

SUMMARY OF TOPICS

The following changes in requirements are being proposed:

1. Revised Marking and Instructions Requirements to Inform Users to Loop Cord Loosely When Storing

STP BALLOTS DUE: May 12, 2006

For your convenience in review, proposed additions to existing requirements are shown underlined and proposed deletions are shown ~~lined-out~~.

1. Revised Marking and Instructions Requirements to Inform Users to Loop Cord Loosely When Storing

RATIONALE

Proposal submitted by: Joel Hawk, UL.

There has been an increase in field incidents related to damaged supply and interconnection cords of electric heating pads, particularly at the strain relief of the in-line controller. One cause of breakdown attributed to this is related to the means by which users commonly store these products.

Tight wrapping of the supply and interconnection cords around the heating pad creates a reduced bend radius at the edge of the strain relief or at the point where cords enter/exit the in-line controllers. This increases the likelihood of:

- 1) Damage to the internal conductors resulting in a risk of arcing; and/or
- 2) Damage to the conductor insulation resulting in an increased risk of electric shock. In addition, tight wrapping around the non-rigid enclosure of the heating pad may cause undue mechanical stress on internal electrical parts within the pad.

The following addition to the required danger markings and safety instructions are being proposed to reduce the likelihood of the storage practice described above. Note that these forms of storage use are also addressed in other handheld portable appliance standards such as the Standard for Household Electric Personal Grooming Appliances, UL 859, and the Standard for Electric Flatirons, UL 1005.

PROPOSAL

46.3 A pad surface shall be marked with a permanent warning against any of the principal abuses to which the pad is capable of being subjected. The warning shall be separate from any other markings, and shall include the following wording, or its equivalent, in lettering as described in Table 46.1. Additional items shall be specified as required for the particular pad.

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Exception No. 1: A specialty pad, as described in 46.4, is required to only include the markings specified in 46.4.

Exception No. 2: Those treated fabric-envelope heating pads which are not provided with a supplementary cover are not required to include the markings specified in Items 6 and 12.

DANGER^c

TO REDUCE THE RISK OF BURNS, ELECTRIC SHOCK, AND FIRE, THIS PRODUCT MUST BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS^a

1. DO NOT USE WHILE SLEEPING. ^{a or b}
2. DO NOT USE ON AN INFANT. ^{a or b}
3. THIS PAD IS NOT TO BE USED BY OR ON AN INVALID, SLEEPING OR UNCONSCIOUS PERSON, OR A PERSON WITH POOR BLOOD CIRCULATION UNLESS CAREFULLY ATTENDED. ^{a or b}
4. DO NOT USE ON AREAS OF INSENSITIVE SKIN. ^{a or b}
5. BURNS CAN OCCUR REGARDLESS OF CONTROL SETTING, CHECK SKIN UNDER PAD FREQUENTLY. ^{a or b}
6. NEVER USE PAD WITHOUT COVER IN PLACE ^{a or b} (hospital pads if provided with cover and all household pads).
7. DO NOT USE IN OXYGEN ATMOSPHERE ^a (applies to hospital pads).
8. DO NOT USE PINS OR OTHER METALLIC MEANS TO FASTEN THIS PAD IN PLACE. ^a
9. DO NOT SIT ON OR CRUSH PAD – AVOID SHARP FOLDS. ^a
10. NEVER PULL THIS PAD BY THE SUPPLY CORD. ^a
11. DO NOT USE THE CORD AS A HANDLE. ^a
12. CAREFULLY EXAMINE INNER COVER BEFORE EACH USE. DISCARD THE PAD IF INNER COVERING SHOWS ANY SIGN OF DETERIORATION. ^{a or b}
13. LOOP CORD LOOSELY WHEN STORING. TIGHT WRAPPING MAY DAMAGE CORD AND INTERNAL PARTS. ^a
- ~~13,14.~~ READ AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS ON BOX OR PACKED WITH PAD BEFORE USING. ^{a or b}

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