

EU deadline for switch to USB-C

The European Union's deadline for device manufacturers to switch to USB-C for their data and charging ports means that Apple will have to abandon its iPhone Lightning connector

■ **USB-C:** Introduced in 2014. USB Type-C is universal standard for wired connection, allowing charging and data transfer of smart devices on single cable

■ **Dec 27, 2024:** Deadline for device manufacturers to switch to USB-C

Data transfer speed

Up to 20Gbps

USB-C connector:
24 pins. 16 for data transfer, four for power, four ground pins

Symmetrical design: Can be inserted into port face up or face down

■ **Thunderbolt 4:**
Launched in 2020. Apple's **iPhone 15 Pro** will likely support Thunderbolt 4

Connector: Uses same interface as USB-C – cables are interchangeable

Data transfer speed

Up to 40Gbps

■ **Lightning:**
Launched in 2012. Lightning performs same function as USB-C, but can only be used with iPhones and older iPads

Connector: Eight pins each side. Six for data transfer, one for power, and one ground pin

Data transfer speed

Up to 480Mbps