



UL 817

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Cord Sets and Power-Supply Cords

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UL Standard for Safety for Cord Sets and Power-Supply Cords, UL 817

Thirteenth Edition, Dated February 24, 2025

Summary of Topics

This new Thirteenth edition of ANSI/UL 817 dated February 24, 2025 incorporates editorial changes including renumbering and reformatting to align with current style, as well as the following changes in requirements:

- Addition of New [9.9.8](#) and Section [4](#), Referenced Publications, to Align with Requirements Related to Reese's Law in UL 4200A***
- Addition of SS2-50R for RV Cord Sets, Revised [10.11.1](#) and [10.11.4](#)***
- Power-Supply Cords for Portable LED Luminaires, New Annex [F](#)***

The new requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated September 6, 2024 and September 13, 2024.

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1

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The most recent designation of ANSI/UL 817 as an American National Standard (ANSI) occurred on February 24, 2025. ANSI approval for a standard does not include the Cover Page, Transmittal Pages, and Title Page.

Comments or proposals for revisions on any part of the Standard may be submitted to ULSE at any time. Proposals should be submitted via a Proposal Request in ULSE's Collaborative Standards Development System (CSDS) at <https://csds.ul.com>.

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

1 Scope 9
 2 Components 9
 3 Units of Measurement 10
 4 Referenced Publications 10
 5 Glossary 12

CONSTRUCTION

6 Fittings – General 14
 6.1 Configurations and dimensions 14
 6.2 Flammability 15
 6.3 Combustible materials 15
 6.4 Accessibility of live parts 15
 6.5 Connection to fittings 17
 6.6 Identification and wiring 17
 6.7 Treatment of cord-conductor coverings 18
 6.8 Outdoor-use fittings 18
 7 Plugs 19
 7.1 General 19
 7.2 Attachment plug grip 20
 7.3 Hospital grade attachment plugs 23
 8 Cord Connectors 24
 8.1 General 24
 8.2 Holes, indentations, and projections 26
 8.3 Improper insertion 26
 8.4 Mismatching 26
 8.5 Cord connector – outdoor 28
 8.6 Hospital grade connectors 29
 8.7 Latching type cord connectors 29
 9 Other Components 29
 9.1 General 29
 9.2 Metal strain relief clamps 29
 9.3 Switches 30
 9.4 Switches – outdoor 30
 9.5 Current taps and pendant switches 31
 9.6 Through-cord heating-pad switch 31
 9.7 Fittings intended to accommodate overcurrent protective devices 31
 9.8 Supplementary charging circuits and induction power transmitters 32
 9.9 Devices employing remote control features 33
 9.10 Overcurrent protection 33
 9.11 Cord restraint devices 34
 9.12 Electronic circuitry 34
 10 Assembly 34
 10.1 Power-supply cords 34
 10.2 Special-use power-supply cords 42
 10.3 Recreational vehicle power-supply cords 43
 10.4 Mobile home power-supply cords 44
 10.5 Range and dryer power-supply cords 45
 10.6 Range and dryer power-supply cord kits 48
 10.7 Extension cord sets 49
 10.8 Adapter cord sets 62

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10.9	Special-use cord sets	66
10.10	Vacuum cleaner and floor-finishing machine cord sets	68
10.11	Recreational vehicle cord sets	69
10.12	Hospital grade power-supply cords, extension cords, and cord sets	69
10.13	Cord sets with appliance plugs	70
10.14	Cord sets with flatiron plugs	70
10.15	Cord sets for appliances rated 50 W or less	71
10.16	Replacement-use with nonstandard polarization	71

PERFORMANCE

11	Attachment Plugs and Cord Connectors	72
11.1	Conductor secureness test	72
11.2	Security of insulation test	72
11.3	Strain relief test	72
11.4	Dielectric voltage-withstand test	75
11.5	Insulation resistance test	75
11.6	Accelerated aging test	76
11.7	Crushing test	76
11.8	Impact resistance test	77
11.9	Flexing test	79
11.10	Jacket retention test	81
11.11	Adhesion test	82
11.12	Cycling heat test	82
11.13	Rain test for fittings, joints, and other enclosures employing cords with decorative braids	84
12	Tests for Attachment Plugs	89
12.1	Security of blades and pins test	89
12.2	Temperature test	89
12.3	Plug grip test	90
12.4	Blade pull test at elevated temperature	92
12.5	Abrupt pull test	93
13	Tests for Range and Dryer Power-Supply Cord Kits	97
13.1	Strain relief test	97
13.2	Accelerated aging test	99
13.3	Push-back force test	99
14	Tests for Cord Connectors	100
14.1	Depth of cavity test	100
14.2	Conditioning cycles for blade retention test	100
14.3	Retention of blades test	100
14.4	Overload test	104
14.5	Temperature test	105
14.6	Retention of blades test (repeated)	105
14.7	Resistance to arcing test	106
14.8	Improper insertion test	106
14.9	Low-temperature insertion test	108
14.10	Random drop test	108
14.11	Closure of openings test	108
15	Tests for Flatiron and Appliance Plugs	109
16	Test for Permanence of Warning Tag	109
16.1	Cords other than outdoor type	109
16.2	Outdoor-type (W) cords	110
16.3	Oil-resistant cords	110
16.4	Test procedure	110
16.5	Evaluation	111
17	Tests for Overcurrent Protective Devices	111

17.1	General.....	111
17.2	Calibration test	111
17.3	Short-circuit tests for all products with overcurrent protection	111
17.4	Short-circuit test for fuses	112
17.5	Abnormal test	112
17.6	Water exclusion test for enclosures of outdoor-use products	113
18	Hospital Grade Molded-On Plugs and Connectors	114
18.1	General.....	114
18.2	Strain relief tests.....	114
18.3	Bonding (grounding) pin retention – hospital grade cord connector	117
18.4	Attachment plug connection and separation – hospital grade cord connector.....	121
18.5	Grounding contact temperature hospital grade cord connector	121
18.6	Ground resistance hospital grade cord connector.....	121
18.7	Crushing hospital grade attachment plug and cord connector.....	121
18.8	Impact hospital grade attachment plug and cord connector	122
18.9	Mechanical drop hospital grade attachment plug and cord connector.....	122
19	Tests for Cord Restraint Devices – Temperature Test	123
20	Tests for Electrical Components	124
21	Latching Mechanism Tests.....	125
21.1	Tests for manually- or spring-activated latching cord connectors.....	125
21.2	Pull test.....	125

MARKINGS

22	General	126
23	Extension Cord Sets	127
23.1	General.....	127
23.2	Polarization	130
23.3	Warning tag.....	130
23.4	Indoor-use extension cord sets	132
24	Outdoor-Use Extension Cord Sets	133
25	Adapter Cord Sets	134
26	Cord Restraint Devices	134
27	Recreational Vehicle and Mobile Home Applications	135
28	Power-Supply Cords – Shielded	135
29	Hospital Grade Attachment Plugs, Connectors and Hospital Grade Extension Cords.....	135
30	Range and Dryer Power-Supply Cord Kits.....	135
31	Power-Supply Cords for Replacement Use.....	136
32	Special-Use Power Supply Cords	137
33	Special Use Cord Sets.....	137
34	Special Use Cord Sets Intended for Replacement Use	138

ANNEX A (Normative) – SEASONAL-USE CORD SETS

INTRODUCTION

A1	Scope	140
----	-------------	-----

CONSTRUCTION

A2	General.....	140
A3	Flexible Cord	140
A4	Fittings	140
A5	Fittings Intended to Accommodate Fuses or Other Overcurrent Protective Devices.....	141
A6	Overcurrent Protection	141

PERFORMANCE

A7	General.....	141
A8	Tests on Female Devices.....	143
A9	Conductor Secureness Test.....	143
A10	Strain Relief Test.....	143
A11	Crushing Test.....	143
	A11.1 General.....	143
	A11.2 Molded-on fittings.....	143
	A11.3 All other fittings.....	144
A12	Overcurrent Protective Devices.....	144

RATINGS

A13	General.....	144
-----	--------------	-----

MARKINGS

A14	General.....	144
-----	--------------	-----

PACKAGING AND USE INSTRUCTIONS

A15	General.....	146
-----	--------------	-----

ANNEX B (Normative) – MARINE SHORE POWER CABLE SETS**INTRODUCTION**

B1	Scope.....	147
B2	Definitions.....	147
B3	General.....	147

CONSTRUCTION

B4	General.....	147
B5	Corrosion Resistance.....	147
B6	Flexible Cord.....	148
B7	Fittings.....	148

PERFORMANCE

B8	Salt Spray Test.....	151
B9	Mechanical Strength Test.....	151
B10	Flexure and Water Spray Test.....	153
B11	Insulation Resistance Test.....	157
B12	Dielectric Voltage-Withstand Test.....	157
B13	Exposure to Low Temperature Test.....	157
B14	Exposure to High Temperature Test.....	157
B15	Ozone Resistance Test.....	157
B16	Exposure to Ultraviolet and Water Test.....	158
B17	Accelerated Air Oven Aging Test.....	158

INSTRUCTIONS

B18	Instruction Manual.....	159
-----	-------------------------	-----

ANNEX C (Normative) – MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION TESTS

C1	Dielectric Voltage-Withstand Test.....	160
C2	Polarization and Continuity Test.....	160

ANNEX D (Normative) – ROTATING PLUGS AND OUTLETS**INTRODUCTION**

D1	Scope.....	162
----	------------	-----

CONSTRUCTION

D2	General.....	162
D3	Insulating Materials.....	162
D4	Flammability.....	162
D5	Electrical Properties.....	162
D6	Thermal Properties.....	163
D7	Comparative Tracking Index Test.....	164
D8	Glow Wire Test.....	164
D9	High-Current Arc Resistance to Ignition Test.....	164

PERFORMANCE

D10	General.....	165
D11	Rotational Endurance Test.....	165
D12	Temperature Test.....	166
D13	Dielectric Voltage-Withstand Test.....	166
D14	Resistance Test.....	166
D15	Fault Current Test.....	166
D16	Mold Stress Relief Test.....	167

ANNEX E (Normative) – TAMPER RESISTANT FEATURES**INTRODUCTION**

E1	Scope.....	170
E2	Glossary.....	170

CONSTRUCTION

E3	Tamper-Resistant Cord Connectors.....	170
E4	Tamper-Resistant Cord Connectors, General.....	170
E5	Probe Test.....	170
E6	Impact Test.....	172
	E6.1 General.....	172
	E6.2 Vertical-ball impact.....	172
E7	Mechanical Endurance Test.....	173
E8	Impact Resistance Test.....	174
E9	Crush Test.....	174

E10	Dielectric Voltage-Withstand Test	174
E11	Marking	175

ANNEX F (Normative) – PORTABLE LED LUMINAIRE POWER-SUPPLY CORDS

INTRODUCTION

F1	Scope	176
----	-------------	-----

CONSTRUCTION

F2	General	176
F3	Flexible Cord	176
F4	Attachment Plug	176
F5	Fittings Intended to Accommodate Fuses or Other Overcurrent Protective Devices	176
F6	Overcurrent Protection	177
F7	Switches.....	177

PERFORMANCE

F8	General	177
F9	Security of Insulation Test	177
F10	Flexing Test	178
F11	Tests for Overcurrent Protective Devices	178

RATINGS

MARKINGS

ANNEX G (Informative) – ILLUSTRATIVE DEFINITIONS

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INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 This Standard specifies the requirements for cord sets and power-supply cords employing molded-on or assembled-on fittings, rated 600 V maximum, and intended for use in non-hazardous locations in accordance with the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70.

1.2 This Standard also specifies the requirements for molded-on general-use attachment plugs and cord connectors.

1.3 This Standard also specifies the requirements for hospital grade attachment plugs and cord connectors.

1.4 This Standard also specifies the requirements for cord restraint devices.

1.5 These requirements do not cover cord sets intended for temporary outdoor use – not to exceed 90 days – with outdoor equipment, Christmas-tree, and other seasonal decorative-lighting outfits. Such devices are covered by the Standard for Outdoor Seasonal-Use Cord-Connected Wiring Devices, UL 2438.

1.6 Cord sets employing assembled enclosures provided with means for mounting or intended for use in furniture are covered by the Standard for Furniture Power Distribution Units, UL 962A.

1.7 Cord sets employing assembled enclosures, standard configuration outlets, and a surge protective device (SPD) are covered by the Standard for Surge Protective Devices, UL 1449.

1.8 These requirements also cover general-use extension cord sets employing supplementary charging circuits and induction power transmitters. See Supplementary charging circuits and induction power transmitters, [9.8](#).

2 Components

2.1 Except as indicated in [2.2](#), a component of a product covered by this Standard shall comply with the requirements for that component. A component of a product covered by this Standard shall:

- a) Comply with the requirements for that component as specified in this Standard;
- b) Be used in accordance with its rating(s) established for the intended conditions of use; and
- c) Be used within its established use limitations or conditions of acceptability.

2.2 A component is not required to comply with a specific requirement that:

- a) Involves a feature or characteristic not required in the application of the component in the product covered by this Standard;
- b) Is superseded by a requirement in this Standard; or
- c) A component shall be used in accordance with its rating established for the intended conditions of use.

2.3 Specific components are incomplete in construction features or restricted in performance capabilities. Such components are intended for use only under limited conditions, such as certain temperatures not exceeding specified limits, and shall be used only under those specific conditions.

2.4 A component that is also intended to perform other functions such as overcurrent protection, any other similar functions, or any combination thereof, shall comply additionally with the requirements of the applicable standard(s) that cover devices that provide those functions.

3 Units of Measurement

3.1 The values given in SI (metric) units shall be normative, except for AWG/kcmil conductor sizes. Any other values are for information only.

4 Referenced Publications

4.1 Any undated reference to a code or standard appearing in the requirements of this Standard shall be interpreted as referring to the latest edition of that code or standard.

4.2 The following publications are referenced in this Standard:

ABYC E-8, *AC Electrical Systems*

ASTM B117, *Standard Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus*

ASTM D412, *Standard Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers—Tension*

ASTM D573, *Standard Test Method for Rubber—Deterioration in an Air Oven*

ASTM G152, *Standard Practice for Operating Open Flame Carbon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials*

ASTM G153, *Standard Practice for Operating Enclosed Carbon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials*

ASTM G155, *Standard Practice for Operating Xenon Arc Lamp Apparatus for Exposure of Materials*

IEC 60320-1, *Appliances couplers for household and similar general purposes – Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 60320-2-2, *Appliance Couplers for Household and Similar General Purposes – Part 2-2: Interconnection Couplers for Household and Similar Equipment*

NEMA WD 6, *Wiring Devices – Dimensional Specifications*

NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*

NFPA 302, *Fire Protection Standard for Pleasure and Commercial Motor Craft*

UL 20, *General-Use Snap Switches*

UL 62, *Flexible Cords and Cables*

UL 94, *Tests for Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances*

UL 224, *Extruded Insulating Tubing*

UL 244A, *Solid-State Controls for Appliances*

UL 248-1, *Low-Voltage Fuses – Part 1: General Requirements*

UL 248-14, *Low-Voltage Fuses – Part 14: Supplemental Fuses*

UL 310, *Electrical Quick-Connect Terminals*

UL 486A-486B, *Wire Connectors*

UL 486E, *Equipment Wiring Terminals for Use with Aluminum and/or Copper Conductors*

UL 498, *Attachment Plugs and Receptacles*

UL 507, *Electric Fans*

UL 588, *Seasonal and Holiday Decorative Products*

UL 746A, *Polymeric Materials – Short Term Property Evaluations*

UL 746B, *Polymeric Materials – Long Term Property Evaluations*

UL 746C, *Polymeric Materials – Use in Electrical Equipment Evaluations*

UL 746D, *Polymeric Materials – Fabricated Parts*

UL 758, *Appliance Wiring Material*

UL 796, *Printed-Wiring Boards*

UL 962A, *Furniture Power Distribution Units*

UL 969, *Marking and Labeling Systems*

UL 969A, *Marking and Labeling Systems – Flag Labels, Flag Tags, Wrap-Around Labels and Related Products*

UL 1077, *Supplementary Protectors for Use in Electrical Equipment*

UL 1310, *Class 2 Power Units*

UL 1441, *Coated Electrical Sleeving*

UL 1449, *Surge Protective Devices*

UL 1577, *Optical Isolators*

UL 1659, *Attachment Plug Blades for Use in Cord Sets and Power-Supply Cords*

UL 1681, *Wiring Device Configurations*

UL 1682, *Plugs, Receptacles, and Cable Connectors of the Pin and Sleeve Type*

UL 2438, *Outdoor Seasonal-Use Cord-Connected Wiring Devices*

UL 2738, *Induction Power Transmitters and Receivers for Use with Low Energy Products*

UL 2885, *Acid Gas, Acidity and Conductivity of Combusted Materials and Assessment of Halogens*

UL 4200A, *Products Incorporating Button Batteries or Coin Cell Batteries*

UL 60320-1, *Appliance Couplers for Household and Similar General Purposes – Part 1: General Requirements*

UL 60730-1, *Automatic Electrical Controls – Part 1: General Requirements*

UL 60950-1, *Information Technology Equipment – Safety – Part 1: General Requirements*

UL 61058-1, *Switches for Appliances – Part 1: General Requirements*

UL 62368-1, *Audio/Video, Information and Communication Technology Equipment – Part 1: Safety Requirements*

5 Glossary

5.1 The following terms and definitions apply in this Standard.

5.2 ADAPTER CORD SET – A cord set, without a switch, intended to provide power from a single NEMA plug to a maximum of 6 NEMA outlets, convert from one contact configuration to another, or both.

Adapter cord sets are intended for use at construction sites and similar locations.

5.3 ALLOWABLE AMPACITY – The maximum continuous current-carrying capacity of electrical cord sets or power-supply cords, as determined by the lowest ampere rating of any individual component.

5.4 APPLIANCE CONNECTOR – A type of cord connector which mates with an inlet.

5.5 APPLIANCE/FLAT-IRON PLUG – A type of appliance coupler with a cord guard and a slot configuration specified for use with heating or cooking appliance.

5.6 ATTACHMENT PLUG – A male contact device which mates with an outlet.

5.7 CORD CONDUCTORS – The total number of conductors in a cord.

5.8 CORD CONNECTOR – A female contact device which mates with an attachment plug.

5.9 CORD CONNECTOR LATCHING TYPE – A cord connector intended for use with extension cord sets of the 1-15R, 5-15R, 5-20R, 6-15R, or 6-20R configurations, employing integral means intended to retain a mated attachment plug in place after its blades have been inserted into the female contacts. See [8.7](#).

5.10 CORD RESTRAINT DEVICE – A device provided with retention means intended to reduce the likelihood of an attachment plug becoming unintentionally detached from a mating cord connector of a cord set or any outlet device. This device is not an integral or permanently attached component of a cord set or outlet device, but rather is a separate add-on device. A latching type cord connector is not considered a cord restraint device. See [5.9](#).

- 5.11 CORD SET – A length of flexible cord having an attachment plug at one end and a cord connector at the other end. See Annex G for pictorial representation of examples.
- 5.12 CURRENT-CARRYING CONDUCTOR – A cord conductor excluding both the grounding conductor and the neutral conductor that carries only the unbalanced current from the other conductors.
- 5.13 CURRENT TAP – An attachment plug with an integral outlet device.
- 5.14 DIMMER – A device intended to change lighting to various intensities.
- 5.15 EXTENSION CORD SET – A cord set having NEMA fittings on both ends with an attachment plug and a cord connector of the same mating configuration.
- 5.16 FITTING – Any device that can be molded or assembled on flexible cord.
- 5.17 GROUNDED CONDUCTOR – The circuit conductor that is intentionally grounded.
- 5.18 GROUNDING CONDUCTOR – A conductor in a flexible cord or cable intended to connect the non-current-carrying parts of electrical equipment, raceways, or enclosures to the service equipment or system grounding conductor, and which has:
- a) A green covering;
 - b) A green covering with one or more yellow stripes; or
 - c) No covering in certain specific flexible cord and cable constructions.
- 5.19 HOSPITAL GRADE – Intended for use in hospitals and health care facilities.
- 5.20 HOSPITAL GRADE ATTACHMENT PLUG – A molded-on or assembled-on attachment plug of configuration 5-15P, 5-20P, 6-15P or 6-20P, either of straight or right angle type, intended for use in hospital and health care facilities in other than hazardous locations.
- 5.21 HOSPITAL GRADE CONNECTOR – A molded-on or assembled-on cord connector of configuration 5-15R, 5-20R, 6-15R or 6-20R, either of straight or right angle type, intended for use in hospital and health care facilities in other than hazardous locations.
- 5.22 HOSPITAL GRADE EXTENSION CORD SET – A cord set having a hospital grade attachment plug and a hospital grade cord connector of the same mating configuration.
- 5.23 IDENTIFIED CONDUCTOR – A conductor in a flexible cord or cable which is identified to be a grounded conductor or a neutral conductor, and which has:
- a) A white or grey covering;
 - b) One or more raised longitudinal ridges on the surface of the extruded covering on certain flexible cords; or
 - c) A light blue covering when the flexible cord or cable is made in accordance with the International System of colors.
- 5.24 INDOOR USE – Power-supply cords and cord sets in which materials and constructions have been found suitable to withstand the elements of indoor exposure.

5.25 INDUCTION POWER TRANSMITTER – The equipment consisting of the supply connections, control circuitry, induction transmitting coils, power platform, and overall enclosure.

5.26 JOINT – Branching of a flexible cord into two or more cords.

5.27 LINE CONDUCTOR – Any conductor in a flexible cord or cable which is not the identified conductor or the grounding conductor.

5.28 OUTDOOR USE – Power-supply cords and cord sets in which the materials and construction have been found suitable to withstand the elements of outdoor exposure.

5.29 OVERCURRENT – Any current in excess of the rated current (ampacity) that can result from an overload or a short circuit condition.

5.30 OVERCURRENT PROTECTIVE DEVICE – Any replaceable or manually-resettable type device capable of automatically opening an electric circuit, under both predetermined overload and short-circuit conditions.

5.31 OVERLOAD – Operation of conductors or fittings in excess of normal, full-load ampacity rating that, when it persists for a sufficient length of time, would cause damage or dangerous overheating.

5.32 PENDANT SWITCH – A switch intended to be installed at the end of a flexible cord.

5.33 POLARIZATION – A means to identify and to provide continuity of a neutral (the identified) conductor and the grounding conductor when an attachment plug is mated with a cord connector or outlet.

5.34 POWER-SUPPLY CORD – A length of flexible cord with an attachment plug at one end and individual cord conductors not terminated in a cord connector at the opposite end. It may have additional components such as an integral strain relief bushing or individual terminals.

5.35 SPECIAL-USE – A cord set or power supply cord employing a non-NEMA plug or cord connector.

5.36 STRAIN RELIEF – A device molded on or assembled to flexible cord to inhibit any pull stress from being transmitted to the terminal attachments.

5.37 SUPPLEMENTARY CHARGING CIRCUIT – A Class 2 or limited power source (LPS) circuit intended for charging electronic devices, which may interface with a cord set or power supply cord through a device such as a USB female connector.

5.38 SWITCH – A device for making, breaking, or changing the connection in an electric circuit.

CONSTRUCTION

6 Fittings – General

6.1 Configurations and dimensions

6.1.1 Configurations, terminal identification, and required dimensions and spacings of various attachment plugs, cord connectors, and receptacle combinations are found in UL 60320-1, IEC 60320-1, IEC 60320-2-2, NEMA WD 6, and UL 1681. Dimensional compliance to a standard configuration shall be verified by measurement. Other configurations shall be evaluated as required.

6.1.2 A fitting shall be investigated for use with the rating, type, and size of flexible cord used in the assembly.

6.2 Flammability

6.2.1 A polymeric material used in the fittings of a cord set or power-supply cord shall have a minimum flammability rating of HB in accordance with UL 94, or comply with the 12 mm flame test in accordance with UL 746C.

6.3 Combustible materials

6.3.1 If a device employs flexible cord or the equivalent that is marked "HF" on the body of the cord, and where all individual combustible materials used in the construction of the device (e.g., inner mold/enclosure, outer mold/enclosure, etc.) are determined to be halogen free in accordance with UL 2885, the device may be surface marked on the plug and/or cord connector with the suffix "HF" after the catalog number.

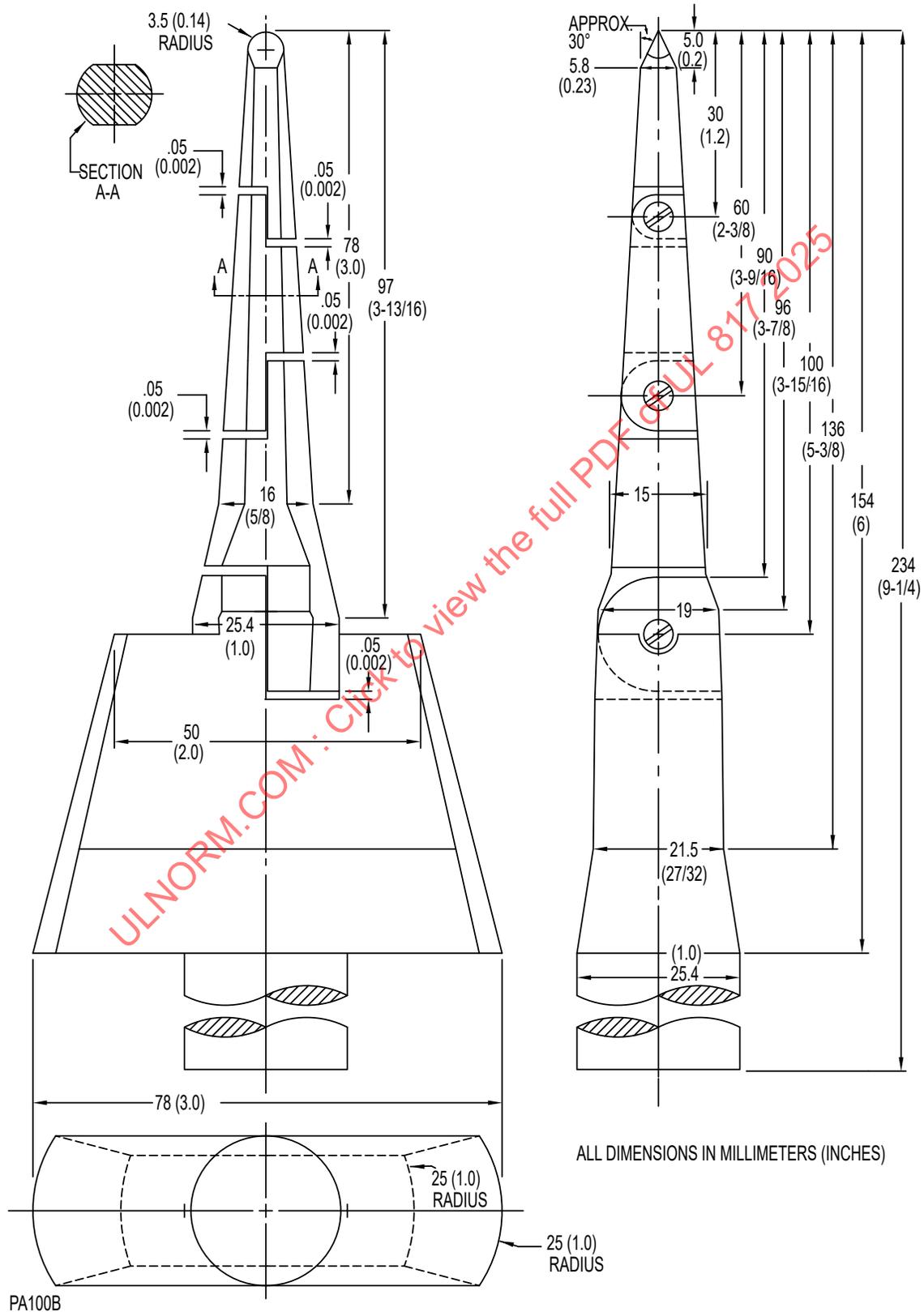
6.4 Accessibility of live parts

6.4.1 The electrical parts of a cord set or a power-supply cord that do not require use of a tool for access shall be located or enclosed so that persons are protected against inadvertent contact with uninsulated live parts and film-coated magnet wire.

6.4.2 The probe shown in [Figure 6.1](#) shall not be able to contact uninsulated live parts of the connector. The probe shall be applied to any depth that the opening permits, and shall be rotated or angled before, during, and after insertion through the opening to any position that is required to examine the enclosure. The probe shall be applied in any possible configuration; and, when required, the configuration may be changed after insertion through the opening.

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Figure 6.1
Articulate Probe with Web Stop



6.4.3 The probe shall be used as a measuring instrument to evaluate the accessibility provided by an opening and not as an instrument to evaluate the strength of a material; it shall be applied with the minimum force required to determine accessibility.

6.5 Connection to fittings

6.5.1 Each conductor shall be attached to the terminals of fittings in a manner that:

- a) Keeps strands of any conductor from contacting either uninsulated live parts of opposite polarity or dead metal parts;
- b) Provides mechanical security in accordance with [11.1](#);
- c) Provides adequate ampacity in accordance with [12.2](#); and
- d) Keeps strands from surfacing in a molded-on fitting.

6.5.2 Other forms of attachment of a conductor to the terminal of a fitting include the following:

- a) Soldering and welding, when found to comply with the Conductor secureness test in [11.1](#) (see [6.5.3](#)); and
- b) Crimping, when found to comply with the Conductor secureness test in [11.1](#) and provide adequate ampacity in accordance with the Temperature test in [12.2](#).

6.5.3 When soldering is used as the means of connection, the construction shall ensure that there will be at least one right-angle bend or an offset in the conductor to prevent stress on the conductor from being transmitted directly to the connection.

6.6 Identification and wiring

6.6.1 A terminal on a fitting that is identified for the connection of either a grounded (the identified) conductor or the grounding conductor shall be correctly connected to the corresponding conductor of the cord.

6.6.2 A flexible cord assembled to a fitting that has any of the configuration contacts as illustrated in UL 1681 (C3.1 – C3.8), UL 60320-1, IEC 60320-1 and IEC 60320-2-2, or NEMA WD 6, shall comply with [6.6.3](#) and [6.6.4](#).

6.6.3 The conductor in the cord identified as follows shall be connected to the contact designated by the letter "W" or an equivalent means to designate the identified conductor:

- a) Finished to show a white or gray color;
- b) Covered by a white or gray braid;
- c) Equivalently identified by:
 - 1) A white or gray separator,
 - 2) A stripe, ridge, or groove on the outside surface of the insulation, or
 - 3) A tin or other white metallic coating on each strand.
- d) Has light blue colored or light blue coated insulation; and:

- 1) The cord has a jacket not integral with the circuit conductor insulation,

- 2) The power-supply cord or cord set is factory installed in, or packaged with, an appliance, and
- 3) The shipping package is marked in accordance with [22.6](#).

6.6.4 The conductor in the cord identified as follows shall be connected to the contact designated by the letter "G" or an equivalent means to designate the grounding conductor:

- a) Green with or without one or more yellow stripes; or
- b) Covered by a green braid with or without one or more yellow tracers.

6.6.5 Terminals for devices with IEC 60320 configurations shall comply with the following:

a) Terminals for an IEC 60320-1 connector, when looking at the face of the connector, shall be as follows:

- 1) Earthing contact: upper central position,
- 2) Line contact: lower right-hand position, and
- 3) Neutral contact: lower left-hand position.

b) Terminals for an IEC 60320-2-2 plug, when looking at the face of the plug, shall be as follows:

- 1) Earthing contact: upper central position,
- 2) Line contact: lower left-hand position, and
- 3) Neutral contact: lower right-hand position.

c) Cord conductors shall be connected to the IEC connector and plug terminals in the following manner:

- 1) Green/yellow or green core to the earthing contact,
- 2) Brown or black core to the line contact, and
- 3) Light blue or white core to the neutral contact.

6.6.6 A flexible cord containing a grounding conductor shall not be assembled to a non-grounding plug or a non-grounding connector.

6.7 Treatment of cord-conductor coverings

6.7.1 The insulation, braid, or sheath on the flexible cord shall not be removed more than that necessary to make the proper connections within a fitting.

6.7.2 Suitable means shall be provided to inhibit fraying or slipping of the braid or insulation of the cord that would cause conductors external to a fitting to become exposed. Tubing or sleeving that complies with UL 224 or UL 1441 meets the intent of this requirement.

6.8 Outdoor-use fittings

6.8.1 Except as noted in [6.8.2](#), materials used for outdoor fittings when molded of polymeric material shall be subjected to:

- a) The Weather (sunlight) resistance test in UL 746C for 720 hours for carbon arc or 1000 hours for Xenon-arc; and
- b) The Crushing and Impact Resistance tests as indicated in [11.7](#) and [11.8](#), respectively.

6.8.2 Fittings molded of solid butyl rubber, neoprene, thermoplastic elastomer, or polyvinyl chloride shall not be required to comply with [6.8.1](#).

6.8.3 Except as indicated in [6.8.4](#), a molded fitting attachment plug of butyl rubber, neoprene, or polyvinyl chloride is acceptable if in compliance with the Adhesion test, [11.11](#). Molded-on cord connectors of other materials are acceptable if determined so by the results of special investigation.

NOTE: Special forms of construction not specified in this Standard shall be subject to special investigation.

6.8.4 A fitting rated 250 V or less and 30 A or less or a joint or other enclosure intended for use in:

- a) Outdoor power supply cords;
- b) Outdoor cord sets;
- c) Outdoor extension cord sets; or
- d) Outdoor special use power supply cords and cord sets;

Employing braided flexible cord types SPT-1W, SPT-2W, SJTW, STW, SJEW, or SEW with "-B" suffix, where the braid extends inside the device, the braid shall be terminated such that there is a minimum of 6.4 mm (1/4 inch) of insulating material separating the braid from any live part, and the power supply cord or cord set shall comply with the Rain test, [11.13](#).

7 Plugs

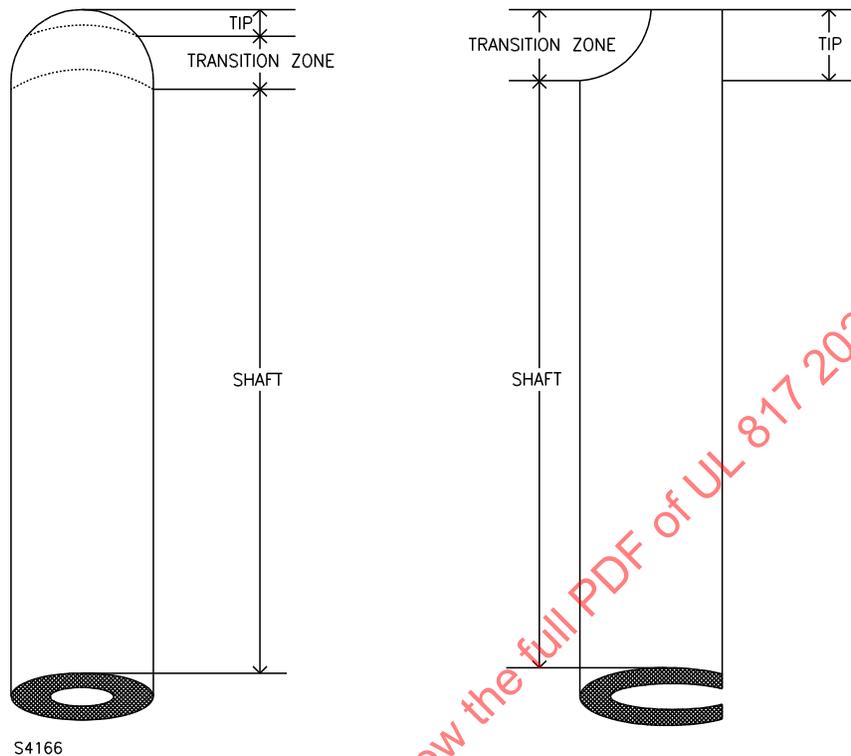
7.1 General

7.1.1 A blade used in a 15- or 20-A NEMA attachment plug cap shall comply with UL 1659. Where a blade is crimped and soldered, or welded, and/or where a blade is made mechanically secure and soldered directly to the conductor, connections need not comply with the performance requirements of UL 1659.

7.1.2 The grounding blade or pin of a 15- or 20-A non-locking type attachment plug shall not contain surface discontinuities that would tend to interfere with insertion into, or withdrawal from, a grounding contact of an outlet device. Abrupt surface transitions such as gaps, steps, offsets, detents, holes or sharp chamfers shall be specifically prohibited in the following areas shown in [Figure 7.1](#):

- a) The shaft; and
- b) The transition zone between the tip and the shaft which is likely to engage the grounding contact during insertion or withdrawal.

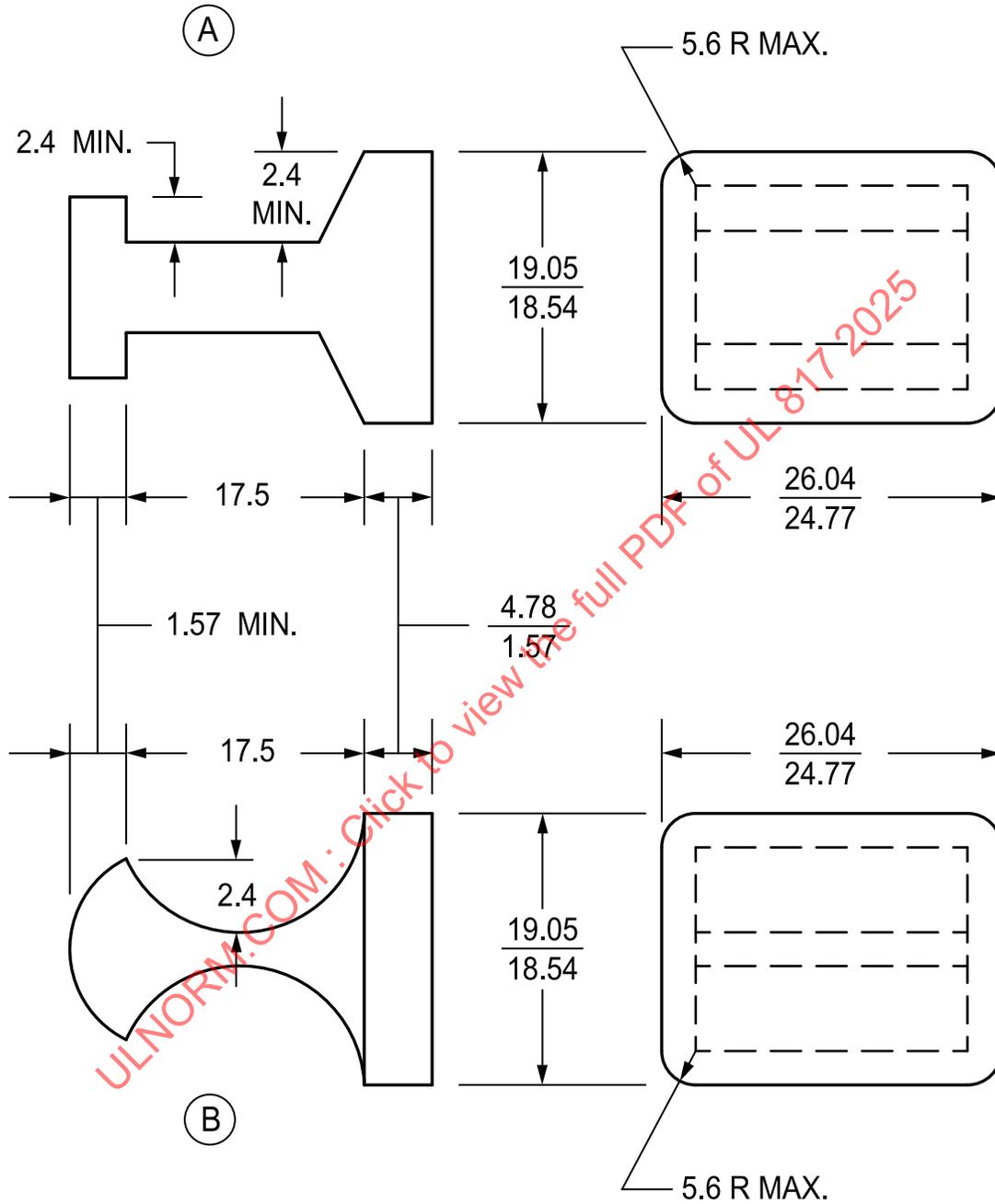
Figure 7.1
Grounding Pin Profiles



7.2 Attachment plug grip

7.2.1 The body of a molded-on NEMA attachment plug of the configuration 1-15P shall be shaped such that it is not likely to be grasped at the face periphery, but rather invites gripping at a section formed for such a purpose. The gripping area shall extend over a distance of at least 17.5 mm (0.688 inch) located between two higher sections. The section at the rear shall provide a sharply defined projection at least 2.4 mm (0.094 inch) high with a base of at least 1.57 mm (0.062 inch), and an overall width of at least 6.4 mm (0.25 inch), in accordance with [Figure 7.2](#). In place of the gripping area, a finger grip in the form of a substantial closed loop capable of accommodating one or more fingers shall be permitted. Other gripping surfaces shall be permitted provided that they comply with [12.3](#). A grip or gripping surface might need to be additionally investigated for the ability to withstand the conditions of normal use such as flexing, mechanical strength, and similar conditions.

Figure 7.2
Attachment Plug Finger Grip and Blade Guards



2.4 MIN-MATERIAL OVER LIVE PARTS

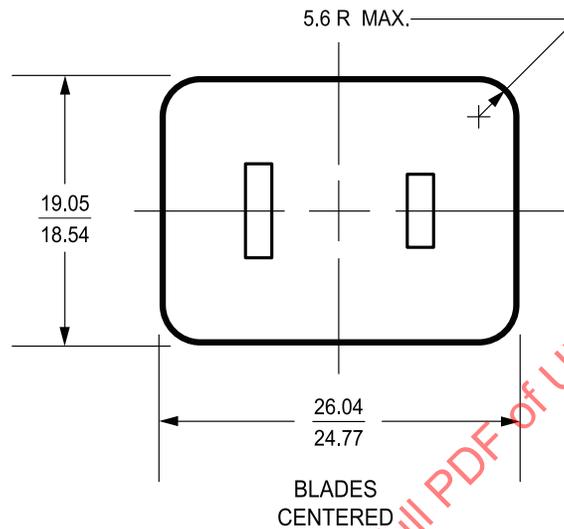
su1073

NOTE: All dimensions in mm.

mm	1.57	2.4	4.78 1.57	5.6	17.5	19.05 18.54	26.04 24.77
(inch)	(0.062)	(3/32)	(0.188) (0.062)	(7/32)	(11/16)	(0.750) (0.730)	(1.025) (0.975)

7.2.2 Two-wire attachment plugs shall have a face size equal to or larger than that indicated in [Figure 7.3](#).

Figure 7.3
Male Fitting Face Dimensions



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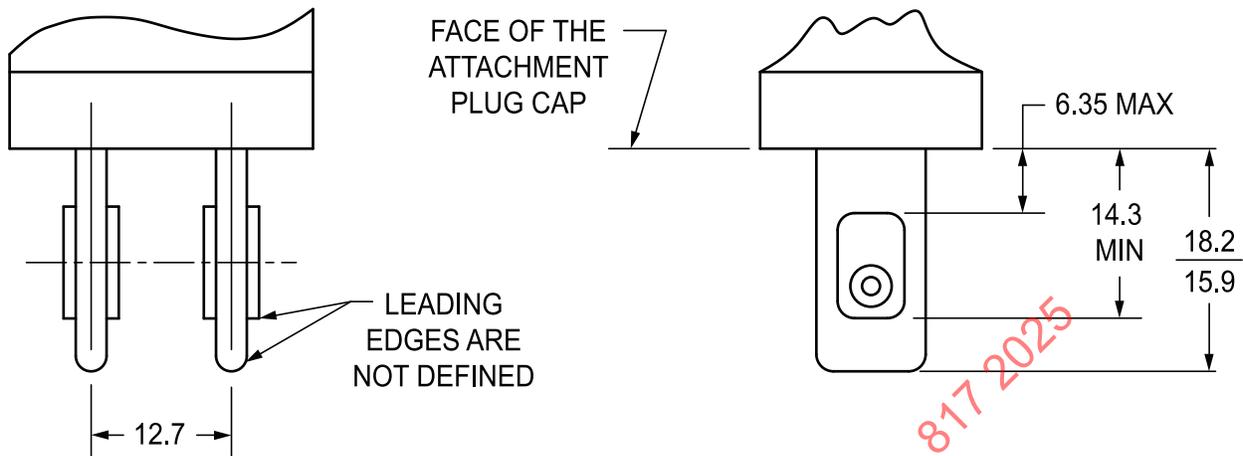
NOTE: All dimensions in mm.

mm	5.6	19.05 18.54	26.04 24.77
(inch)	(7/32)	(0.750) (0.730)	(1.025) (0.975)

7.2.3 A shallow-bodied right-angle plug may exceed the maximum face size.

7.2.4 The blades shall be located as shown in [Figure 7.4](#) and parallel to one another. Compliance shall be determined by full insertion, as described in [14.2](#), into a 1-15R.

Figure 7.4
Blade Construction of 2-Pole, 2-Wire Attachment Plug



su1079

NOTE: All dimensions in mm.

mm	6.35	12.7	14.3	18.2 15.9
(inch)	(0.250)	(0.500)	(0.562)	(0.718) (0.625)

7.3 Hospital grade attachment plugs

7.3.1 A hospital grade molded-on attachment plug shall comply with the requirements in 7.3 and Section 18, Hospital Grade Molded-On Plugs and Connectors, and with all other applicable requirements in this Standard. These requirements are applicable only to configurations 5-15P, 5-20P, 6-15P, and 6-20P in accordance with NEMA WD 6. Attachment plugs shall be of the straight type (longitudinal axis of flexible cord parallel to that of the line blades), or right-angle type (longitudinal axis of flexible cord at right angle to that of the line blades), molded onto flexible cord.

7.3.2 Blades shall be formed of solid brass material in conformance with NEMA WD 6. The grounding pin shall not be capable of being easily bent or removed without the use of tools.

7.3.3 The size of the attachment plug shall allow the full insertion of two attachment plugs into a duplex receptacle.

7.3.4 The strain relief system shall comply with the requirements of 18.2, and shall not permit any forces applied to the cord to be transmitted to the point of electrical termination of the cord conductors inside the fitting.

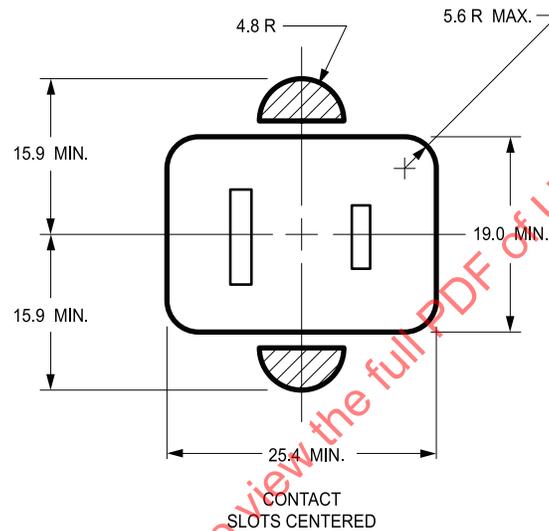
7.3.5 A hospital grade plug shall be marked in accordance with Section 29, Hospital Grade Attachment Plugs, Connectors and Hospital Grade Extension Cords.

8 Cord Connectors

8.1 General

8.1.1 The perimeter of the outlet face of a 1-15R configuration shall meet the requirements of [Figure 8.1](#). Two-wire molded-on cord connectors shall have a face size equal to or larger than that indicated in [Figure 8.1](#).

Figure 8.1
Female Plug Face Dimensions



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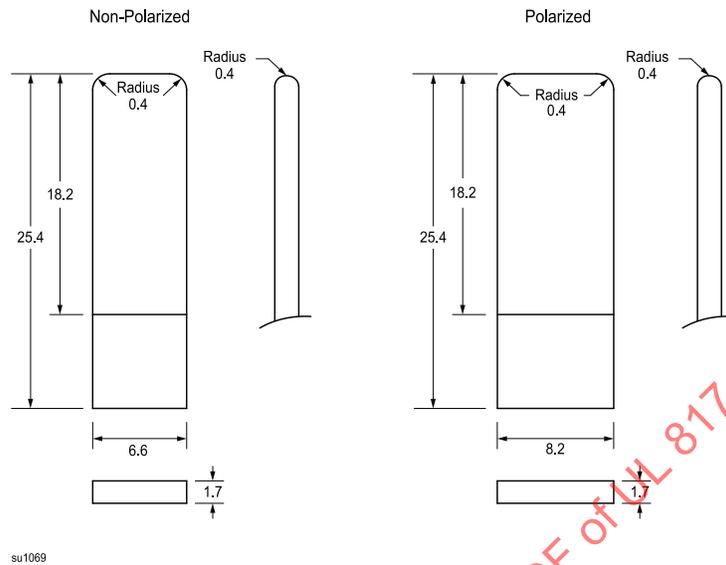
NOTE: All dimensions in mm.

mm	4.8	5.6	15.9	19.0	25.4
(inch)	(3/16)	(7/32)	(5/8)	(3/4)	(1)

8.1.2 The female contacts of a 1-15R cord connector shall be recessed at least 6.4 mm (1/4 inch) from the face of the fitting.

8.1.3 A 1-15R cord connector shall accommodate a 1-15 plug without any blade exposure between the faces of the fittings as determined by the Depth of cavity test in [14.1](#). The depth gauge shall be as shown in [Figure 8.2](#).

Figure 8.2
Depth of Cavity Gauge



NOTE: All dimensions in mm.

mm	0.4	1.7	6.6	8.2	18.2	25.4
(inch)	(1/64)	(0.065)	(0.260)	(0.322)	(0.718)	(1.0)

8.1.4 When two or more 1-15R outlets are on the same surface of a cord connector, they shall be spaced apart so as to allow adjacent plugs with the dimensions in [Figure 7.3](#) to be fully inserted with no exposed blades.

8.1.5 The contact openings of all, or all but one, of the outlets of a cord connector shall be effectively and reliably closed by means that comply with the Closure of openings test, [14.11](#). The closure shall:

- Be formed of insulating material having physical properties that can withstand the rigors of use and reasonably foreseeable abuse;
- In no case, be removable from the cord set. A closure that is removable from the outlet shall remain within 150 mm (6 inches) of the cord connector while not in use after being tested in accordance with [14.11.2](#);
- When positioned as intended, be capable of obstructing a straight steel wire that is 0.25 mm (0.010 inch) from touching any female contact;
- Be capable of insertion into and withdrawal from the outlet in the intended manner without breakage or damage both before and after the cord connector and closure have been tested in accordance with [14.11.1.1](#);
- Not impair the performance of the cord connector after three simulated insertions and withdrawals of the closure in the intended manner, after testing in accordance with [14.11.1.4](#); and
- Not serve as a tab or handle used to open another closing means on the cord connector.

8.1.6 If the closing means consists of an insulating closure, it shall not be provided with handles, loops, knobs, or similar means that possibly facilitate removal. Such means shall not have been removed from an outlet after being subjected to a straight pull of 4.4 N (1 lbf) perpendicular to the face of the outlet.

NOTE: Special forms of construction not specified in this Standard shall be subject to special investigation.

8.1.7 Contact material shall be either copper or copper alloy.

8.2 Holes, indentations, and projections

8.2.1 A connector of a cord set may be provided with a means, such as a hole, hook, indentation, or similar means, molded to the cord connector body, to facilitate temporary positioning during use. A hole shall have a minimum inside diameter of 9.5 mm (3/8 inch). A projection shall not be used. A hole, hook, or indentation that could be used for permanent hang-up mounting of the connector shall not be used.

8.3 Improper insertion

8.3.1 Molded-on cord connectors of the 1-15R configuration, 5-15R configuration, or the non-polarized 1-15R configuration shall prevent the improper insertion of the mating attachment plug and/or the insertion of a ground pin into any contact opening so that it might contact live parts. Compliance is determined in accordance with [14.8](#).

8.4 Mismatching

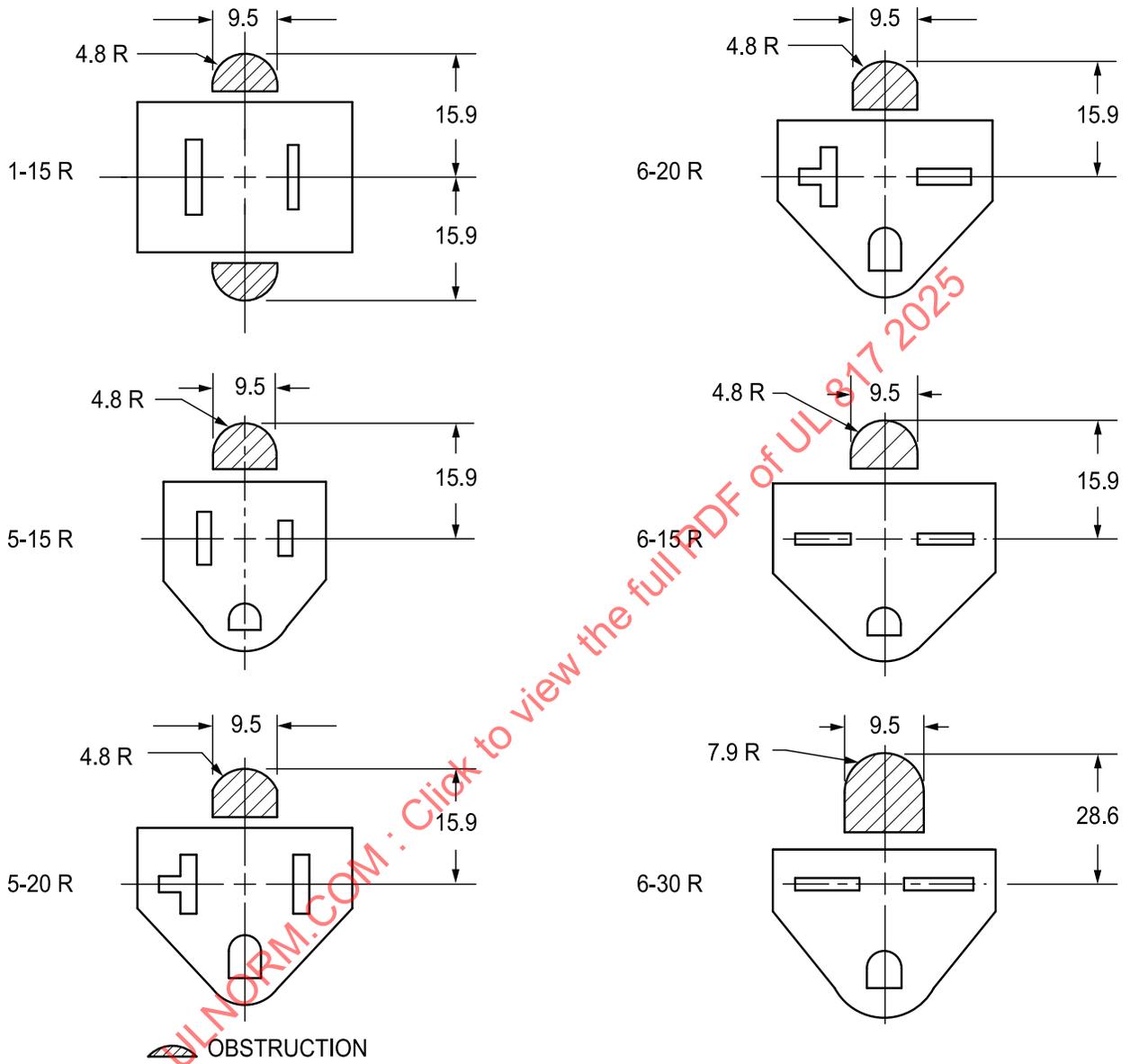
8.4.1 Except as noted in [8.4.2](#), the face of a 1-15R cord connector shall be in compliance with [Figure 8.1](#) and shall obstruct the insertion of an attachment plug of the 5-15P configuration.

8.4.2 The face of a cord connector of the 5-15R, 6-15R, 5-20R, 6-20R, or 6-30R configuration shall be in compliance with [Figure 8.3](#) and obstruct the insertion of either its respective mating plug in the reverse direction in an attempt to deflect the ground pin to the outside of the face when inserting the line blades, or a dissimilarly rated grounding attachment plug.

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Figure 8.3

Faces of Outlet Devices Showing Smallest Acceptable Obstructions



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NOTE: All dimensions in mm.

mm	4.8	9.5	15.9
(inch)	(3/16)	(3/8)	(5/8)

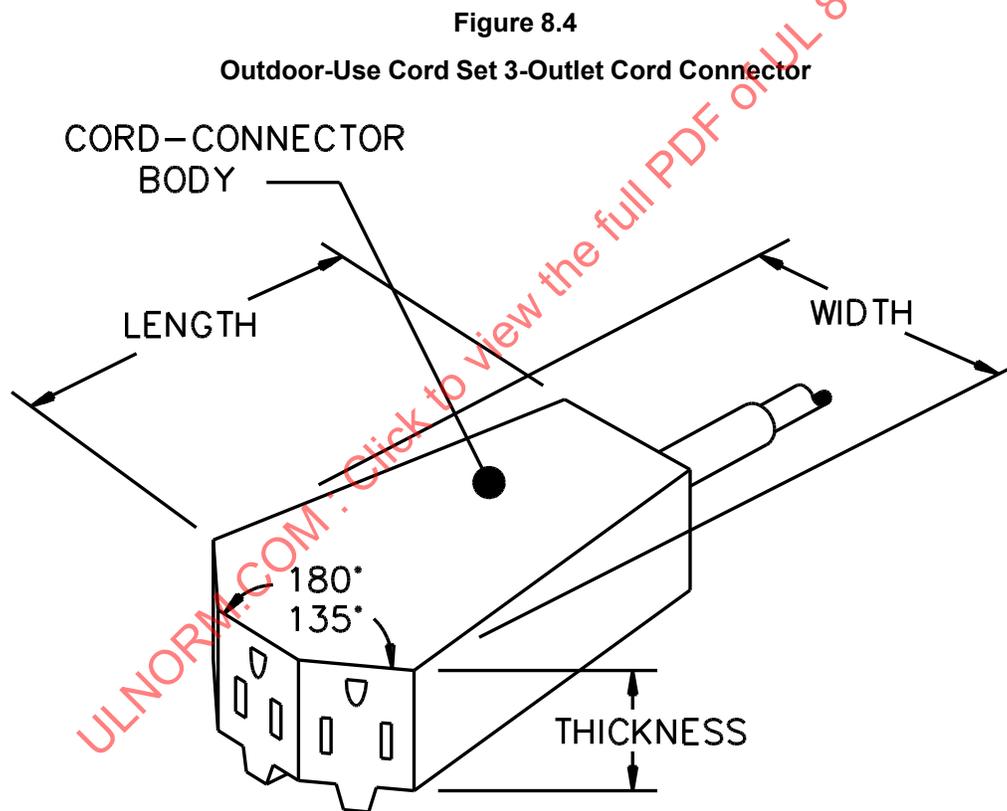
8.5 Cord connector – outdoor

8.5.1 A cord connector shall be resistant to sunlight and mechanical abuse, and shall exclude moisture by tightly adhering to the jacket of the cord at the point that the cord enters the body, in accordance with the Adhesion test, [11.11](#).

8.5.2 A cord connector shall have a maximum of three outlets. The configuration of the cord connector shall be the same as the attachment plug.

Exception: A cord connector body may have a maximum of six outlets when in accordance with Exceptions 1 – 3 of [10.7.2.1.7](#).

8.5.3 Each multi-outlet of a cord connector intended for outdoor-use shall have the outlets positioned in a vertical plane (the outlet faces not positioned face up or face down) as shown in [Figure 8.4](#) in accordance with the Random drop test, [14.10](#).



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8.5.4 A 5-15R outlet face of a 3-outlet cord connector need not comply with [8.5.3](#) when:

- a) The length and width dimensions are at least three times the maximum thickness dimensions, excluding the grounding pin obstruction(s);
- b) There is no outlet in the surfaces formed by the length and width dimensions; and
- c) The angle between the adjacent faces containing outlets is not less than 135°. See [Figure 8.4](#).

8.5.5 When two or more 1-15R or 5-15R outlets are on the same surface of a cord connector, they shall be spaced apart so as to enable adjacent plugs having the minimum face size shown in [Figure 7.3](#) to be fully inserted with no exposed blades.

8.5.6 Each outlet of a cord connector for an outdoor-use cord set shall be tested as described in the Low-temperature insertion test, [14.9](#), to determine that connector(s) are capable of low-temperature connection.

8.6 Hospital grade connectors

8.6.1 A hospital grade molded-on connector shall comply with the requirements in Section [18](#) and with all other applicable requirements in this Standard. These requirements are applicable only to configurations 5-15R, 5-20R, 6-15R, and 6-20R in accordance with NEMA WD 6. Connectors shall be of the straight type (longitudinal axis of flexible cord parallel to that of the contacts), or right-angle type (longitudinal axis of flexible cord at right angle to that of the contacts), molded onto flexible cord.

8.6.2 A hospital grade connector shall be marked in accordance with Section [29](#).

8.7 Latching type cord connectors

8.7.1 A cord connector of the 1-15R, 5-15R, 5-20R, 6-15R, or 6-20R configuration is permitted to be provided with an integral latching mechanism.

8.7.2 A cord connector with an integral latching mechanism shall be subjected to the applicable tests in Tests for Cord Connectors, Section [14](#), with the mechanism in place and defeated. In addition, a cord connector provided with a manual or spring-activated latching mechanism shall be subjected to the Latching Mechanism Tests, Section [21](#).

8.7.3 A spring employed in a cord connector with an integral latching mechanism shall be copper or copper alloy, of a corrosion-resistant steel (stainless), or protected against corrosion by metallic plating or other metal coating.

9 Other Components

9.1 General

9.1.1 The construction requirements in this section cover components other than plugs and cord connectors, such as strain relief clamps, switches, and overcurrent devices used in power-supply cords and cord sets.

9.2 Metal strain relief clamps

9.2.1 A strain relief clamp shall not affect the performance of round jacketed cable.

9.2.2 A strain relief that is part of a wiring device applied on Types SP-1, SPT-1, NISP-1, NISPT-1, SP-2, SPT-2, and NISP-2 and NISPT-2 cords or on tinsel cords shall be acceptable only after previous investigation, and used with supplementary insulation tested in accordance with [11.3.3](#).

9.2.3 A strain relief clamp for Type SPT-3 shall comply with the test in [11.3.3](#) if the design of the clamp appears to cause damage to the cord.

9.2.4 A strain relief for flexible cords other than Type HSJ or Type C and heavier general-use cords shall have between the strain relief clamp and the cable of at least one layer of supplementary insulation, unless the construction of the clamp is such that the cord jacket will not be adversely affected.

9.3 Switches

9.3.1 A through-cord or pendant switch shall comply with the performance requirements of UL 20. An AC/DC rated through-cord or pendant switch shall be rated not less than "6 A, 120 V - 3 A, 250 V". An AC-only rated through-cord or pendant switch shall be rated not less than "10 A, 120 V AC". These requirements apply to all switches, including supplementary protectors being used as a switch actuator, and having a reset button or containing symbols, words, or letters, meaning "ON/OFF".

9.3.2 A supplementary protector located within the plug body, having a reset button that is similar in shape to a switch actuator and marked "Not to be used as a switch" or equivalent, shall comply with UL 61058-1. The marking shall be located as identified in [23.1.10](#).

9.3.3 A switch in a cord set or power-supply cord that is not polarized shall simultaneously open all of the supply conductors.

9.3.4 A switch in a polarized cord set or power-supply cord shall simultaneously open all current carrying conductors.

9.3.5 A switch shall not open the grounding conductor of a cord set.

9.3.6 A dimmer switch for use only with an incandescent lamp load, having a rating of at least 300 W and marked in accordance with [23.1.7](#), shall be used as the pendant switching device on the cord set described in [10.7.4.2.2](#).

9.3.7 A pendant switch used in an extension cord set shall not be of a dimmer type.

9.4 Switches – outdoor

9.4.1 A switch provided on an outdoor-use cord set shall comply with the requirements for switches described in [9.3.1](#) – [9.3.7](#) in addition to the requirements in this section.

9.4.2 Each switch provided on an outdoor-use cord set shall have an enclosure to reduce the likelihood of persons unintentionally contacting uninsulated live parts of the switch.

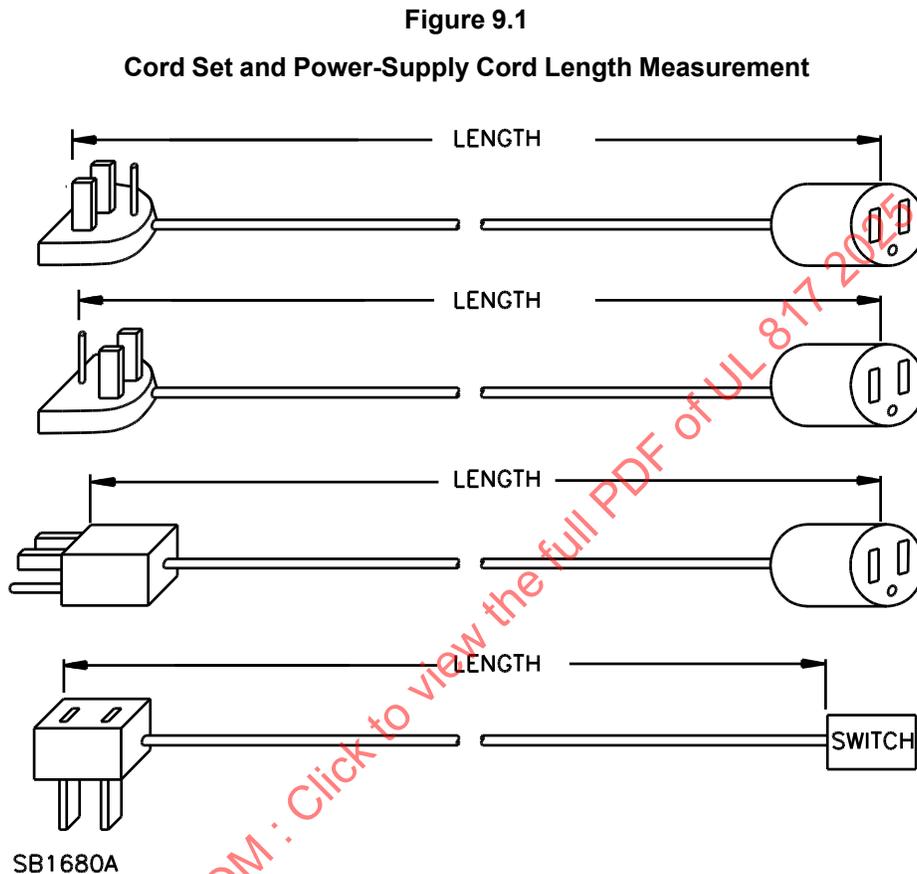
9.4.3 The enclosure of a switch provided on an outdoor-use cord set shall be comprised of material that has a minimum flammability rating of HB, in accordance with UL 746C.

9.4.4 A switch enclosure shall be of a material having moisture absorptive properties in accordance with UL 746A. Molded phenolic and similar thermosetting polymeric materials are considered to have moisture-absorptive properties for use as the enclosure of a switch. Fiber and similar absorptive materials are not considered to have moisture-absorptive properties for use as the enclosure of a switch.

9.4.5 The enclosure of a switch intended for use on an outdoor-use cord set shall not permit water to enter that portion of an attachment plug or current tap that serves as the enclosure of the switch so as to contact live parts as determined by the Water exclusion test, [17.6](#).

9.5 Current taps and pendant switches

9.5.1 A single or multiple series-connected current tap may be provided on a general-use cord set if the series-connected flexible cord terminates in a pendant switch or a dimmer device and the flexible cord is not less than 1.8 m (6 feet) long when measured as described in [Figure 9.1](#).



9.5.2 The outlets of a cord connector on a polarized cord set may be controlled by a single-pole pendant switch located on a flexible cord. The unidentified (switched) conductor of the flexible cord shall be continuous from the attachment plug, through the switch, to the cord connector.

9.6 Through-cord heating-pad switch

9.6.1 Each through-cord heating-pad switch shall be assembled with a means to provide strain relief unless all connections in the switch (except for a soldered joint in a slack portion of the through conductor) are riveted or welded, or unless such connections are made by means of eyelets, pressure wire connectors with closed-loop tangs, soldered loops in the conductors, or soldered joints where mechanical security is provided without depending upon the joint. Terminal binding screws shall not unthread completely when the switch is assembled. The through-cord heating-pad switch shall comply with the requirements of [11.3.6](#).

9.7 Fittings intended to accommodate overcurrent protective devices

9.7.1 An enclosure shall be provided for each overcurrent protective device provided on a cord set or power-supply cord.

9.7.2 The material of molded-on bodies of attachment plugs or current taps that serve as the enclosure for an overcurrent protective device shall operate within its recognized temperature limits when tested in accordance with the temperature test in [12.2](#). The test shall be performed with a rated fuse installed. The material shall not flame or melt to the extent that live parts are exposed or a replaceable fuse cannot be replaced. The material of any other type of enclosure shall be comprised of material in compliance with this Standard, and shall have a minimum flammability rating of V-2.

9.7.3 An overcurrent protective device enclosure shall:

- a) Be of a material having moisture absorptive, flammability, and mechanical strength properties acceptable for the purpose and shall retain these properties when exposed to the maximum temperatures and other conditions of normal use;
- b) Prevent unintentional contact with uninsulated live parts of the fuse and fuseholder; and
- c) Confine the effects of a fuse rupture to the interior of the enclosure.

9.7.4 Fiber and similar absorptive materials shall not be considered to have moisture-absorptive properties acceptable for use as the enclosure of a fuse.

9.7.5 Molded phenolic and similar thermosetting polymeric materials are considered to be acceptable for use as a fuse enclosure.

9.7.6 The construction of a fusible plug that has male pins or blades, such as an attachment plug or current tap, shall be such that the fuse or fuses are not removable when the pins or blades are energized.

9.7.7 A fuseholder, attachment plug, or current tap intended to accommodate replaceable fuses shall be plainly and permanently marked in accordance with [23.1.2](#).

9.7.8 The enclosure of an overcurrent protective device intended for use on an outdoor-use cord set or power-supply cord shall be constructed so that water does not enter a through-cord fuseholder or that portion of an attachment plug or current tap which serves as the enclosure of the protective device (fuse or supplementary protector) so as to contact live parts when tested in accordance with [17.6](#).

9.8 Supplementary charging circuits and induction power transmitters

9.8.1 A supplementary charging circuit, including that which provides power to an induction power transmitter, provided in a general-use cord set or power-supply cord shall, with regard to separation of circuits and output voltage, current, and power limitations, comply with the requirements for a Class 2 circuit of UL 1310, or with UL 60950-1, or UL 62368-1.

9.8.2 A supplementary charging circuit provided in a special-use power-supply cord intended for ITE equipment shall comply with the requirements of UL 1310 or UL 62368-1.

9.8.3 Induction power transmitters shall comply with the performance requirements of UL 2738.

9.8.4 The construction and performance of an enclosure of a supplementary charging circuit or an induction power transmitter shall comply with the requirements of electrical, fire, and mechanical enclosures, of UL 60950-1 or UL 62368-1.

9.8.5 A general use extension cord employing a supplementary charging circuit shall be marked in accordance with [23.1.15](#).