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Electrical Safety Hazard Special Attention Health Care Facilities

Non-Compliant Power Strips Pose a Safety Hazard in Patient-Care Areas!

Many healthcare facilities unknowingly install non-compliant plug strips, believing that models with hospital-grade plugs and receptacles are inherently compliant. They are not. The use of non-compliant plug strips presents a danger to the occupants due to their design and the atmosphere they are being used in.

Recommend that non-compliant power strips be immediately replaced by fully-compliant models.

Where you install your power strip determines which type of power strip you need to purchase. In the eyes of the code-writing/regulatory organizations, there are two distinct areas within healthcare facilities (inside of patient-care areas and outside of patient-care areas) the plug strip must be "medical-grade" and UL 60601-1 to be compliant.

Inside of Patient-Care Areas

- UL 60601-1 listed Medical-Grade Plug Strip is required or
- UL 60950-1 listed Medical-Grade Plug Strip is required

According to NEC, patient-care areas are "any area within a healthcare facility where patients are intended to be examined or treated,"

"General" Patient-Care Areas

Patient bedrooms, examining rooms, treatment rooms, clinics and other similar areas where patients are intended to come in contact "ordinary appliances" such as nurse call systems, electric beds, examining lamps, etc.

"Critical" Patient-Care Areas

Those special care units, intensive care units, delivery rooms, operating rooms, coronary care units, angiography labs and other areas where patients are intended to be subjected to invasive procedures and connected to on-line electromedical devices.

Outside of the Patient-Care Areas

- UL 1363 listed Plug Strip with Hospital-Grade Plug & Receptacles are required

Any area not defined as a "patient-care area" would fall under the category of "outside of the patient-care areas." These areas include, but are not limited to: reception areas, nurse stations, laboratories, administration offices, foodservice areas, maintenance areas and housekeeping areas.

For further information concerning this matter contact the state fire marshal's office.