



UL 1206

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Electric Commercial Clothes-Washing Equipment

UL Standard for Safety for Electric Commercial Clothes-Washing Equipment, UL 1206

Fourth Edition, Dated April 22, 2003

SUMMARY OF TOPICS

This reaffirmation of ANSI/UL 1206 dated November 21, 2025 is issued to update the title page to reflect the most recent designation as a Reaffirmed American National Standard (ANS). No technical changes have been made.

Text that has been changed in any manner or impacted by ULSE's electronic publishing system is marked with a vertical line in the margin.

The requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated October 3, 2025.

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UL 1206

Standard for Electric Commercial Clothes-Washing Equipment

Prior to the First edition, the requirements for the products covered by this standard were included in the Standard for Electric Home-Laundry Equipment, UL 560.

The First edition was titled Standard for Electric Coin-Operated and Commercial Clothes-Washing Equipment.

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Third Edition – January, 1994

Fourth Edition

April 22, 2003

This ANSI/UL Standard for Safety consists of the Fourth Edition including revisions through November 21, 2025.

The most recent designation of ANSI/UL 1206 as a Reaffirmed American National Standard (ANS) occurred on November 21, 2025. ANSI approval for a standard does not include the Cover Page, Transmittal Pages, and Title Page.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has adopted UL 1206 on June 14, 1989. The publication of revised pages or a new edition of this Standard will not invalidate the DoD adoption.

Comments or proposals for revisions on any part of the Standard may be submitted to ULSE at any time. Proposals should be submitted via a Proposal Request in the Collaborative Standards Development System (CSDS) at <https://csds.ul.com>.

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INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 These requirements cover electric commercial, industrial, and institutional clothes-washing equipment intended for use in accordance with the National Electrical Code. Equipment covered by this Standard is not intended for use by the general public, but only by trained or supervised personnel.

1.2 These requirements do not cover clothes dryers, coin-operated clothes washing appliances, flatirons, ironing machines, water heaters, water softeners, dry-cleaning machines, garment-finishing machines, appliances employing wringer mechanisms, or other equipment covered by requirements separate from this standard.

1.3 Appliances and field-attached accessories are investigated under these requirements and under such additional requirements as are applicable to the appliance under consideration.

2 References

2.1 In the following text, a requirement that applies only to a specific class of equipment is so identified by a specific reference in that requirement to the class or classes of appliances involved. Absence of such specific reference or use of the term appliance indicates that the requirement applies to all classes of appliances unless the context indicates otherwise.

2.2 In the following text, a specific requirement pertaining to a particular appliance takes precedence over a corresponding requirement specified as being applicable to all appliances.

2.3 Any undated reference to a code or standard appearing in the requirements of this standard shall be interpreted as referring to the latest edition of that code or standard.

3 Glossary

3.1 **APPLIANCE, AUTOMATIC** – An appliance is considered to be automatically controlled under one or more of the following conditions:

- a) If repeated starting of the appliance, beyond one complete predetermined cycle of operation, to the point where some form of limit switch opens the circuit is independent of any manual control.
- b) If, during any single predetermined cycle of operation, the motor is caused to stop and restart one or more times.
- c) If, upon energizing the appliance, the initial starting of the motor may be intentionally delayed beyond normal, conventional starting.
- d) If, during any single predetermined cycle of operation, automatic changing of the mechanical load may reduce the motor speed sufficiently to reestablish starting-winding connections to the supply circuit.

3.2 **APPLIANCE, RECESSED** – An appliance intended to be supported by the floor, and to sit immediately adjacent to a wall in the rear or to sit immediately adjacent to a wall, a cabinet, or another appliance on each side. If the design permits, a counter top may cover the appliance and adjacent cabinets and appliances. A recessed appliance is not intended for permanent attachment to the building structure or to adjacent cabinets or appliances.

3.3 APPLIANCE, SEMI-AUTOMATIC – An appliance employing two or more motors is considered to be semiautomatically controlled if:

- a) One or more motors are controlled in accordance with any of the conditions specified in [3.1](#), and
- b) At least one motor is not controlled in accordance with any of the conditions specified in [3.1](#).

3.4 APPLIANCE, WALL-INSERT – An appliance intended to be mounted permanently in a wall or other vertical surface of a building or cabinet.

3.5 ENCLOSURE – The part of the product that:

- a) Reduces the accessibility of all or any parts of the product that may otherwise result in a risk of electric shock or injury to persons; or
- b) Retards propagation of flame initiated by electrical disturbances that may occur within the product.

3.6 PART, DECORATIVE – A part used for ornamental purposes only and not as an enclosure or as insulation of electrically live parts.

3.7 PART, FUNCTIONAL – A part that is necessary for the proper functioning of the product, and that is used in such a way that deterioration or breakage of the part would result in a risk of fire, electric shock, or injury to persons.

3.8 OPERATING CONTROL – Control, the operation of which starts or regulates the appliance during normal operation.

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3.9 PROTECTIVE CONTROL – Control, the operation of which is intended to prevent the risk of electric shock, fire, or injury to persons during normal or abnormal operation of the appliance.

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3.10 SAFETY CRITICAL FUNCTION – Control, protection and monitoring functions which are being relied upon to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock or injury hazards.

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3.11 TEMPERATURE-LIMITING DEVICE – A device that functions:

- a) only under conditions that produce abnormal temperatures; and
- b) that is not intended to function during normal operation of the appliance.

3.12 TEMPERATURE-REGULATING DEVICE – A device that:

- a) regulates temperature; and
- b) functions during normal operation of the appliance.

3.13 TEMPERATURE-REGULATING AND -LIMITING (Combination) DEVICE – A device that functions to:

- a) regulates the temperature under normal conditions of use; and
- b) limit abnormal temperatures that might result from conditions of abnormal operation of the appliance.

4 Components

4.1 Except as indicated in [4.2](#), a component of a product covered by this standard shall comply with the requirements for that component. See Appendix [A](#) for a list of standards covering components generally used in the products covered by this standard.

4.2 A component is not required to comply with a specific requirement that:

- a) Involves a feature or characteristic not required in the application of the component in the product covered by this standard, or
- b) Is superseded by a requirement in this standard.

4.3 A component shall be used in accordance with its rating established for the intended conditions of use.

4.4 Specific components are incomplete in construction features or restricted in performance capabilities. Such components are intended for use only under limited conditions, such as certain temperatures not exceeding specified limits, and shall be used only under those specific conditions.

5 Units of Measurement

5.1 Values stated without parentheses are the requirement. Values in parentheses are explanatory or approximate information.

6 Field-Attached Accessories

6.1 The requirements in [6.2](#) – [6.9](#) apply to accessories intended for installation on or connection to an appliance for the purpose of modifying or supplementing the functions of the appliance or accessory.

6.2 An appliance that has provision for the use of an accessory to be attached in the field shall be constructed so that the use of the accessory will not introduce a risk of fire, electric shock, or injury to persons.

6.3 The installation of an accessory by the user shall be restricted to an arrangement that can be accomplished by means of receptacles and plug-in connectors of other than the general-use or specific-purpose type.

6.4 The installation of an accessory by a qualified electrician or serviceman is acceptable if connections are made to existing terminals by use of wire connectors.

6.5 Accessories intended to be field wired shall be provided with a means for connection to the power-supply circuit of the appliance as specified in [11.1.1](#).

6.6 An appliance that has provision for field connection of a dispenser or the like shall include a circuit that provides a programmed signal to the dispenser.

6.7 Any installation that requires field rearrangement of components or wiring, cutting or splicing of wiring, or soldering of connections is not acceptable.

6.8 As part of the investigation, an accessory shall be tested and trial-installed to determine that installation is feasible, that the instructions are detailed and correct, and that the use of the accessory will not introduce a risk of fire, electric shock, or injury to persons.

6.9 An appliance that has provision for the field connection of an accessory and a field-attached accessory shall be marked as specified in [50.1](#) and [50.21](#) – [50.23](#), as applicable.

CONSTRUCTION

7 Frame and Enclosure

7.1 An appliance shall be formed and assembled so that it will have the strength and rigidity necessary to resist the abuses to which it may be subjected, without increasing the risk of fire, electric shock, or injury to persons due to total or partial collapse with resulting reduction of spacings, loosening or displacement of parts, or other serious defects.

7.2 An appliance shall be provided with an enclosure of material found by investigation to be acceptable for the application that shall house all parts that may present a risk of fire, electric shock, or injury to persons under any condition of use.

7.3 Among the factors that shall be taken into consideration when judging the acceptability of an enclosure material are its:

- a) Mechanical strength,
- b) Resistance to impact,
- c) Moisture – absorptive properties,
- d) Combustibility, and
- e) Resistance to distortion at temperatures to which the material may be subjected under conditions of normal or abnormal use.

7.4 An enclosure constructed of polymeric material shall comply with the requirements in Polymeric Materials, Section [44](#).

7.5 For an unreinforced, flat surface, cast metal shall not be less than 1/8-in (3.2-mm) thick, malleable iron shall not be less than 3/32-in (2.4-mm) thick, and die-cast metal shall not be less than 5/64-in (2.0-mm) thick.

Exception: Metal of lesser thickness but not less than 3/32 in, 1/16 in (1.6 mm), and 3/64 in (1.2 mm), respectively, may be acceptable provided the surface under consideration is:

- a) Curved, ribbed, or otherwise reinforced to provide mechanical strength equivalent to that required; or*
- b) Of a size or shape that provides mechanical strength equivalent to that required.*

7.6 An enclosure of sheet metal shall be judged with respect to size, shape, thickness of metal, and acceptability for the application considering the intended use of the complete appliance.

7.7 For an enclosure of sheet metal, sheet steel shall have a minimum thickness of 0.026 in (0.66 mm), aluminum shall have a minimum thickness of 0.036 in (0.91 mm), and copper or brass shall have a minimum thickness of 0.033 in (0.84 mm).

Exception: This requirement does not apply to an area that is relatively small or a surface that is curved or otherwise reinforced.

7.8 At a point where the power-supply conductors enter the enclosure, sheet metal shall not be less than 0.032 in (0.81 mm) thick if uncoated steel, not less than 0.034 in (0.86 mm) if galvanized steel, not less than 0.044 in (1.12 mm) if aluminum, and not less than 0.043 in (1.09 mm) if copper or brass.

7.9 In an automatic free-standing or recessed appliance, provision shall be made to prevent molten metal, burning insulation, or the like from falling upon combustible materials, including the surface on which the appliance is supported.

Exception: This requirement does not apply to the supporting surface of an appliance that is:

- a) Intended to be permanently bolted to an uncovered concrete floor,*
- b) Marked in accordance with [50.24](#), and*
- c) Provided with installation instructions that include a warning statement in accordance with [50.25](#).*

7.10 The requirement in [7.9](#) will necessitate the use of a barrier of noncombustible material:

a) Under a motor unless:

- 1) The structural parts of the motor or the appliance provide the equivalent of such a barrier;
- 2) The protection provided with the motor is such that no burning insulation or molten material falls to the surface that supports the appliance when the motor is energized under each of the following fault conditions:
 - i) Open main winding,
 - ii) Open starting winding,
 - iii) Starting switch short-circuited, and
 - iv) Capacitor of permanent-split capacitor motor short circuited – the short circuit is to be applied before the motor is energized, and the rotor is to be locked; or
- 3) The motor is provided with a thermal motor protector – a protective device that is sensitive to temperature and current – that will prevent the temperature of the motor windings from exceeding 125°C (257°F) under the maximum load under which the motor will run without causing the protector to cycle and from exceeding 150°C (302°F) with the rotor of the motor locked.

b) Under wiring, unless it is neoprene-or thermoplastic-insulated.

7.11 The requirement in [7.9](#) will also necessitate that a switch, a relay, a solenoid, or the like be individually and completely enclosed.

Exception No. 1: The terminals of a switch, a relay, a solenoid, or the like are not required to be individually and completely enclosed.

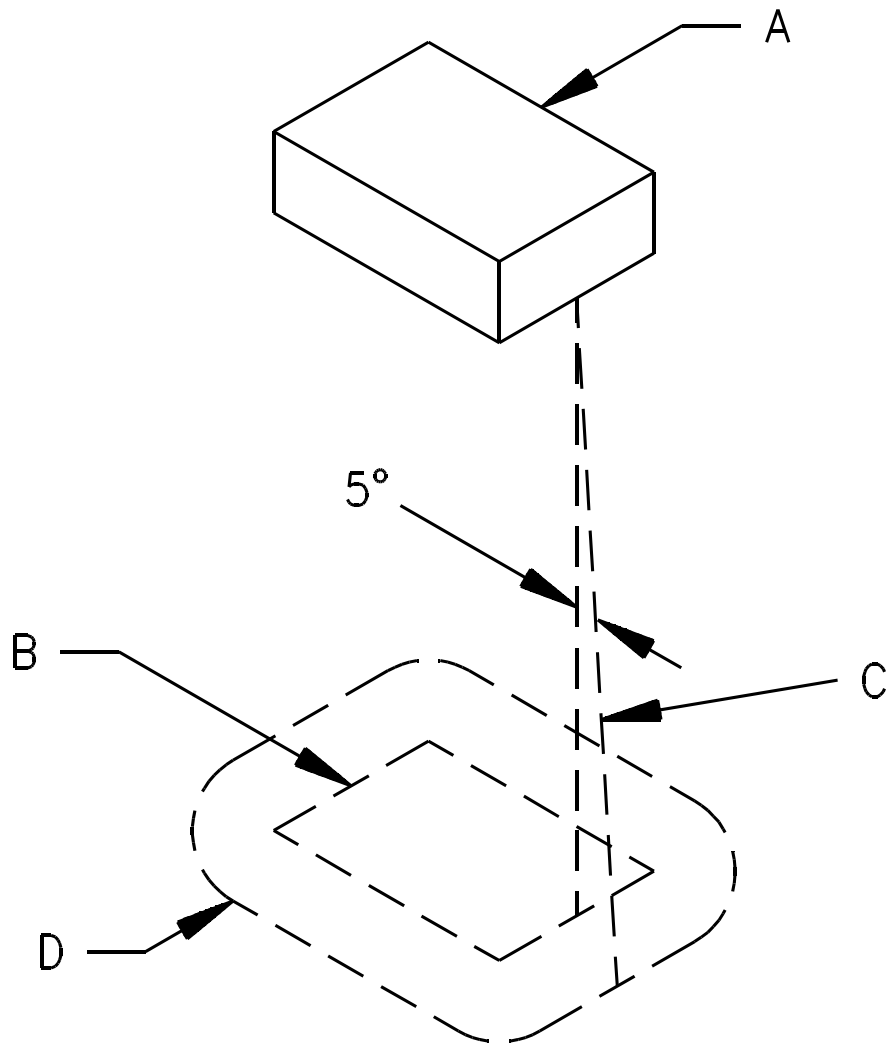
Exception No. 2: This requirement does not apply if malfunction of the component would not result in a risk of fire.

Exception No. 3: This requirement does not apply if there are no openings in the bottom of the appliance enclosure.

7.12 The barrier mentioned in [7.10](#) shall be horizontal, shall be located as illustrated in [Figure 7.1](#), and shall have an area in accordance with that illustration.

7.13 With reference to the barrier mentioned in [7.10](#), openings for drainage, ventilation, etc., may be employed in the barrier if such openings would not permit molten metal, burning insulation, or the like to fall on combustible material.

Figure 7.1
Location and extent of barrier



EB120A

NOTES –

A Region to be shielded by barrier. This will consist of the entire component if it is not otherwise shielded, and will consist of the unshielded portion of a component which is partially shielded by the component enclosure or equivalent.

B Projection of outline of component on horizontal plane.

C Inclined line that traces out minimum area of barrier. The line is always

- 1) Tangent to the component,
- 2) 5 degrees from the vertical, and
- 3) Oriented so that the area traced out on a horizontal plane is maximum.

D Location (horizontal) and minimum area for barrier. The area is that included inside the line of intersection traced out by the inclined line C and the horizontal plane of the barrier.

8 Accessibility of Uninsulated Live Parts and Film-Coated Wire

8.1 To reduce the likelihood of unintentional contact that involves a risk of electric shock from an uninsulated live part or film-coated wire, an opening in an enclosure shall comply with either (a) or (b).

- a) For an opening that has a minor dimension (see [8.5](#)) less than 1 in (25.4 mm), such a part or wire shall not be contacted by the probe illustrated in [Figure 8.1](#).
- b) For an opening that has a minor dimension of 1 in or more, such a part or wire shall be spaced from the opening as specified in [Table 8.1](#).

Exception: A motor need not comply with these requirements if the integral enclosure of the motor complies with the requirements in [8.2](#).

8.2 With respect to an integral enclosure of a motor as mentioned in the Exception to [8.1](#):

- a) An opening that has a minor dimension (see [8.5](#)) less than 3/4 in (19.1 mm) is acceptable if:
 - 1) Film-coated wire cannot be contacted by the probe illustrated in [Figure 8.3](#);
 - 2) In a directly accessible motor (see [8.6](#)), an uninsulated live part cannot be contacted by the probe illustrated in [Figure 8.4](#); and
 - 3) In an indirectly accessible motor (see [8.6](#)), an uninsulated live part cannot be contacted by the probe illustrated in [Figure 8.2](#).
- b) An opening that has a minor dimension of 3/4 in or more is acceptable if a part or wire is spaced from the opening as specified in [Table 8.1](#).

8.3 The probes mentioned in [8.1](#) and [8.2](#) and illustrated in [Figure 8.1](#), [Figure 8.2](#), [Figure 8.3](#), and [Figure 8.4](#) shall be applied to any depth that the opening will permit; and shall be rotated or angled before, during, and after insertion through the opening to any position that is necessary to examine the enclosure. The probes illustrated in [Figure 8.1](#) and [Figure 8.4](#) shall be applied in any possible configuration; and, if necessary, the configuration shall be changed after insertion through the opening.

8.4 The probes mentioned in [8.1](#) and [8.2](#) shall be used as measuring instruments to judge the accessibility provided by an opening, and not as instruments to judge the strength of a material; they shall be applied with the minimum force necessary to determine accessibility.

8.5 With reference to the requirements in [8.1](#) and [8.2](#), the minor dimension of an opening is the diameter of the largest cylindrical probe having a hemispherical tip that can be inserted through the opening.

8.6 With reference to the requirements in [8.2](#):

- a) An indirectly accessible motor is a motor that is:
 - 1) Accessible only by opening or removing a part of the outer enclosure, such as a guard or panel, that can be opened or removed without using a tool, or
 - 2) Located at such a height or is otherwise guarded or enclosed so that it is unlikely to be contacted.
- b) A directly accessible motor is a motor that:
 - 1) Can be contacted without opening or removing any part, or
 - 2) Is located so as to be accessible to contact.

8.7 With reference to the requirements in [8.1](#) and [8.2](#), insulated brush caps are not required to be additionally enclosed.

Table 8.1
Minimum acceptable distance from an opening to a part that may involve a risk of electric shock

Minor dimension of opening ^a		Minimum distance from opening to part	
in ^b	(mm)	in ^b	(mm)
3/4 ^c	(19.1)	4-1/2	(114.0)
1 ^c	(25.4)	6-1/2	(165.0)
1-1/4	(31.8)	7-1/2	(190.0)
1-1/2	(38.1)	12-1/2	(318.0)
1-7/8	(47.6)	15-1/2	(394.0)
2-1/8	(54.0)	17-1/2	(444.0)
d		30	(762.0)

^a See [8.5](#).
^b Between 3/4 in and 2-1/8 in, interpolation is to be used to determine a value between values specified in the table.
^c Any dimension less than 1 in applies to a motor only.
^d More than 2-1/8 in, but not more than 6 in (152.0 mm).

Figure 8.1
Articulate probe with web stop

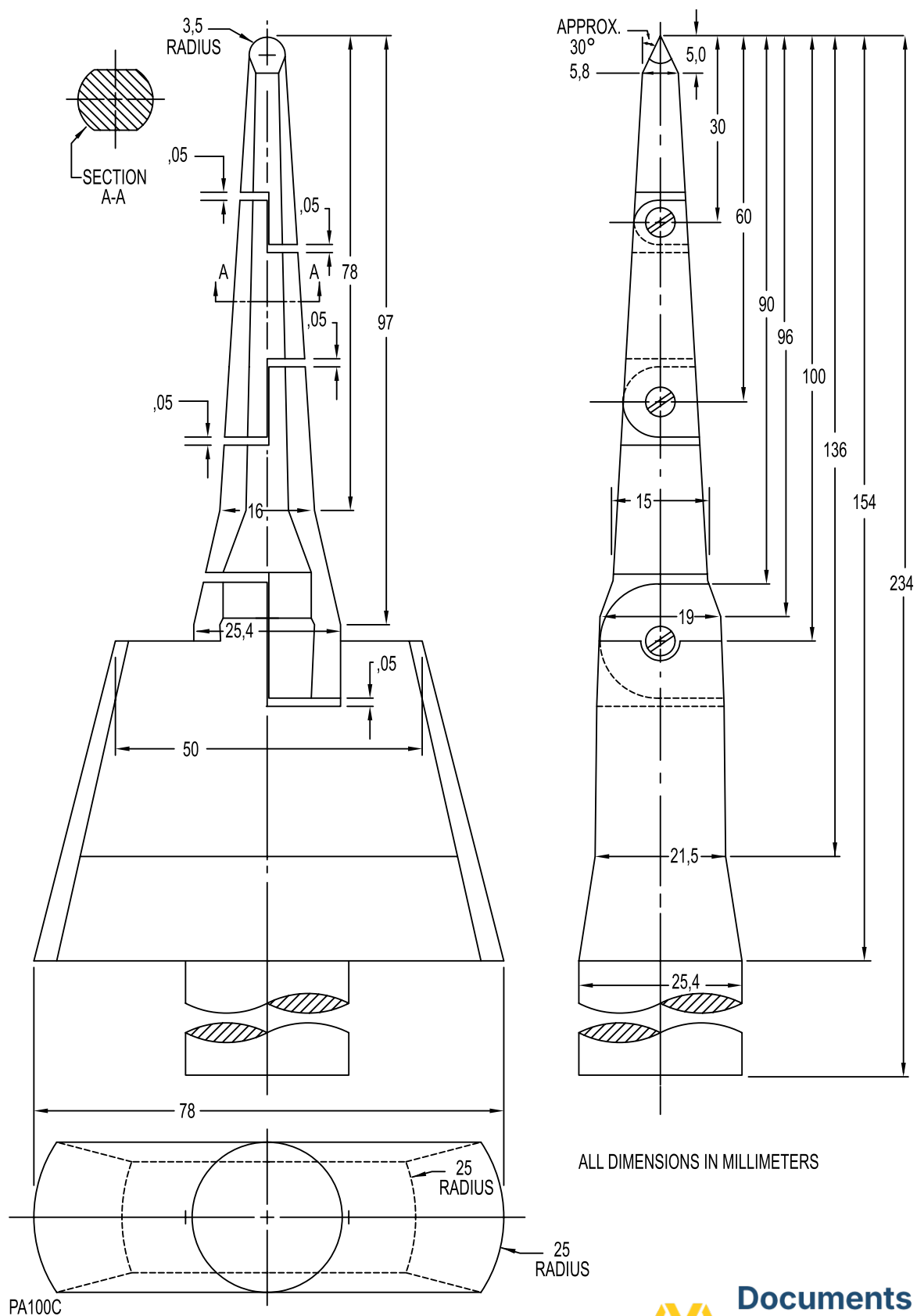


Figure 8.2
Probe for uninsulated live parts

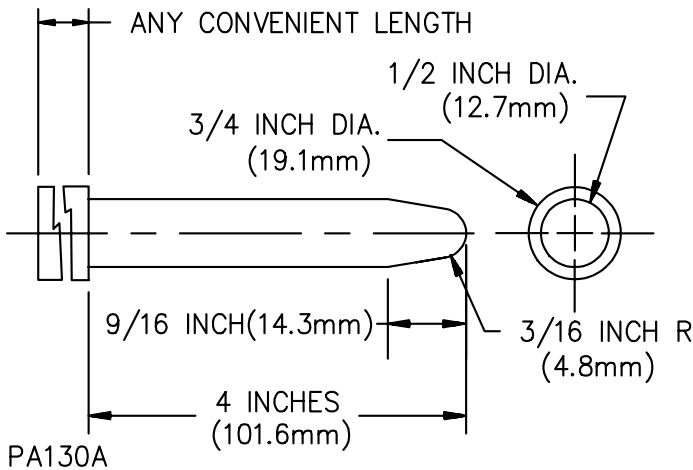


Figure 8.3
Probe for film-coated wire

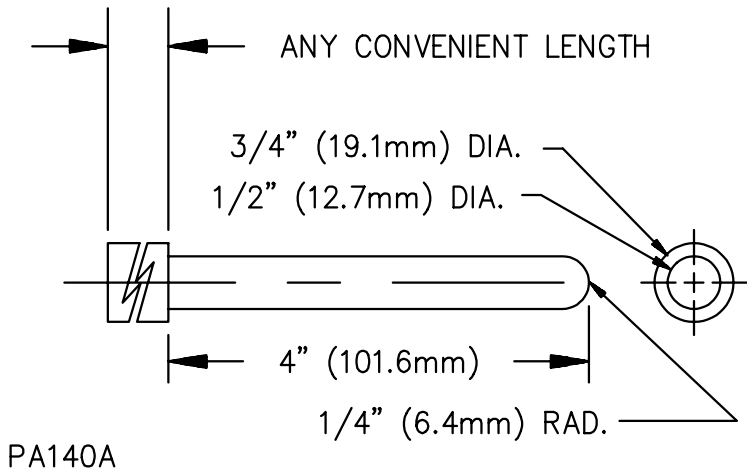
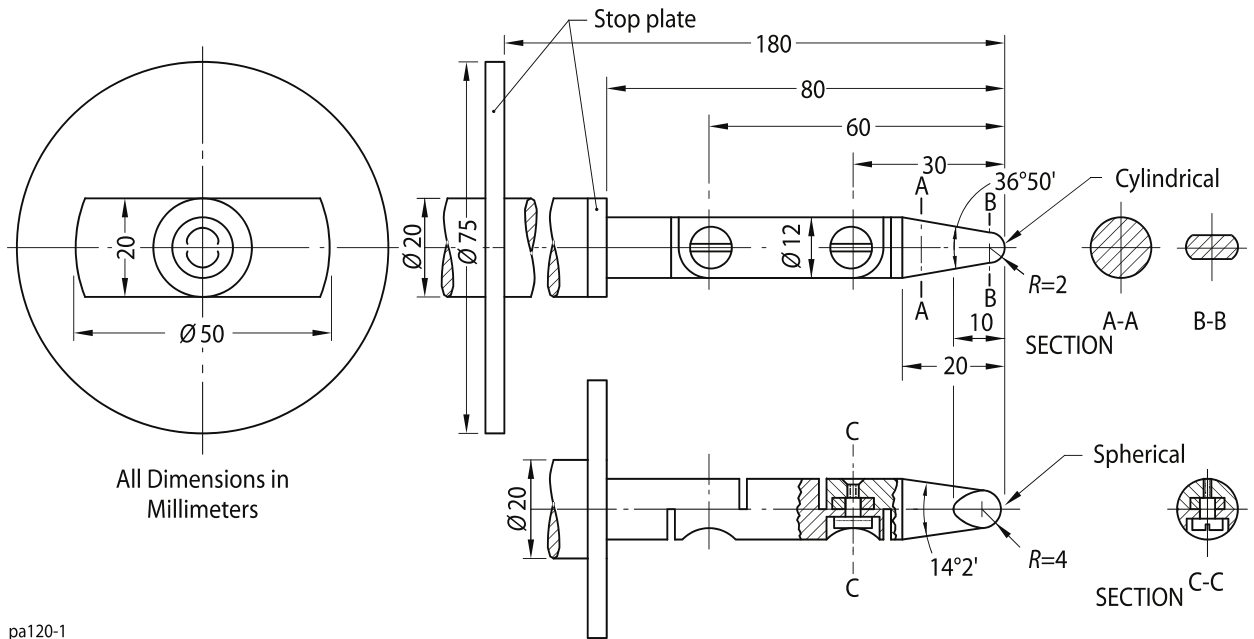


Figure 8.4

International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) articulate accessibility probe with stop plate
Courtesy of IEC



8.8 The requirements in [8.1](#), [8.2](#), and [28.2](#) apply to the back of a free-standing appliance and to the back and sides of a recessed appliance. They do not apply to the bottom of a free-standing or recessed appliance if the front, sides, and back of the appliance extend substantially to the surface upon which the appliance rests.

8.9 The bottom of the enclosure of a wall-insert appliance shall be complete and without openings.

8.10 A protective device, such as a fuse, the functioning of which requires renewal or replacement, shall be in a readily accessible location.

8.11 A protective device shall be wholly inaccessible from outside the appliance without opening a door or cover.

Exception: The operating handle of a circuit breaker, the operating button of a manually operable motor protector, and similar parts may project outside the appliance enclosure.

8.12 A door or a cover of an enclosure shall be hinged or otherwise attached in an equivalent manner if it gives access to any overload protective device, the functioning of which requires renewal, or if it is necessary to open the cover in connection with the operation of the protective device.

8.13 Means shall be provided for holding the door or cover over a fuseholder in a closed position, and the door or cover shall be tight fitting.

9 Mechanical Assembly

9.1 An appliance shall be assembled so that it will not be adversely affected by the vibration of normal operation. Brush caps shall be tightly threaded or otherwise designed to prevent loosening.

9.2 A switch, a lampholder, an attachment-plug receptacle, a motor-attachment plug, or similar component shall be mounted securely and shall be prevented from shifting or turning.

Exception No. 1: A switch need not be prevented from turning if all four of the following conditions are met:

- a) The switch is of a plunger or other type that does not tend to rotate when operated. A toggle switch is considered to be subject to forces that tend to rotate the switch during normal operation of the switch.*
- b) Means for mounting the switch make it unlikely that operation of the switch will loosen it.*
- c) Spacings are not reduced below the minimum acceptable values if the switch rotates.*
- d) Normal operations of the switch is by mechanical means rather than by direct contact by persons.*

Exception No. 2: A lampholder of the type in which the lamp cannot be replaced, such as a neon pilot or indicator light in which the lamp is sealed in by a nonremovable jewel, need not be prevented from turning if rotation cannot reduce spacings below the minimum acceptable values.

9.3 Means for preventing the rotation mentioned in [9.2](#) is to consist of more than friction between surfaces – for example, a lock washer, properly applied, may be used to prevent turning of a small stem-mounted switch or other device having a single-hole mounting means.

9.4 Electrical components shall be located so that there will be no collection of moisture on or flooding of such parts by condensed vapor dripping from pipes, tanks, etc.

10 Protection Against Corrosion

10.1 Surfaces of an iron or a steel part shall be protected against corrosion by enameling, galvanizing, plating, or other means that provide equivalent protection.

Exception No. 1: Bearings, balance weights, laminations, or minor parts of iron or steel such as washers, screws, etc are not required to comply.

Exception No. 2: A part of iron or steel is not required to comply if corrosion or breakage of such a part is not likely to result in a risk of fire, electric shock, or injury to persons.

11 Power-Supply Connections

11.1 General

11.1.1 An appliance shall be provided with wiring terminals or leads for the connection of conductors that will be connected in the field and means for connection of a wiring system.

Exception: An appliance other than a wall insert type may be provided with a flexible cord and an attachment plug for connection to the supply circuit.

11.1.2 A field-wiring terminal is considered to be a terminal to which a wire may be connected in the field, unless the wire and a means of making the connection, such as a pressure wire connector, soldering lugs, soldered loop, or crimped eyelet, factory-assembled to the wire, are provided as a part of the appliance.

11.2 Permanently connected appliances

11.2.1 Terminal compartments

11.2.1.1 An outlet or terminal box in which connections to the supply circuit will be made shall be located so that, after the appliance has been installed as intended, such connections will be readily accessible for inspection.

11.2.1.2 The requirement in [11.2.1.1](#) necessitates the terminal box of a wall-insert appliance be located so it will be accessible without moving the appliance after installation.

11.2.1.3 An outlet box, terminal box, wiring compartment, or the like in which connections to the supply circuit will be made in the field shall be free from any sharp edge, including screw threads, a burr, a fin, a moving part, or the like that could damage the insulation on a conductor.

11.2.1.4 If it is intended that the supply connections be made to the motor of an appliance, the terminal compartment on the motor shall comply with the requirements for terminal compartments in the Standard for Electric Motors, UL 1004.

11.2.2 Wiring terminals and leads

11.2.2.1 Wiring terminals or leads intended for connection of the conductors of the supply circuit shall be acceptable for the connection of conductors having an ampacity not less than the rating of the branch circuit marked on the appliance.

11.2.2.2 A wiring terminal shall be provided with a soldering lug or with a pressure wire connector securely fastened in place – for example, firmly bolted or held by a screw. A connection device that depends on solder shall not be used for the connection of an equipment-ground-conductor.

Exception: A wire-binding screw may be employed at a wiring terminal intended to accommodate a 10 AWG (5.3 mm²) or smaller conductor if upturned lugs or the equivalent are provided to hold the wire in position.

11.2.2.3 A wiring terminal shall be prevented from turning.

11.2.2.4 A wire-binding screw shall thread into metal.

11.2.2.5 A wire-binding screw at a wiring terminal shall not be smaller than No. 10.

Exception: A No. 8 screw may be used at a terminal intended only for the connection of a 14 AWG (2.1 mm²) conductor.

11.2.2.6 A terminal plate tapped for a wire-binding screw shall be of metal not less than 0.050-in (1.27-mm) thick and shall not have less than two full threads in the metal.

Exception: An alloy plate not less than 0.030-in (0.76-mm) thick may be used if the tapped threads have equivalent mechanical strength.