

HEALTH CARE ALERT

EXPERTLY ENGINEERING SAFETY FROM FIRE

Relocatable Power Taps- UPDATE

Center for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) has issued a categorical waiver permitting the use of power strips in existing and new health care facility patient care areas/rooms, provided 2012 NFPA 99 power strip requirements and 1999 NFPA 99 and 2000 *Life Safety Code* electrical system and equipment provisions are met. Power strips can only be used for patient care-related electrical equipment assemblies in a patient care vicinity. Outside of the patient care vicinity, power strips can be used for both patient care-related electrical equipment and non-patient-care-related electrical equipment.

Power strips providing power to patient care-related electrical equipment must be Special-purpose Relocatable Power Taps (SPRPTs) listed as UL 1363A or UL 60601-1. Power strips providing power to non-patient-care-related electrical equipment must be Relocatable Power Taps (RPTs) listed as UL 1363. CMS surveyors must be notified during the entrance conference that the facility has elected to use this waiver.