

Code compliant solutions to increase safety in healthcare facilities

Electrical safety is important in any facility, but particularly in healthcare facilities where people are being treated by medical staff as well as electrical medical equipment. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 99: Health Care Facilities Code establishes criteria for healthcare services and systems to help minimize the risk of fires, explosions and electrical dangers to patients, staff and visitors. To ensure that these healthcare services and systems are actively complying with NFPA 99, organizations such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and The Joint Commission conduct recurrent surveys and inspections.

Among the many detailed requirements of NFPA 99 is Article 10.2.3.6, which relates to medical grade power strips and states, “the sum of the ampacity of all appliances connected to the outlets does not exceed 75% of the ampacity of the flexible cord supplying the outlets.”



“The industry-exclusive med-strips feature real-time, line-of-sight LED indication when the NFPA 99 load limit has exceeded 75% ampacity”



In a patient care vicinity, different devices can be plugged into power strips, including heart monitors, oxygen pumps, fluid heaters and other important machines. Some devices draw far higher amperages than others. Therefore, manually calculating the ampacity and ensuring it does not exceed 75% is a difficult and time-consuming task for healthcare facilities and staff.

When a large medical center in California realized its annual Joint Commission survey was approaching, they called Gexpro, a local electrical distributor, for a solution to help monitor the ampacity placed upon medical grade power strips in the facility. Gexpro subsequently called Leviton, a leader

in hospital grade wiring devices, who provided the healthcare facility with Leviton's Medical Grade Power Strips with Inform™ Technology. The industry-exclusive med-strips feature real-time, line-of-sight LED indication when the NFPA 99 load limit has exceeded 75% ampacity.

With Inform™ technology to monitor the load of connected devices, staff do not have to manually determine if the devices connected to the power strip will cause it to exceed the NFPA load limit, providing a simple and efficient way to improve code compliance. Not only do Leviton's award-winning devices simplify compliance for users, but they also simplify the process for those conducting the surveys as well.

The real-time, line-of-sight LED indication lets the Joint Commission quickly and easily confirm that the total load plugged into a power strip does not exceed 75% of the rated ampacity and is compliant with NFPA 99 Article 10.2.3.6.

As an added benefit, these medical grade power strips feature optional surge protection, which helps protect against damaging voltage surges. The power strip's outlets and plugs are hospital grade, ensuring dependable performance. And, unlike some competitors, Leviton med-strips are operable in isolated power applications.

With Leviton's Medical Grade Power Strips with Inform technology now mounted on all IV poles and medical carts, the California healthcare system is confident in knowing it is prepared for upcoming surveys and inspections and while also improving patient safety.

Medical Grade Power Strips WITH Load Monitoring Inform™ Technology

NFPA 99 Article 10.2.3.6 mandates:

The sum of the ampacity of all appliances connected to the outlets **does not exceed 75 percent** of the ampacity of the flexible cord supplying the outlets.

Inform™ monitors the load of connected devices so that you don't have to, eliminating the need for manual calculations. **When the NFPA 99 limit (75%) has been exceeded, a line-of-sight LED indication will activate.**



SEE THE LOAD
MONITORING INFORM™
TECHNOLOGY IN
ACTION

To learn more about the Medical Grade Strips with Inform, visit www.leviton.com/medstrips



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