the internal device temperature recorded by the PXIe-4138 at the completion of the last self-calibration.

Figure 3. Sinking Power vs. Ambient Temperature Derating

**Related reference:**

- [Device Capabilities](#)

Transient Response and Settling Time

Transient response	<70 μ s to recover within 0.1% of voltage range after a load current change from 10% to 90% of range, device configured for fast transient response, typical	
Settling time⁷		
Voltage mode, 50 V step, unloaded ⁸		<200 μ s, typical
Voltage mode, 5 V step or smaller, unloaded ⁹		<70 μ s, typical
Current mode, full-scale step, 3 A to 100 μ A ranges ^{[10]10}		<50 μ s, typical
Current mode, full-scale step, 10 μ A range ^[10]		<150 μ s, typical
Current mode, full-scale step, 1 μ A range ^[10]		<300 μ s, typical

7. Measured as the time to settle to within 0.1% of step amplitude, device configured for fast transient response.

The following figures illustrate the effect of the transient response setting on the step response of the PXIe-4138 for different loads.

Figure 4. 1 mA Range, No Load Step Response, Nominal

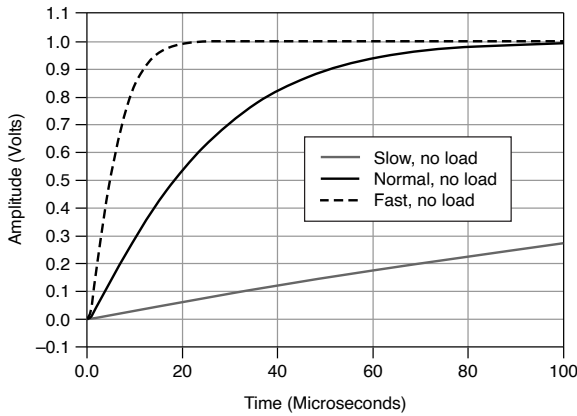
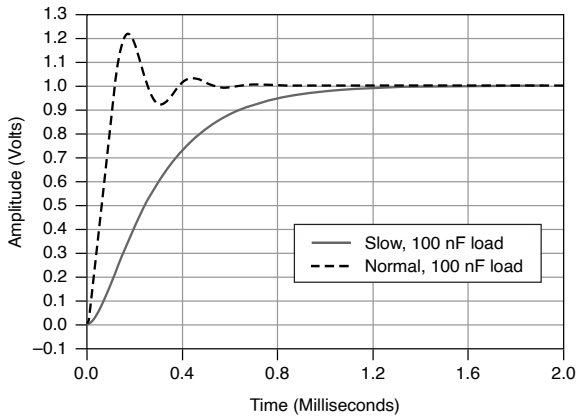


Figure 5. 1 mA Range, 100 nF Load Step Response, Nominal



Load Regulation

Voltage	
Device configured for local sense	100 μ V per mA of output load change (measured between output channel terminals), typical
Device configured for remote sense	Load regulation effect included in voltage accuracy specifications

8. Current limit set to $\geq 50 \mu$ A and $\geq 50\%$ of the selected current limit range.
9. Current limit set to $\geq 20 \mu$ A and $\geq 20\%$ of selected current limit range.
10. Voltage limit set to ≥ 2 V, resistive load set to 1 V/selected current range.

Current, device configured for local or remote sense	Load regulation effect included in current accuracy specifications
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Related reference:

- [Voltage](#)
- [Current](#)

Expected Relay Life

Output Connected	≥100 k cycles
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Note To avoid excessive relay wear, do not set Output Connected to **TRUE** when a non-zero voltage is connected to the output.

Measurement and Update Timing Characteristics

Available sample rates ¹¹	(1.8 MS/s)/N where N = 1, 2, 3, ... 2 ²⁴ , nominal
Sample rate accuracy	Equal to PXIe_CLK100 accuracy, nominal
Maximum measure rate to host	1.8 MS/s per channel, continuous, nominal
Maximum source update rate¹²	
Sequence mode	100,000 updates/s (10 μs/update), nominal

- When sourcing while measuring, both the Source Delay and Aperture Time affect the sampling rate. When taking a measure record, only the Aperture Time affects the sampling rate.
- As the source delay is adjusted or if advanced sequencing is used, maximum source rates vary. Timed output mode is enabled in Sequence Mode by setting Sequence Step Delta Time Enabled to True.

Timed output mode	80,000 updates/s (12.5 μ s/update), nominal	
Input trigger to		
Source event delay	10 μ s, nominal	
Source event jitter	1 μ s, nominal	
Measure event jitter	1 μ s, nominal	
Shutdown ¹³	100 μ s, typical	
Pulse timing and accuracy¹⁴		
Minimum pulse on time ¹⁵	50 μ s, nominal	
Minimum pulse off time ¹⁶	50 μ s, nominal	
Pulse on time or off time programming resolution	100 ns, nominal	
Pulse on time or off time programming accuracy	\pm 5 μ s, nominal	
Pulse on time or off time jitter	1 μ s, nominal	

13. Time from PXI Trigger sent until SMU output goes to high impedance.

14. Shorter minimum on times for in-range pulses can be achieved using Sequence mode or Timed Output mode with Output Function set to Voltage or Current.

15. **Pulse on time** is measured from the start of the leading edge to the start of the trailing edge.

16. **Pulse off time** is measured from the start of the trailing edge to the start of a subsequent leading edge.

Remote Sense

Voltage accuracy	Add (3 ppm of voltage range + 11 μV) per volt of HI lead drop plus 1 μV per volt of lead drop per Ω of corresponding sense lead resistance to voltage accuracy specifications.
Maximum sense lead resistance	100 Ω
Maximum lead drop per lead	3 V



Note Exceeding the maximum lead drop per lead value may result in additional error.

Related reference:

- [Voltage](#)

Examples of Calculating Accuracy



Note Specifications listed in examples are for demonstration purposes only and do not necessarily reflect specifications for this device.

Example 1: Calculating 5 °C Accuracy

Calculate the accuracy of 900 nA output in the 1 μA range under the following conditions:

ambient temperature	28 °C
internal device temperature	within $T_{\text{cal}} \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}^{17}$

self-calibration	within the last 24 hours.
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Solution

Since the device internal temperature is within $T_{cal} \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ and the ambient temperature is within $23^\circ\text{C} \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$, the appropriate accuracy specification is:

$$0.03\% + 200 \text{ pA}$$

Calculate the accuracy using the following formula:

$$\text{Accuracy} = 900 \text{ nA} * 0.03 \% + 200\text{pA}$$

$$= 270\text{pA} + 200\text{pA}$$

$$= 470\text{pA}$$

Therefore, the actual output will be within 470 pA of 900 nA.

Example 2: Calculating Remote Sense Accuracy

Calculate the remote sense accuracy of 500 mV output in the 600 mV range. Assume the same conditions as in Example 1, with the following differences:

HI path lead drop	3 V
HI sense lead resistance	2 Ω
LO path lead drop	2.5 V
LO sense lead resistance	1.5 Ω

Solution

Since the device internal temperature is within $T_{cal} \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ and the ambient temperature is within $23^\circ\text{C} \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$, the appropriate accuracy specification is:

17. T_{cal} is the internal device temperature recorded by the PXIe-4138 at the completion of the last self-calibration.

$$0.02\% + 100 \mu\text{V}$$

Since the device is using remote sense, use the remote sense accuracy specification:

Add (3 ppm of voltage range + 11 μV) per volt of HI lead drop plus 1 μV per volt of lead drop per Ω of corresponding sense lead resistance to voltage accuracy specifications.

Calculate the remote sense accuracy using the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Accuracy} &= \left(500 \text{ mV} * 0.02 \% + 100\mu\text{V}\right) + \frac{600 \text{ mV} * 3\text{ppm} + 11\mu\text{V}}{1\text{Vof lead drop}} * 3\text{V} + \frac{1\mu\text{V}}{\text{V} * \Omega} * 3\text{V} * 2 \Omega + \frac{1\mu\text{V}}{\text{V} * \Omega} * 2.5\text{V} * 1.5\Omega \\ &= 100\mu\text{V} + 100\mu\text{V} + 12.8\mu\text{V} * 3 + 6\mu\text{V} + 3.8\mu\text{V} \\ &= 248.2\mu\text{V} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the actual output will be within 248.2 μV of 500 mV.

Example 3: Calculating Accuracy with Temperature Coefficient

Calculate the accuracy of 900 nA output in the 1 μA range. Assume the same conditions as in Example 1, with the following differences:

ambient temperature	15 °C
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Solution

Since the device internal temperature is within $T_{\text{cal}} \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, the appropriate accuracy specification is:

$$0.03\% + 200 \text{ pA}$$

Since the ambient temperature falls outside of $23 \text{ }^\circ\text{C} \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, use the following temperature coefficient per degree Celsius outside the $23 \text{ }^\circ\text{C} \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ range:

$$0.0006\% + 4 \text{ pA}$$

Calculate the accuracy using the following formula:

$$\text{TemperatureVariation} = (23^{\circ} \text{C} - 5^{\circ} \text{C}) - 15^{\circ} \text{C} = 3^{\circ} \text{C}$$

$$\text{Accuracy} = (900 \text{ nA} * 0.03 \% + 200 \text{ pA}) + \frac{900 \text{ nA} * 0.0006 \% + 4 \text{ pA}}{1^{\circ} \text{C}} * 3^{\circ} \text{C}$$

$$= 470 \text{ pA} + 28.2 \text{ pA}$$

$$= 498.2 \text{ pA}$$

Therefore, the actual output will be within 498.2 pA of 900 nA.

Trigger Characteristics

Input Triggers

Types	Start, Source, Sequence Advance, Measure, Pulse, Shutdown	
Sources (PXI trigger lines <0...7>) ¹⁸		
Polarity	Configurable	
Minimum pulse width	100 ns, nominal	
Destinations ¹⁹ (PXI trigger lines <0...7>) ^[18]		
Polarity	Active high (not configurable)	
Pulse width	>200 ns, typical	

18. Pulse widths and logic levels are compliant with ***PXI Express Hardware Specification Revision 1.0 ECN 1***.

19. Input triggers can be re-exported.

Output Triggers (Events)

Types	Source Complete, Sequence Iteration Complete, Sequence Engine Done, Measure Complete, Pulse Complete, Ready for Pulse
Destinations (PXI trigger lines <0...7>) ^[18]	
Polarity	Configurable
Pulse width	Configurable between 250 ns and 1.6 μ s, nominal

Protection

Output channel protection	
Overcurrent or overvoltage	Automatic shutdown, output disconnect relay opens
Overtemperature	Automatic shutdown, output disconnect relay opens

Safety Voltage and Current



Notice The protection provided by the PXIe-4138 can be impaired if it is used in a manner not described in the user documentation.



Warning Take precautions to avoid electrical shock when operating this product at hazardous voltages.



Caution Isolation voltage ratings apply to the voltage measured between any channel pin and the chassis ground. When operating channels in series or floating on top of external voltage references, ensure that no terminal

exceeds this rating.



Attention Les tensions nominales d'isolation s'appliquent à la tension mesurée entre n'importe quelle broche de voie et la masse du châssis. Lors de l'utilisation de voies en série ou flottantes en plus des références de tension externes, assurez-vous qu'aucun terminal ne dépasse cette valeur nominale.

DC voltage	±60 V
Channel-to-earth ground isolation	
Continuous	150 VDC, CAT I
Withstand	1,000 V RMS, verified by a 5 s withstand



Caution Do not connect the PXle-4138 to signals or use for measurements within Measurement Categories II, III, or IV.



Attention Ne connectez pas le PXle-4138 à des signaux et ne l'utilisez pas pour effectuer des mesures dans les catégories de mesure II, III ou IV.

Measurement Category I is for measurements performed on circuits not directly connected to the electrical distribution system referred to as **MAINS** voltage. MAINS is a hazardous live electrical supply system that powers equipment. This category is for measurements of voltages from specially protected secondary circuits. Such voltage measurements include signal levels, special equipment, limited-energy parts of equipment, circuits powered by regulated low-voltage sources, and electronics.



Note Measurement Categories CAT I and CAT O are equivalent. These test and measurement circuits are for other circuits not intended for direct

connection to the MAINS building installations of Measurement Categories CAT II, CAT III, or CAT IV.

DC current range	± 3 A
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Guard Output Characteristics

Cable guard	
Output impedance	2 k Ω , nominal
Offset voltage	1 mV, typical

Calibration Interval

Recommended calibration interval	1 year
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Power Requirement

PXI Express power requirement	2.5 A from the 3.3 V rail and 2.2 A from the 12 V rail
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Physical

Dimensions	3U, one-slot, PXI Express/CompactPCI Express module 2.0 cm \times 13.0 cm \times 21.6 cm (0.8 in. \times 5.1 in. \times 8.5 in.)
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Weight	419 g (14.8 oz)
Front panel connectors	5.08 mm (8 position)

Environmental Guidelines



Notice This product is intended for use in indoor applications only.



Notice Cover all empty slots using filler panels.

Environmental Characteristics

Table 5. Temperature

Operating	0 °C to 55 °C
Storage	-40 °C to 71 °C

Table 6. Humidity

Operating	10% to 90%, noncondensing
Storage	5% to 95%, noncondensing

Table 7. Pollution Degree

Pollution degree	2
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Table 8. Maximum Altitude

Maximum altitude	2,000 m (800 mbar) (at 25 °C ambient temperature)
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Table 9. Shock and Vibration

Operating vibration	5 Hz to 500 Hz, 0.3 g RMS
Non-operating vibration	5 Hz to 500 Hz, 2.4 g RMS

Operating shock	30 g, half-sine, 11 ms pulse
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Safety Compliance Standards

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

- IEC 61010-1, EN 61010-1
- UL 61010-1, CSA C22.2 No. 61010-1



Note For safety certifications, refer to the product label or the [Product Certifications and Declarations](#) section.

Electromagnetic Compatibility

This product meets the requirements of the following EMC standards for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use:

- EN 61326-1 (IEC 61326-1): Class A emissions; Basic immunity
- EN 55011 (CISPR 11): Group 1, Class A emissions
- AS/NZS CISPR 11: Group 1, Class A emissions



Note Group 1 equipment is any industrial, scientific, or medical equipment that does not intentionally generate radio frequency energy for the treatment of material or inspection/analysis purposes.



Notice For EMC declarations and certifications, and additional information, refer to the [Product Certifications and Declarations](#) section.



Note If your device is hardware revision F or earlier, a snap-on ferrite bead is required to remain in EMC compliance. Refer to the **PXle-4138 Getting Started Guide** included in your original shipping kit for information about this bead.


To determine which revision of a device you have, open Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX) and select the device in question. The hardware revision is displayed in the settings pane on the right-hand side.

Environmental Management


NI is committed to designing and manufacturing products in an environmentally responsible manner. NI recognizes that eliminating certain hazardous substances from our products is beneficial to the environment and to NI customers.

For additional environmental information, refer to the ***Engineering a Healthy Planet*** web page at ni.com/environment. This page contains the environmental regulations and directives with which NI complies, as well as other environmental information not included in this document.

EU and UK Customers

-  **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)**—At the end of the product life cycle, all NI products must be disposed of according to local laws and regulations. For more information about how to recycle NI products in your region, visit ni.com/environment/weee.

电子信息产品污染控制管理办法（中国RoHS）

-  **中国RoHS**—NI符合中国电子信息产品中限制使用某些有害物质指令 (RoHS)。关于NI中国RoHS合规性信息，请登录 ni.com/environment/rohs_china。(For information about China RoHS compliance, go to ni.com/environment/rohs_china.)

Product Certifications and Declarations

Refer to the product Declaration of Conformity (DoC) for additional regulatory compliance information. To obtain product certifications and the DoC for NI products, visit ni.com/product-certifications, search by model number, and click the appropriate link.

NI Services

Visit ni.com/support to find support resources including documentation, downloads, and troubleshooting and application development self-help such as tutorials and examples.

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