



**MILPITAS FIRE DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION**

455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035 (408) 586-3365 FAX (408) 586-3378

April 26, 2002

SUBJECT: Relocatable Power Taps (Power Strip Chords)

Dear Business Responsible:

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention an illegal practice that the Milpitas Fire Department has become aware of in the use of power strip chords connected in series.

The applicable provisions of the Uniform Fire Code as it pertains to the use of relocatable power taps are as follows:

When electrical hazards are identified, measures to abate such conditions shall be taken. Identified hazardous electrical conditions in permanent wiring or temporary wiring shall be corrected in cooperation with the authority enforcing the Electrical Code. Electrical wiring, devices, appliances and other equipment which are modified or damaged and constitute an electrical shock or fire hazard shall not be used. **UFC Sec. 8504.**

Multi-plug adapters, such as multi-plug extension chords, cube adapters, strip plugs, and other devices, that do not comply with the Uniform Fire Code and/or the Electrical Code shall not be used. **UFC Sec. 8507.**

Power taps shall be of the polarized or grounded type, having over-current protection, and shall be **LISTED**. **UFC Sec. 8508.2.**

The power taps shall be directly connected to a permanently installed receptacle. **UFC Sec. 8508.3.**

The Listing Mark of Underwriters Laboratories Inc., on the product is the only method provided by UL to identify products manufactured under its Listing and Follow-Up Service. The Listing Mark for these products includes the UL Symbol together with the word "LISTED", and the appropriate product names; Relocatable Power Tap, Power Tap, or Outlet Strip.

The basic standard used to investigate products in this category is UL 1363, "Relocatable Power Taps" Manufacturers must comply with the aforementioned standard in order to bear the UL Marking.

The above standard in part states that relocatable power taps are intended to be directly connected to a permanently installed branch circuit receptacle. Relocatable power taps are not intended to be series connected (daisy chained) to other relocatable power taps or to extension cords.

The Milpitas Fire Department requires that the Business Responsible comply with the above stated provisions of the Uniform Fire Code. Failure to comply will subject the Business Responsible to fines and enforcement actions based upon violations of the applicable provisions of the Uniform Fire Code.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Albert C. Zamora, PE
Assistant Fire Marshal