



OREGON FIRE CODE Interpretations and Technical Advisories

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Date: January 23, 2006

Ruling: Technical Advisory No. 06-01

Subject: Use of Electrical Equipment in Licensed Care Facilities

Code Reference: Electrical equipment shall comply with *Oregon Fire Code* (OFC Section 605, the Life Safety Code (NFPA 101), National Electrical Code (NFPA 70), and the Standard for Health Care Facilities (NFPA 99).

Content: Definitions: For the purposes of this technical bulletin, the following definition shall apply.

- **Electrical equipment** as defined by the *OFC* Section 605 and NFPA 70 includes but is not limited to portable appliances (hair dryers, coffee makers, battery chargers, etc.), stationary appliances (refrigerators, microwave ovens, etc.), extension cords, relocatable power taps (plug strips, surge protectors, etc.), and multi-plug adapters (cube adapters, strip plugs, multi-plug extension cords, etc.).

NOTE: Electrical equipment and devices that are affixed to the structure and/or integrally incorporated into the facility are not within the scope of this technical bulletin.

Regulations: The following regulations shall be followed where electrical equipment is being used within health care facilities.

1. Electrical equipment is to comply with the manufacturer's requirements specified in Chapter 9 of NFPA 99 and is to be listed for their intended use. In health care facilities, all appliances shall either be listed for their intended use **OR** shall be subject to an evaluation to determine compliance with Chapters 7 and 9 of NFPA 99.

RESCINDED See T.A #11-01

2. Electrical equipment is to comply with the performance, maintenance, and testing requirements of Chapter 7 of NFPA 99 and be used in accordance with their listing. The manufacturer's instructions conform to the listing organization's (UL, Factory Mutual, etc.) testing guidelines and are to be followed by the facility.
3. Electrical equipment provided by the facility shall conform to Section 7-6.2.1.1 of NFPA 99.

NOTE: Facilities shall establish written policies regarding use of electrical equipment not provided by the facility that conforms to Section 7-6.2.1.11 of NFPA 99.

4. Electrical equipment such as but not limited to extension cords, relocatable power taps, surge suppressors, etc., shall not be affixed to the structure of facilities in any manner that requires use of tools or specialized devices to provide access. Such installation is in conflict with the requirements of Section 400.8 of the NEC (NFPA 70).
5. **Use of Electrical equipment in Areas WHICH ARE classified as Patient Care Areas:** Electrical equipment that is intended to be used in patient care areas shall be tested, evaluated, and periodically inspected in accordance with Chapter 7 of NFPA 99.

- Electrical equipment shall be serviced and evaluated by qualified personnel. Qualified personnel shall possess at a minimum, a valid limited maintenance low voltage license, and either certification of or written proof of successful competence as a biomedical electronic technician.
- Electrical equipment shall be labeled to indicate that required tests and evaluations have been performed.

NOTE: This is commonly known as biomedical labeling. This service may be performed by either qualified facility staff or through a third-party service.

- All electrical equipment shall be listed as hospital grade and shall be so identified.
- Manufactured assemblies that contain electrical equipment (such as relocatable power taps, surge suppressors, etc.), shall be listed as a hospital grade assembly and shall be so identified.

6. **Use of Electrical equipment in Areas WHICH ARE NOT classified as Patient Care Areas:** Electrical equipment that is not intended to be used within patient care areas or that would come into direct contact with patients and/or residents shall be required to have a visual inspection, unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer's instructions. This equipment shall be inspected prior to use within the facility, at least one each year, and whenever a visual inspection of the appliance indicates a change of its condition due to use or repair.

Other References: Life Safety Code NFPA 101 (Sections 19.5.1, 9.1.2), Health Care Facilities NFPA 99 (Section 12-3.7.1), National Electric Code (Article 517, Sections 110.3, 400.8), Oregon Fire Code (Sections 605.1, 605.4.1, 605.5)