

UL 1286

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Office Furnishings

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UL Standard for Safety for Office Furnishings, UL 1286

Fourth Edition, Dated October 21, 1999

Revisions: This Standard contains revisions through and including July 30, 2004.

SUMMARY OF TOPICS

The revisions dated July 30, 2004 include:

- ***The correction of an incorrect reference in paragraph 18.1.***
- ***New optional marking requirements that reference an internet web address for the installation, operating, and maintenance instructions.***

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Text that has been changed in any manner is marked with a vertical line in the margin. Changes in requirements are marked with a vertical line in the margin and are followed by an effective date note indicating the date of publication or the date on which the changed requirement becomes effective.

The new and revised requirements are substantially in accordance with UL's Bulletin(s) on this subject dated April 15, 2004. The bulletin(s) is now obsolete and may be discarded.

The revisions dated July 30, 2004 include a reprinted title page (page1) for this Standard.

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The requirements in this Standard are now in effect, except for those paragraphs, sections, tables, figures, and/or other elements of the Standard having future effective dates as indicated in the note following the affected item. The prior text for requirements that have been revised and that have a future effective date are located after the Standard, and are preceded by a "SUPERSEDED REQUIREMENTS" notice.

New product submittals made prior to a specified future effective date will be judged under all of the requirements in this Standard including those requirements with a specified future effective date, unless the applicant specifically requests that the product be judged under the current requirements. However, if

the applicant elects this option, it should be noted that compliance with all the requirements in this Standard will be required as a condition of continued Listing, Recognition, and Follow-Up Services after the effective date, and understanding of this should be signified in writing.

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Page	Date
1-6	July 30, 2004
7	October 31, 2002
8-8B	May 4, 2001
9	October 21, 1999
10-11	May 4, 2001
12	October 21, 1999
13-14B	May 4, 2001
15-16	October 31, 2002
16A-16B	May 4, 2001
17-21	October 21, 1999
22-24B	May 4, 2001
25-26	October 21, 1999
27	July 30, 2004
28-28B	May 4, 2001
29-30	October 21, 1999
31-32	May 4, 2001
33-34B	October 31, 2002
35-38	October 21, 1999
39-40	May 4, 2001
41	October 21, 1999
42-43	May 4, 2001
44	October 31, 2002
44A-44B	May 4, 2001
45	October 21, 1999
46-46B	October 31, 2002
47	October 21, 1999
48-50	July 30, 2004
A1	July 30, 2004
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1

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An effective date included as a note immediately following certain requirements is one established by Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

Revisions of this Standard will be made by issuing revised or additional pages bearing their date of issue. A UL Standard is current only if it incorporates the most recently adopted revisions, all of which are itemized on the transmittal notice that accompanies the latest set of revised requirements.

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No Text on This Page

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

1 Scope	7
2 Glossary	7
3 Components	10
4 General	11
4.1 Units of measurement	11
4.2 References	11

CONSTRUCTION

5 Frame and Enclosure	11
5.1 General	11
5.2 Raceways of metallic materials	11
5.3 Raceways of polymeric material	13
5.4 Cord channels	14
6 Accessibility Of Parts	14
6.1 General	14
6.2 Contacts	15
7 Mechanical Assembly	15
7.1 General	15
7.2 Raceway	16
7.3 Mechanical connectors	16A
7.4 Glass panels	16A
8 Protection Against Corrosion	16A
9 Power-Supply Connections	17
9.1 General	17
9.2 Permanently connected systems	17
9.3 Cord-connected unit	19
10 Internal Wiring	19
11 Grounding	21
12 Electrical Connecting Assemblies	21
12.1 Unit-to-unit, pass-through-unit, and top- and base-feed	21
12.2 System Jumpers	23
12.3 Mating connectors	24
12.4 Convenience receptacles	24
13 Strain Relief	24A
14 Bushings	25
15 Spacings	25
16 Accessories	25
17 Office Furnishing Lighting Units	26
18 Flammability Of Materials	27

PROTECTION AGAINST INJURY TO PERSONS

19 Stability Tests	28
19.1 General	28
19.2 Force	28
19.3 Impact	28A
20 Mechanical Strength Tests	29

20.1 General	29
20.2 Work surface	31
20.3 Shelving	32
20.4 Work surfaces with suspended drawers	33
20.5 Panel systems with cross-members over walkways	33

PERFORMANCE

21 Grounding-Impedance Test	34
22 Dielectric Voltage-Withstand Test	34A
23 Temperature Test	34B
23.1 Accessories	34B
23.2 Lighting attachments	35
24 Overload and Endurance Tests	35
25 Strength of Enclosure Tests	35
25.1 Impact test – all enclosures	35
25.2 Impact test – furnishing-supporting enclosures	36
25.3 Compression test	36
25.4 Deflection test	37
25.5 Mold-stress test	37
25.6 Snap-fit cover	38
26 Tightening Torque Test	38
27 Glass Panel Tests	38
27.1 Impact	38
27.2 Retention	39
28 Mechanical Connector Tests	39
28.1 Conditioning	39
28.2 Flexing	40
29 Electrical Connecting Assemblies Test	40
30 Resistance To Corrosion Test	41
31 Strain-Relief Tests	42
31.1 General	42
31.2 Top- and base-feed connections	42
31.3 Unit-to-unit and pass-through-unit electrical connections	43
32 Conductor Secureness Test	43
33 Mating Connector Separation Tests	44
34 Spill Test	44
35 Knockout Test	44A

MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION LINE TESTS

36 Grounding Continuity Test	45
37 Dielectric Voltage-Withstand Test	45

MARKINGS

38 Details	46
39 Installation and Operating Instructions	49

APPENDIX A

Standards for Components.....	A1
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CANADIAN REQUIREMENTS COMPARISON GUIDE CRG 1286

UL AND CANADIAN STANDARDS FOR OFFICE FURNISHINGS CRG1

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INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 These requirements cover office furnishing panels, study carrels, work stations, and pedestal-style systems that are mechanically interconnected to form an office furnishing system in accordance with the National Electrical Code, ANSI/NFPA 70. These are able to be provided with an electrical distribution system, including switches, and receptacles, and channels for routing communication cables within system components separate from electrical raceways. Office furnishing systems include filing cabinets, desks, work surfaces, shelves, storage units, and similar items that have a particular electrical or mechanical function unique to an office furnishing system.

1.2 These requirements also cover lighting units intended to be mechanically attached to particular components within an individual device or office furnishing system.

1.3 These requirements do not cover panels that are intended to penetrate the ceiling, or that are used to support the building structure.

1.4 *Deleted October 31, 2002*

2 Glossary

2.1 For the purposes of this Standard the following definitions apply.

2.2 **ACCESSIBLE PART** – A part located so that it is capable of being contacted by a person, either directly or as determined using the probe illustrated in Figure 6.1.

2.3 **ACCESSORY** – An electrical component that is intended to be attached in the field or to be shipped separately; for example, a raceway, a top- or base-feed, a fixture, or similar component.

2.4 **CHANNEL** – A passage intended for the routing and holding of communication wiring, low-voltage wiring, and wiring having functional insulation plus a layer of supplementary insulation. A channel is not required to provide mechanical protection, and is not evaluated as a raceway.

2.5 **CLASS 2 CIRCUIT** – A circuit having power and voltage limitations as defined in the National Electrical Code, ANSI/NFPA 70, Article 725. To determine whether a circuit is within Class 2 limits, measurements shall be made in accordance with the Standard for Class 2 and Class 3 Transformers, UL 1585, or the Standard for Class 2 Power Units, UL 1310.

2.6 **CONNECTING ASSEMBLY, UNIT-TO-UNIT ELECTRICAL** – A component that is used to electrically connect unit raceways of two or more adjacent, mechanically connected units.

2.7 **CONNECTOR, UNIT-TO-UNIT MECHANICAL** – An assembly that is used to connect two or more adjacent units for the purpose of providing mechanical support between the units.

2.8 CORE – That portion of an office furnishing structural unit from one outside surface to its opposite outside surface, excluding decorative trim, electrical hardware, and mechanical supporting feet or glides.

2.9 FEED, BASE – A raceway that contains or routes the supply conductors from a branch-circuit supply located in the ceiling, floor, or a wall to the base of the starter unit.

2.10 FEED, TOP – A raceway that contains or routes the supply conductors from a branch-circuit supply located in the ceiling or a wall to the upper portion of the starter unit.

2.11 FIELD-WIRING TERMINAL – A terminal to which a conductor is intended to be connected in the field.

2.12 FURNISHING SYSTEM – An arrangement of interconnected or individual units, work stations, study carrels, and similar types of products. A furnishing system is defined as being of one of the following three types:

Type I – A system that provides all required parts and employs prewired modular raceways and accessories requiring only quick connect and disconnect means for electrical connections, other than the permanent connection to the branch-circuit supply. A Type I system is not prohibited from being shipped with accessories:

- a) Installed in the panel; or
- b) Installed in the field when the accessories are marked for use in the system.

Type II – A system that provides raceways for the routing and termination of wiring in the field. Wiring assemblies, when provided, are not always complete. This type of system requires inspection of the wiring by the local authorities.

Type III – A system that is not intended to be wired and has no provision for the routing and termination of wiring.

2.13 INSULATION, FUNCTIONAL – The insulation that is required for the intended operation of the product.

2.14 INSULATION, SUPPLEMENTARY – A separate layer of insulation that is provided in addition to the functional insulation to reduce the risk of electric shock in the event of breakdown of the functional insulation.

2.15 RACEWAY – A completely enclosed channel intended specifically for the holding and routing of system wiring, where the conductors of electric light and power systems are separate from the conductors of Class 2 circuit systems. A raceway provides mechanical protection to the internal system wiring.

2.16 RACEWAY, FURNISHING – A raceway that is physically supported by a furnishing after installation or is integral to a furnishing.

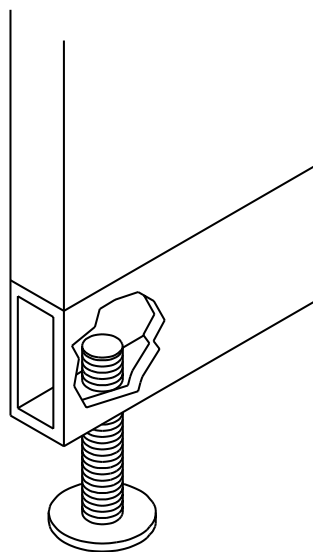
2.17 RACEWAY, FURNISHING-SUPPORTING – A raceway that the furnishing rests directly upon, or to which supporting feet or glides are mechanically connected. See Figure 2.1.

2.18 RACEWAY, PASS-THROUGH FURNISHING – A raceway that is electrically connected between other raceways and does not have provisions for convenience receptacles or other means for drawing power from the supply source.

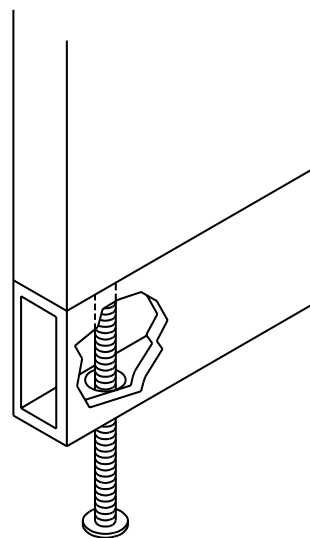
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Figure 2.1
Furnishing-supporting raceway



PANEL-SUPPORTING
RACEWAY



NON-SUPPORTING
RACEWAY

S3155A

2.19 STARTER UNIT – The unit that is connected to the external supply source and that sometimes has provision for electrical connection of additional portions of an office furnishing system. The physical location of the starter unit within the system is not specified, however, a series of electrically interconnected units forming a wall has a single starter unit.

2.20 STARTER UNIT, FIXED – A starter unit that is intended for permanent attachment to the building structure. A unit is permanently attached when the unit is secured and supported by mechanical fastening to the building structure. A bracket or similar arrangement that has no positive fastening means, such as a bolt or screw, to secure the unit is not permanent attachment, nor is an arrangement that serves only to stabilize the unit.

2.21 STARTER UNIT, FREESTANDING – A starter unit that is not intended for permanent attachment to the building structure and is not provided with means for such attachment.

2.22 UNIT – A component, the primary purpose of which is to form an office furnishing system or a portion of a system.

2.23 UNIT INSERT – A separable portion of a panel (excluding decorative trim, electrical components, and structural elements of the unit) that is intended to be removed or replaced in the field, with or without the use of tools.

2.24 USER SERVICING – Any form of servicing that is intended to be performed by personnel other than qualified service personnel. Some examples of user servicing are:

- a) The attachment of accessories by means of attachment plugs and receptacles or by means of other separable connections.

b) The replacement of:

- 1) Fuses and lamps that are accessible without the use of tools, and
- 2) Lamps such as those employed for ambient lighting and that require frequent replacement, whether or not the operation requires the use of tools.

c) The disconnection or connection of a unit, excluding a permanently connected starter unit, constructed so that the user is not exposed to functionally insulated or uninsulated live parts.

d) The laying in of communication-type cables or telephone cord in a cord-management trough or a designated communication channel.

2.25 WORK SURFACE – Any surface that has a depth greater than 20 in (510 mm) and is intended for use at a height of 50 in (1270 mm) or less.

3 Components

3.1 Other than as indicated in 3.2, 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 used in the products covered by this Standard.

3.2 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.

3.2 revised May 4, 2001

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

3.3 revised May 4, 2001

3.4 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.

3.4 revised May 4, 2001

3.5 Electromagnetic-interference filters, relocatable power taps, and transient voltage surge suppressors that are used in office furnishing systems to operate on 50 to 60 Hz power circuits shall comply, in addition to the applicable requirements in this Standard, with the applicable requirements in the Standards for Electromagnetic-Interference Filters, UL 1283; Relocatable Power Taps, UL 1363; and Transient Voltage Surge Suppressors, UL 1449; respectively.

3.6 Relays and similar non-manually controlled devices which are used to switch entire supply circuits on and off on a regular basis, such as with an energy management system, shall comply with Overload and Endurance Test, Section 24.

4 General

4.1 Units of measurement

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

4.1.1 revised May 4, 2001

4.2 References

4.2.1 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.

CONSTRUCTION

5 Frame and Enclosure

5.1 General

5.1.1 An office furnishing system shall be formed and assembled so that it has the strength, stability, and rigidity to resist the abuses to which it is subjected without resulting in a risk of fire, electric shock, or injury to persons. See Strength of Enclosure Tests, Section 25.

5.1.2 A frame, a guard, a handle, or similar part, or an exposed portion of an enclosure, such as an edge, projection, or corner, shall be smooth and rounded, and not be so sharp as to result in a risk of injury to persons during intended use and maintenance of the product. Compliance shall be determined in accordance with the requirements in the Standard for Tests for Sharpness of Edges on Equipment, UL 1439.

5.2 Raceways of metallic materials

5.2.1 A metal raceway employed as the enclosure for live parts and as the only means of protecting electrical components against mechanical abuse shall be of sheet metal complying with the dimensions specified in Table 5.1, or of other sheet metal providing protection for wiring equivalent to that afforded by the steel or iron sheet covered in Table 5.1 as determined by the equivalence of thickness tests described in Strength of Enclosure Tests, Section 25.

Exception: For a sheet-metal raceway that is recessed or otherwise protected from mechanical abuse so that a 2-in (51-mm) diameter sphere is not able to contact the raceway, having a minimum wall thickness as specified in Table 5.2 complies with the requirement. For the purpose of this exception, a knockout or an area for unit-to-unit or unit-to-branch circuit electrical connection is not recessed or protected from mechanical abuse.

Table 5.1
Dimensions of sheet-metal raceway

Material	Minimum thickness, in (mm)						Maximum width of break-off areas,	
	Break-off areas		Knockouts and other points of connection for a wiring system		Elsewhere than at break-off areas of points of connection for a wiring system		in	(mm)
Steel or iron sheet or coil	0.017	(0.43)	0.036	(0.91)	0.025	(0.64)	1/32	(0.8)
Sheet aluminum	0.024	(0.61)	0.050	(1.27)	0.035	(0.89)	1/32	(0.8)

Table 5.2
Thickness of recessed metal raceway

Material	Minimum thickness	
	in	(mm)
Uncoated sheet steel	0.023	(0.58)
Sheet aluminum	0.029	(0.74)

5.2.2 A raceway or fitting base shall have a uniform wall thickness throughout its entire length, other than at points of reduced thickness that facilitate removal of knockouts. Both inside and outside surfaces of each length of an iron or steel raceway or fitting base shall be free of scale and rust and shall be in a condition that enables the protective coating to adhere firmly and have a smooth surface.

5.2.3 A metal cap or cover for a raceway or fitting base shall be at least as thick as specified in Table 5.1 and shall comply with the applicable requirements in this section.

5.2.4 The thickness of the finished product is to be measured with a machinist's micrometer caliper calibrated and read directly to at least 0.001 in or 0.01 mm. Measurements are to be made at five different locations on each sample examined.

5.2.5 A cast metal part shall be at least as thick as specified in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3
Thickness of cast metal parts

Material	Minimum thickness,	
	in	(mm)
Malleable iron	3/32	(2.4)
Iron other than malleable iron	1/8	(3.2)
Die-cast nonferrous:		
Part is ribbed or otherwise reinforced	1/16	(1.6)
Part is not ribbed or otherwise reinforced	3/32	(2.4)
Cast nonferrous other than die-cast	3/32	(2.4)

5.3 Raceways of polymeric material

5.3.1 The material thickness of a polymeric raceway, including a cap or cover, is not specified. A polymeric raceway employed as the enclosure for live parts and as the sole means of protecting electrical components against mechanical abuse shall have the strength to resist the mechanical stresses to which it is subjected during intended use of the product.

5.3.2 A polymeric material that is intended to support an outlet, fitting, or other part shall have the strength and rigidity required for the application.

5.3.3 To determine compliance with 5.3.1 and 5.3.2, a polymeric enclosure part is to be subjected to the equivalence of thickness and mold stress tests specified in Strength of Enclosure Tests, Section 25, as applicable.

Exception: A polymeric connector employed only as an enclosure of live parts and not the sole means of protecting electrical components against mechanical abuse is not required to comply with Strength of Enclosure Tests, Section 25.

5.3.3 revised May 4, 2001

5.3.4 A polymeric material used as the sole enclosure for live parts (other than low-voltage) shall be Class V-0, 5VA, or 5VB in accordance with the Standard for Tests for Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances, UL 94.

Exception: A polymeric component, such as a receptacle, mating attachment plug for receptacle, or convenience receptacle that complies with the requirements in the Standard for Attachment Plugs and Receptacles, UL 498, meets the intent of this requirement.

5.3.5 Unless superseded by other requirements in this Section, a polymeric enclosure part shall comply with the enclosure requirements in the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Use in Electrical Equipment Evaluations, UL 746C.

5.4 Cord channels

5.4.1 A channel (for example, a snap-on wire router) employed or supplied for the purpose of routing flexible cord of accessories or portable appliances used with the system shall:

- a) Be securely fastened to and supported by a single unit or work surface of the system, or the equivalent,
- b) Be smooth and free of burrs, sharp edges, or other projections that damage the insulation on the cord,
- c) Be provided for cord routing only from a work surface or similar area to a receptacle either on the work surface or the unit to which the surface is mounted, or on an immediately adjacent office furnishing unit,
- d) Not provide for the routing of cord across the full width of an office furnishing unit. See 38.12, 38.13, and 39.6, and

Exception: A channel attached to a work surface is able to extend across more than the full width of a panel where the channel does not extend for the full width of the work surface.

- e) Have provision, without the use of tools, for the cord to be disconnected from the source of supply and examined for the entire length of the cord.

6 Accessibility Of Parts

6.1 General

6.1.1 Live parts of an office furnishing system shall be enclosed to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock, and injury to persons. See 7.2.2.

Exception No. 1: A part in a Class 2 circuit is not required to be enclosed. See 2.5.

Exception No. 2: A unit-to-unit electrical connecting assembly complying with the requirements in 12.1.4 – 12.1.6 and a contact opening of a receptacle that complies with the requirement in 6.2.1 are not required to be further enclosed.

6.1.2 A raceway enclosing uninsulated live parts shall be complete and shall require the use of a tool or tools to gain access to those parts. See 7.2.2.

6.1.3 A raceway enclosing functionally insulated live parts shall be complete and reliably secured in place. See 7.2.2.

6.1.4 A snap-fit cover, a cover secured by 1/4-turn screws, or a similar cover, that is secured to a rigidly-supported raceway member is able to be used as the enclosure of functionally insulated wiring when:

- a) The cover complies with the applicable snap-fit cover tests specified in Strength of Enclosure Tests, Section 25,
- b) Where metallic, the cover is reliably connected to the ground return path by means other than simple friction between surfaces.

6.1.5 With reference to 6.1.4, the system shall comply with one of the following:

- a) The installation of communication or low-voltage cable or wiring does not require access to the enclosed functionally insulated parts, or
- b) Functionally insulated wiring that is accessible when installing communication or low-voltage wiring is reliably held in place so that it is not unintentionally displaced or requires handling during the installation of the communication or low-voltage wiring.

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