

# Protecting the TPS25810 from High Voltage DFPs

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## ABSTRACT

The TPS25810 is a USB Type-C Downstream Facing Port (DFP) controller that monitors the Type-C Configuration Channel (CC) lines to determine when a USB device is attached. If an Upstream Facing Port (UFP) device is attached, the TPS25810 applies power to VBUS. One concern in USB Type-C applications is that a non-compliant DFP device that disregards the USB Type-C specification can be connected to the port controlled by the TPS25810. Such a device may apply a voltage above the absolute maximum rating of the TPS25810 which could damage the part. This application note presents three design solutions which can be used to protect USB Type-C DFP systems against such scenarios.

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## 1 Introduction and Related Material

The focus of this application note is to present design solutions for the TPS25810 to protect against the case of a non-compliant USB Type-C DFP adapter which ignores the USB Type-C power negotiation specification and puts a high voltage on the VBUS line by default. USB Type-C is capable of power delivery, so voltage levels from 5 V to 20 V are expected; however, there is a strict power negotiation protocol in order to achieve the delivery of these different voltage levels. Some non-compliant USB Type-C DFP adapters may ignore this negotiation and apply a high voltage on VBUS which is dangerous for a USB Type-C DFP system. The pins of the TPS25810, such as the OUT pin which connects to VBUS, are rated up to 7V, so being exposed to a high voltage would damage the TPS25810. There are simple, efficient solutions that can solve this problem, and the performance of three of these possible solutions is explored in this application note.

The first two solutions have similar architectures and use the  $\overline{\text{UFP}}$  pin of the TPS25810 to turn on and off an external blocking MOSFET. This FET must be rated at 30 V (VDS/VSD ABS MAX) in order to handle the high voltage of non-compliant devices. The external blocking MOSFET remains off by default and blocks any high voltage on VBUS in the event of a non-compliant DFP device. The MOSFET will only turn on, connecting the OUT pin of the TPS25810 to the VBUS pin of the Type-C connector, if the device is Type-C UFP compliant.

Note that the solutions presented in [Section 2](#) and [Section 3](#) using an external blocking FET are only viable if  $\overline{\text{UFP}}$  remains high when a DFP is plugged in. The third solution presented is a single chip solution using the TPD1S414, a USB OVP switch, and does not rely on the  $\overline{\text{UFP}}$  pin of the TPS25810. This is the simplest solution to implement and provides the most robust protection; however, the higher  $R_{\text{DS(ON)}}$  and BOM cost may be a concern.

Throughout this application note, “compliant” and “non-compliant” are used to describe USB Type-C devices. A compliant UFP device is one that uses the CC line properly as defined in the Type-C and USB PD specification. A non-compliant DFP device is one that applies >5 V without going through the proper power negotiation as defined in the Type-C and USB PD specification.

The TPS2810 datasheet ([SLVSCR1](#)), the TPD1S414 datasheet ([SLLSEH9](#)), and the USB Type-C documentation (<http://www.usb.org/developers/usdtypec/>) are good resources to have a general understanding of before reading this application note

## 2 High Voltage Protection with a PFET

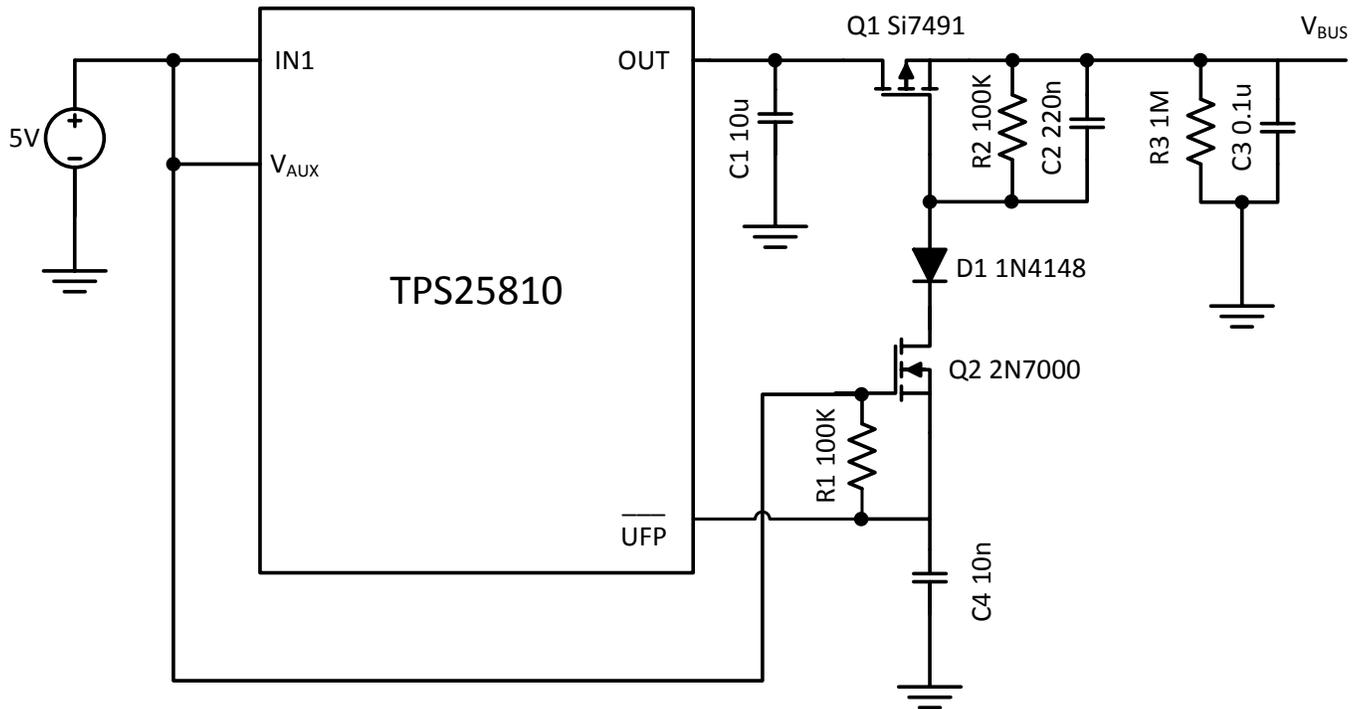


Figure 1. PFET Protection Scheme

### 2.1 Circuit Operation

The operation of the non-compliant DFP device blocking circuit presented in Figure 1 depends on turning on and off the PFET (Q1) using the  $\overline{UFP}$  signal from the TPS25810. When a compliant UFP device is plugged in, the  $\overline{UFP}$  pin on the TPS25810 pulls low which turns on the PFET. However, if a non-compliant DFP device is plugged in that offers >5 V without first going through the proper power negotiation,  $\overline{UFP}$  stays high-z. Thus, the PFET does not get turned on and the high voltage on the VBUS is not transferred to the OUT pin of the TPS25810.

Q2 serves as a cascade device and protects the  $\overline{UFP}$  pin from going above 5 V. This is important because the gate of Q1 is 20 V when 20 V is applied to VBUS, and the absolute maximum of the TPS25810 pins is 7 V.

The 1N4148 diode, D1, is used to limit leakage current through Q2 that could result in unwanted voltage on VBUS or the OUT pin.

R3 is used to discharge the voltage on the VBUS line when a device is disconnected. This must be done in order to comply with the USB Type-C specification that the voltage must discharge to 0.8 V within 650 ms.

C2 is used to prevent the parasitic turn on of the PFET during a hot plug event.

C4 is used to suppress transients on the  $\overline{UFP}$  pin of the TPS25810.

## 2.2 Testing

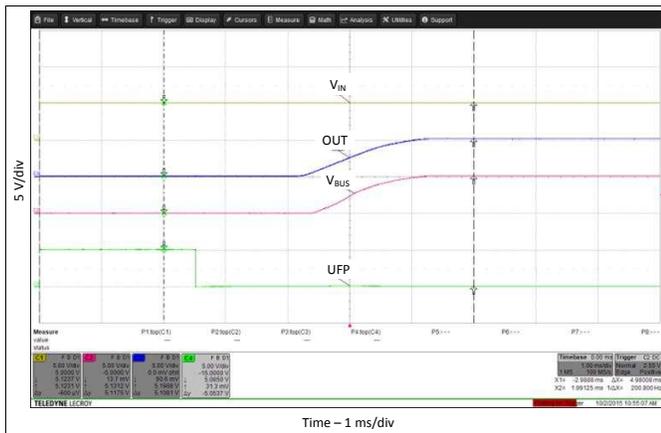


Figure 2. Plug in of a Compliant USB Type-C UFP Device with PFET Solution in Place

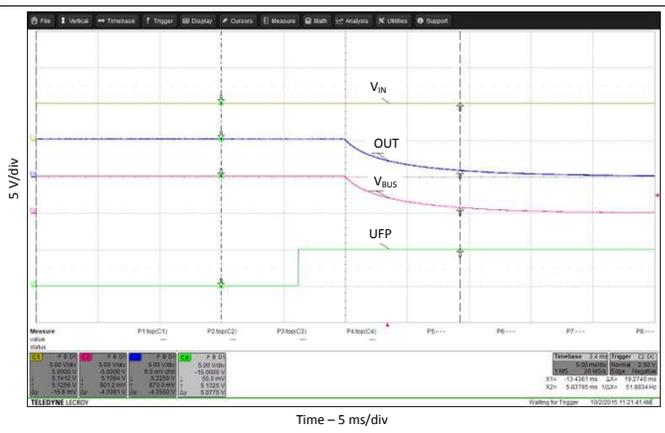


Figure 3. Unplug of a Compliant USB Type-C UFP Device with PFET Solution in Place

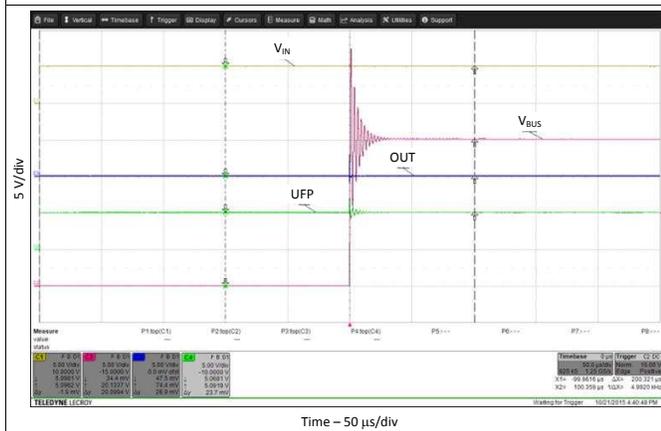


Figure 4. Hot plug of Non-compliant DFP Device with PFET Solution in Place

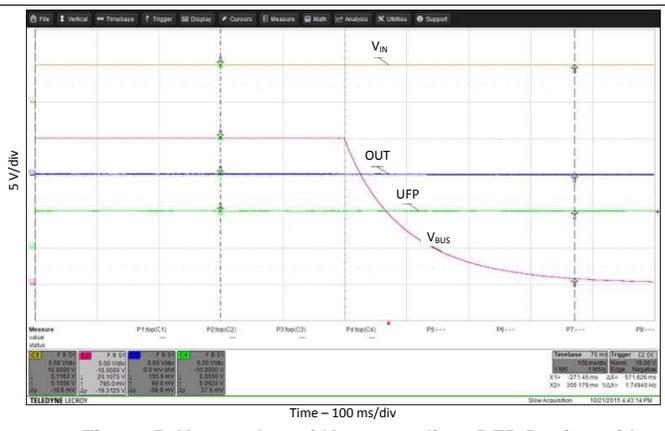


Figure 5. Hot unplug of Non-compliant DFP Device with PFET Solution in Place

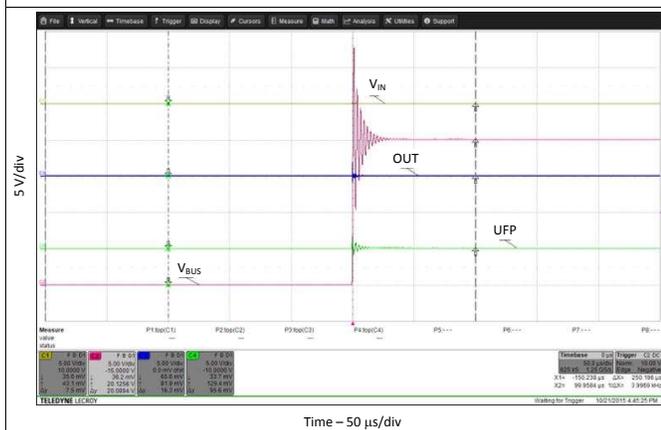


Figure 6. Hot Plug of Non-compliant DFP Device with TPS25810 Powered off and PFET Solution in Place

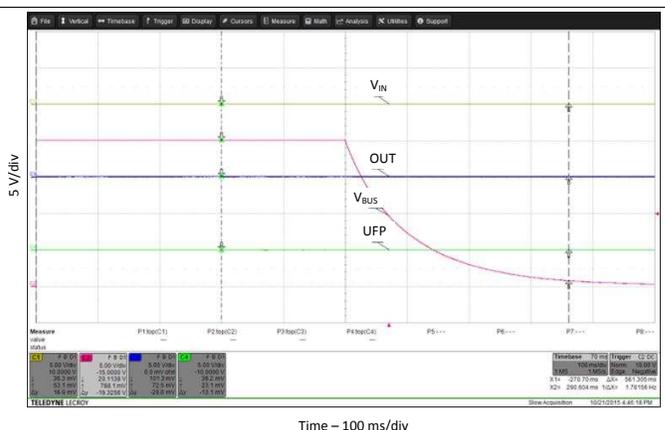


Figure 7. Hot Unplug of Non-compliant DFP Device with TPS25810 Powered off and PFET Solution in Place

### 3 High Voltage Protection with an NFET

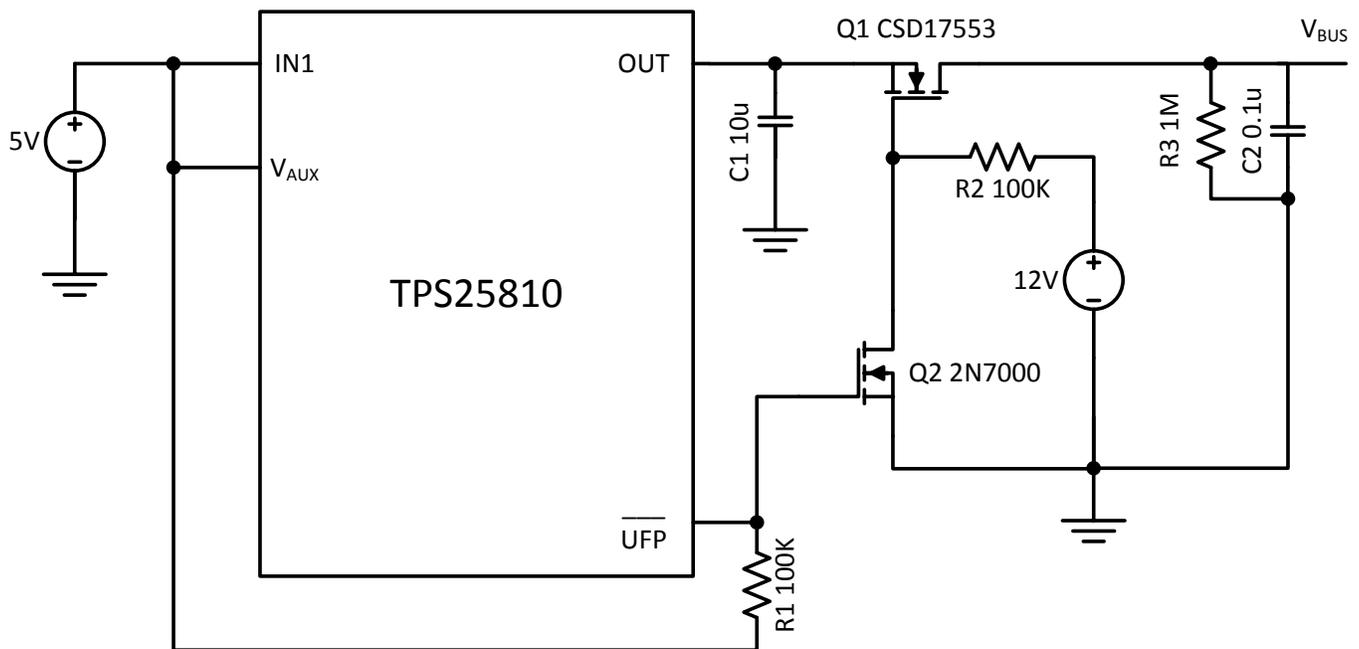


Figure 8. NFET Protection Scheme

#### 3.1 Circuit Operation

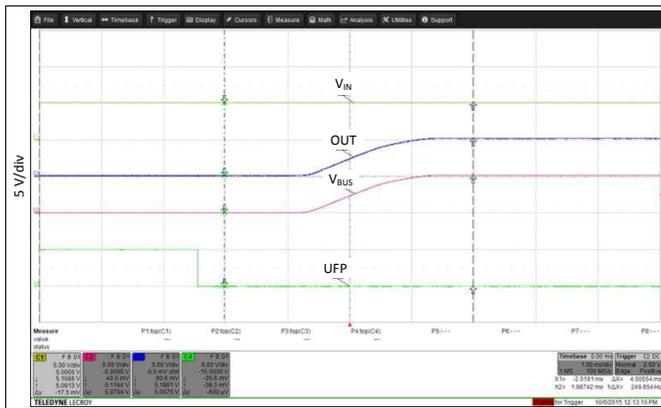
The operation of the non-compliant DFP device blocking circuit presented in Figure 8 depends on turning on and off Q1 using the  $\overline{UFP}$  signal from the TPS25810. Because an NFET is used, an external 12 V rail is required for this solution in order to provide gate drive voltage above the 5 V output. When a compliant UFP is plugged in, the  $\overline{UFP}$  pin on the TPS25810 asserts low and the 12 V rail turns on Q1. However, if a non-compliant DFP device is plugged in that offers >5 V without first going through the proper power negotiation,  $\overline{UFP}$  stays high-z. Thus, Q1 does not get turned on, and the high voltage on the VBUS is not transferred to the OUT pin of the TPS25810.

The gate of Q2 is driven by the  $\overline{UFP}$  pin from the TPS25810. When the  $\overline{UFP}$  pin is pulled high, Q2 is on and pulls the gate of Q1 low. When the  $\overline{UFP}$  pin is asserted low Q2 is off and the 12 V rail turns on Q1.

R3 is used to discharge the voltage on the VBUS line when a device is disconnected in order to comply with the USB Type-C specification that the voltage must discharge to 0.8 V within 650 ms.

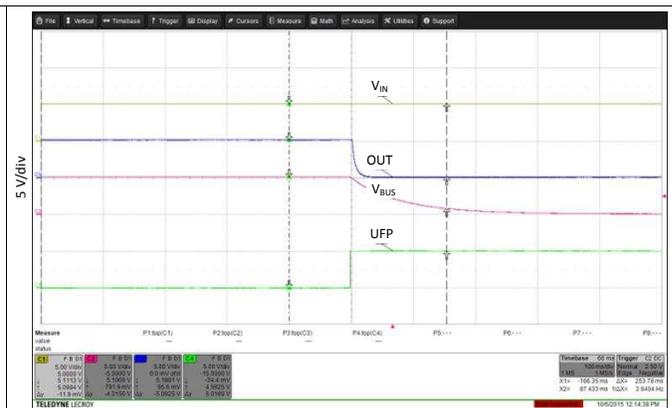
One very important consideration when implementing this circuit is that VIN must come up before the 12 V rail. If the 12 V rail comes up first, Q1 is turned on, and if a non-compliant DFP is plugged in, the TPS25810 pins are exposed to high voltage which damages the part.

### 3.2 Testing



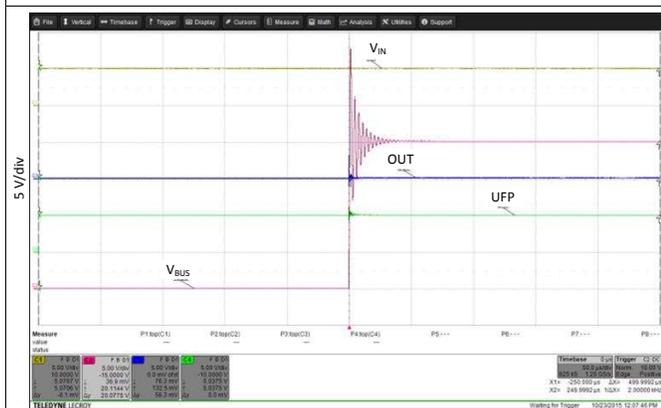
Time – 1 ms/div

Figure 9. Plug in of Compliant USB Type-C UFP Device with NFET Solution in Place



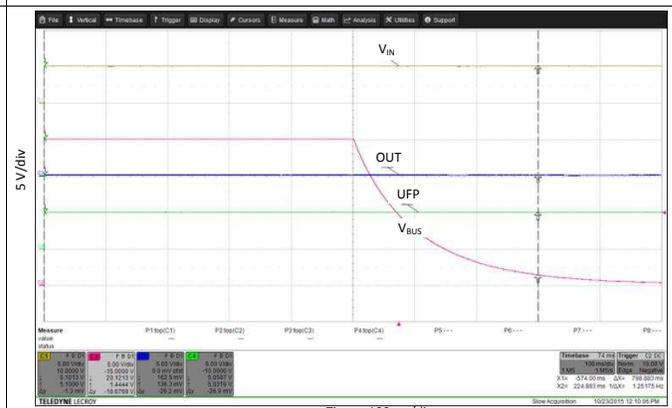
Time – 100 ms/div

Figure 10. Unplug of Compliant USB Type-C UFP Device with NFET Solution in Place



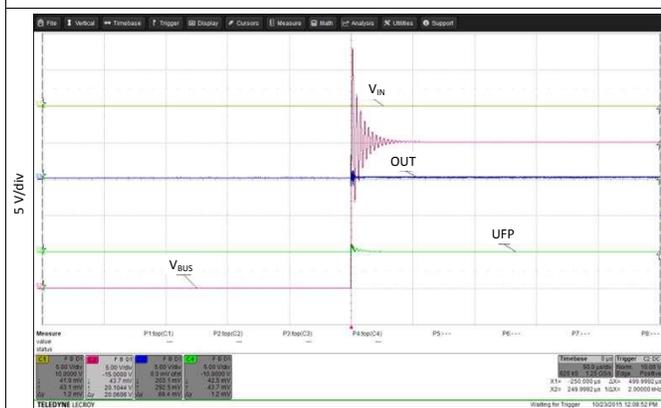
Time – 50 μs/div

Figure 11. Hot plug of a Non-compliant DFP Device with NFET Solution in Place



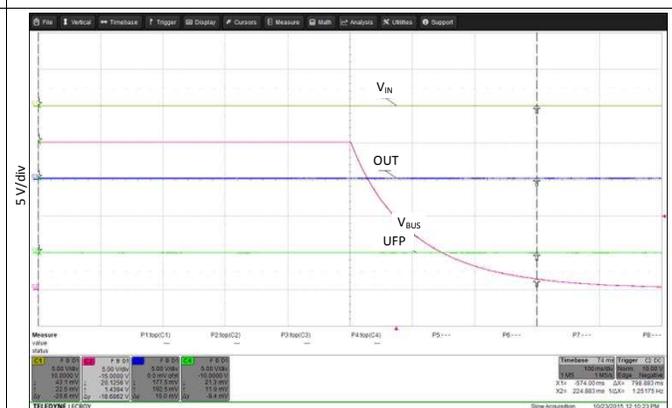
Time – 100 ms/div

Figure 12. Hot unplug of a Non-compliant DFP Device with NFET Solution in Place



Time – 50 μs/div

Figure 13. Hot plug of Non-compliant DFP Device with TPS25810 Powered off and NFET Solution in Place



Time – 100 ms/div

Figure 14. Hot Unplug of Non-compliant DFP Device with TPS25810 Powered off and NFET Solution in Place

## 4 High Voltage Protection with an OVP Switch

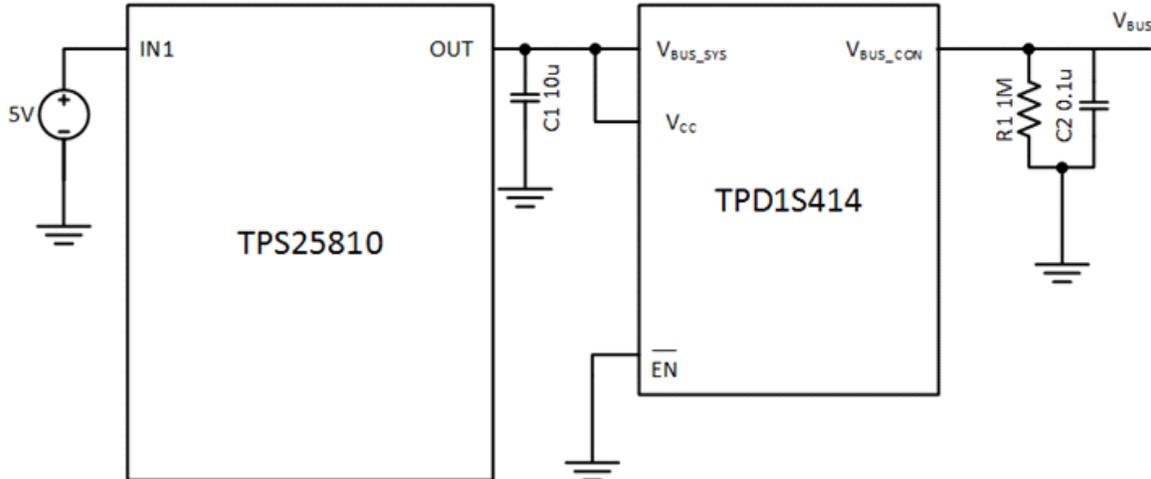


Figure 15. OVP Switch Protection Scheme

### 4.1 Circuit Operation

This solution uses the TPD1S414 USB Charger OVP Switch. The TPD1S414 is a single chip solution used to protect the VBUS line of a USB connector. The NFET switch internal to the TPD1S414 ensures safe current flow in host mode while protecting the internal system circuits from any overvoltage conditions at the VBUS\_CON pin. This device can handle overvoltage protection up to 30 V.

The device protects the pins of the TPS25810 from being exposed to a voltage higher than 6.4 V as specified in the TPD1S414 datasheet ([SLLSEH9](#)). The enable pin of the TPD1S414 is tied low so that whenever the TPD1S414 is powered via VCC it will be enabled by default.

In the system shown in [Figure 15](#), the VCC of the TPD1S414 is tied to the OUT pin of the TPS25810 meaning that whenever a compliant UFP device is detected, the OUT pin of the TPS25810, which is at a voltage below 6.4 V, powers the TPD1S414 and the switch opens allowing the system to function normally. When the TPS25810 does not detect a device, the OUT pin is at 0 V and the TPD1S414 is off which saves system power.

If a non-compliant DFP applies a high voltage to the VBUS\_CON pin of the TPD1S414, because the TPS25810 OUT pin is at 0 V and the TPD1S414 is off, the switch remains closed and the high voltage is blocked. With the TPD1S414 on, regardless of the state of the  $\overline{\text{UFP}}$  pin on the TPS25810, if a high voltage is applied at VBUS the TPD1S414 detects the high voltage and the switch is turned off protecting the USB Type-C system.

## 4.2 Testing

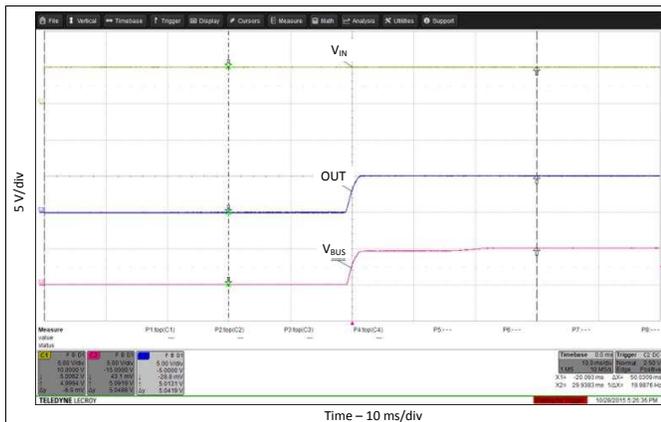


Figure 16. Plug in of Compliant USB Type-C UFP Device with OVP Switch Solution in Place

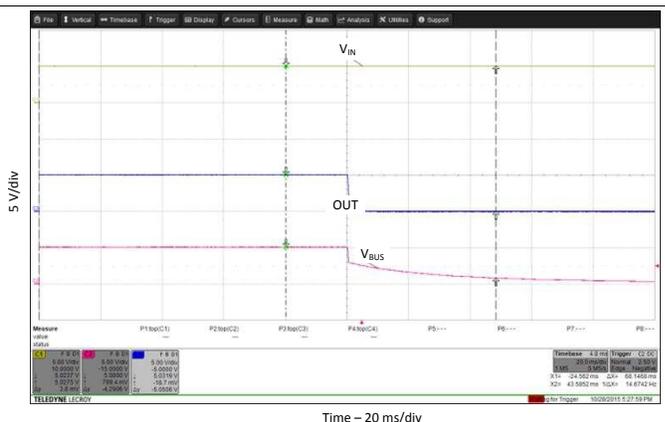


Figure 17. Unplug of Compliant USB Type-C UFP Device with OVP Switch Solution in Place

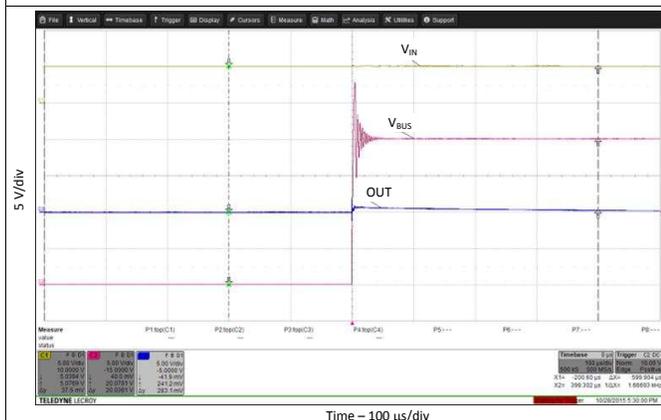


Figure 18. Hot Plug of a Non-compliant DFP Device with OVP Switch Solution in Place

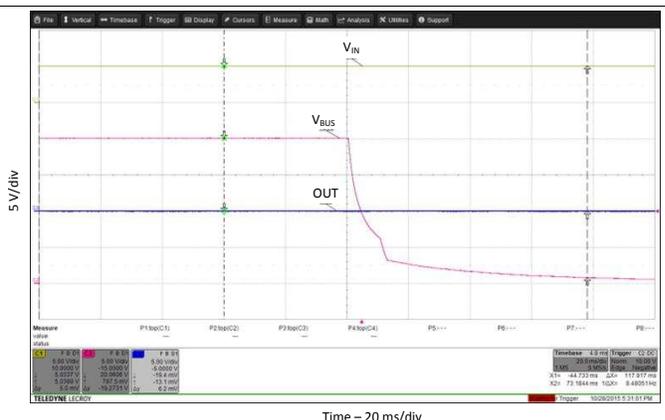


Figure 19. Hot Unplug of a Non-compliant DFP Device with OVP Switch Solution in Place

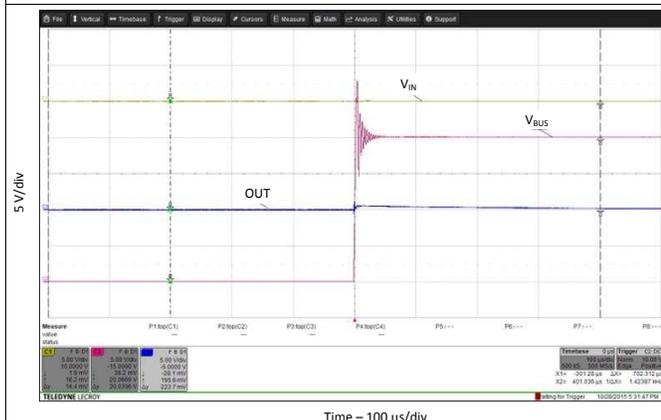


Figure 20. Hot Plug of Non-compliant DFP Device with TPS25810 Powered off and OVP Switch Solution in Place

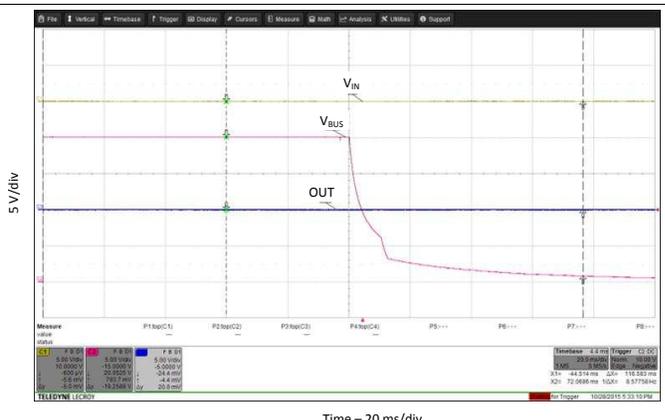


Figure 21. Hot Unplug of Non-compliant DFP Device with TPS25810 Powered off and OVP Switch Solution in Place

## 5 Conclusion

There are many solutions to blocking non-compliant DFP adapters being used with USB Type-C systems that employ the TPS25810. This application note presented three tested solutions for protecting USB Type-C DFP systems from the negative effects of non-compliant DFP adapters.

## 6 References

- *USB Type-C DFP Controller and Power Switch with Load Detection*, [SLVSCR1](#)
- *USB Charger OVP Switch with ESD for VBUS\_CON Pin*, [SLLSEH9](#)
- *USB Type-C Documentation*, <http://www.usb.org/developers/usbttypec/>

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