



UL 2438

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Standard for Safety

Outdoor Seasonal-Use Cord-Connected Wiring Devices



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UL Standard for Safety for Outdoor Seasonal-Use Cord-Connected Wiring Devices, UL 2438

First Edition, Dated June 30, 2006

Summary of Topics

This revision of ANSI/UL 2438 is being issued to incorporate a clarification of electrical rating requirements for switches.

Text that has been changed in any manner or impacted by UL's electronic publishing system 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 revised requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated April 29, 2011.

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JUNE 30, 2006
(Title Page Reprinted: August 2, 2011)



ANSI/UL 2438-2011

1

UL 2438

Standard for Outdoor Seasonal-Use Cord-Connected Wiring Devices

First Edition

June 30, 2006

This ANSI/UL Standard for Safety consists of the First edition including revisions through August 2, 2011.

The most recent designation of UL 2438 as an American National Standard (ANSI) occurred on August 2, 2011. ANSI approval for a standard does not include the Cover Page, Transmittal Pages, Title Page, or effective date information.

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

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

1 Scope	5
2 Components	5
3 Units of Measurement	6
4 Undated References	6

CONSTRUCTION

5 General	6
6 Flexible Cord	7
7 Fittings	7
8 Drain Openings	10
9 Gaskets	10
10 Fittings Intended to Accommodate Fuses or Overcurrent Protection	11
10A Devices Employing Remote Control Features	12A

PERFORMANCE

11 Representative Devices	13
12 Comparative Tracking Index Test	14
13 Glow Wire Test	14
14 High-Current Arc Resistance to Ignition	14
15 Mold Stress Relief Test	16
16 Moisture Absorption Resistance Test	17
17 Conductor Secureness Test	17
18 Leakage Current Test	18
19 Leakage Current Following Humidity Conditioning	20
20 Fuseholder Temperature Test	21
21 Fuseholder Crush Test	22
22 Fuseholder Cover Test	23
23 Strain Relief Test	23
24 Rain and Sprinkler Test	24
24.1 Test method – general	24
24.2 Test method – rain test	24
24.3 Test method – sprinkler test	27
24.4 Test results	29
25 Gasket Test	29
26 Gasket Adhesion Test	29
27 Ultraviolet (UV) Light Exposure Test	30
27.1 General	30
27.2 UV conditioning	30
28 Impact Test	31
29 Cold Impact Test	33
30 Resistance to Crushing Test	34
31 Adhesive Test	34
32 Calibration Test	35
33 Fault Current Test	35
34 Retention of Plugs Tests	36
35 Overload Test	36

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36	Temperature Test	37
37	Retention of Plugs Test (Repeated)	38
37.1	General	38
37.2	Plug retention	38
37.3	Plug withdrawal	39
38	Resistance to Arcing Test	39
39	Grounding Contact Test	39
40	Component Temperature Test	44

RATING

41	General	45
----	---------------	----

MARKINGS

42	General	45
----	---------------	----

PACKAGING AND USE INSTRUCTIONS

43	General	47
----	---------------	----

APPENDIX A

Standards for Components.....	A1
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INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 The requirements of this Standard cover outdoor seasonal-use cord-connected wiring devices that are intended for temporary outdoor use – not to exceed 90 days – with outdoor equipment, Christmas-tree, and other seasonal decorative-lighting outfits. Some outdoor seasonal-use cord-connected wiring devices employ additional devices such as photoelectric sensors, fuses, supplementary protectors and timers. Products employing additional devices shall meet the intent and testing described in this Standard.

1.1 effective June 30, 2011

1.2 These requirements only cover devices rated 15 A, 125 V, and of the 2-pole, 3-wire, 5-15 configuration as shown in Wiring Devices – Dimensional Specifications, ANSI/NEMA WD6.

1.2 effective June 30, 2011

1.3 These requirements cover devices with remote control features that comply with the Standard for Solid-State Controls for Appliances, UL 244A. See Devices Employing Remote Control Features, Section 10A. Compliance with the Standard for Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use, Part 1: General Requirements, UL 60730-1, and/or the applicable Part 2 standard from the UL 60730 series fulfills these requirements.

1.3 revised effective June 30, 2011. UL 244A will be withdrawn on October 19, 2016.

1.4 These requirements are intended to be used with the Standard for Cord Sets and Power-Supply Cords, UL 817.

1.4 effective June 30, 2011

2 Components

2.1 Except as indicated in 2.2, 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.

2.1 effective June 30, 2011

2.2 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.

2.2 effective June 30, 2011

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

2.3 effective June 30, 2011

2.4 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.

2.4 effective June 30, 2011

3 Units of Measurement

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

3.1 effective June 30, 2011

4 Undated References

4.1 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.

4.1 effective June 30, 2011

CONSTRUCTION

5 General

5.1 An outdoor seasonal-use cord-connected wiring device shall have a minimum length of 6 feet (1.8 m) and a maximum length of 50 feet (15.2 m) when measured in accordance with the Standard for Cord Sets and Power-Supply Cords, UL 817.

5.1 effective June 30, 2011

5.2 Switches are permitted between or on the end fittings. When a switch is provided, it shall be either a general-use snap switch that complies with the Standard for General-Use Snap Switches, UL 20, or a special-use switch that complies with the Standard for Special-Use Switches, UL 1054, or the Standard for Switches for Appliances – Part 1: General Requirements – UL 61058-1. The switch shall have a voltage and current rating suitable for the application. When the switch is used to control a load fitting, it shall be AC tungsten rated and be electrically rated 15 A or greater. These requirements apply to all switching mechanisms, including, but not limited to, supplementary protectors being used as, and having a reset button in a similar shape as a switch actuator, or containing symbols, words, or letters meaning "ON/OFF".

5.2 revised August 2, 2011. Note: UL 1054 will be withdrawn on June 23, 2015

5.3 The NEMA configurations of various attachment plug and receptacle combinations referenced in this standard are in accordance with Wiring Devices – Dimensional Specifications, ANSI/NEMA WD6.

5.3 effective June 30, 2011

5.4 A blade used in an attachment plug cap shall comply with the Standard for Attachment Plug Blades for Use in Cord Sets and Power-Supply Cords, UL 1659.

Exception No. 1: A blade which has crimp connections that are also soldered or welded need not comply with the performance requirements in the Standard for Attachment Plug Blades for Use in Cord Sets and Power-Supply Cords, UL 1659.

Exception No. 2: A blade which is welded or is made mechanically secure and soldered directly to the conductor connections need not comply with the performance requirements in the Standard for Attachment Plug Blades for Use in Cord Sets and Power-Supply Cords, UL 1659.

5.4 effective June 30, 2011

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6 Flexible Cord

6.1 The flexible cord used in an outdoor seasonal-use cord-connected wiring device shall be of the size and type in Table 6.1. The cord shall comply with the Standard for Flexible Cords and Cables, UL 62, and shall have a minimum flame rating of VW-1 and minimum insulation temperature rating of 105°C (221°F). A product containing more than 3 outlets shall employ either a minimum of 12 AWG flexible cord or 14 AWG flexible cord and an overcurrent protective device.

Revised 6.1 effective June 30, 2011

Table 6.1
Flexible cord for outdoor seasonal-use cord-connected wiring devices

Table 6.1 effective June 30, 2011

Minimum wire size AWG (mm ²)		Wire type ^a	Overcurrent protector rating if used, A
14	(2.1)	S, SO, SOO, ST, STO, STOO, SE, SEO, SJ, SJO, SJOO, SJT, SJTO, SJTOO, SJE, SJEO	15
12	(3.3)	S, SO, SOO, ST, STO, STOO, SE, SEO, SJ, SJO, SJOO, SJT, SJTO, SJTOO, SJE, SJEO	15

^a The cords shall be suffixed by the letter "W" indicating that it is for outdoor use.

7 Fittings

7.1 An attachment plug, cord connector, or current tap, provided on an outdoor seasonal-use cord-connected wiring device shall be rated 15 A, 125 V and of the 2-pole, 3-wire, 5-15 configuration. In addition, the line fitting of an outdoor seasonal-use cord-connected wiring device may additionally provide integral overcurrent protection in accordance with Table 6.1. When fusing is provided, or when overcurrent protection is required as specified in 6.1, it shall be located either in the line fitting or within 6 inches (152 mm) of the line fitting. (See also Fittings Intended to Accommodate Fuses or Overcurrent Protection, Section 10).

7.1 effective June 30, 2011

7.2 An outdoor seasonal-use cord-connected wiring device employing an outlet fitting (a cord connector connected between the end fittings) shall comply with all of the following:

- a) There shall not be more than a total of 6 outlets (including those provided at the end fittings); and
- b) The outlet fittings shall be factory-assembled to the flexible cord and shall not be field-rewireable.

7.2 effective June 30, 2011

7.3 The individual load fitting is permitted to employ up to six outlets. The voltage and current ratings (configurations) of the line and load fittings shall be equal.

7.3 effective June 30, 2011

7.4 A load fitting shall be either of the molded- or assembled-body type. The load fitting is to be provided with means for mounting such as a minimum of 3/8-inch (9.5-mm) diameter mounting hole or detachable type stake with a minimum length of 12 inches (305 mm) and maximum length of 32 inches (813 mm). After completion of installation, the connector shall be maintained a minimum of 6 inches (152 mm) above ground. Installation instructions shall be provided describing the intended use and mounting means.

7.4 effective June 30, 2011

7.5 All assembled-on (non molded-on) fittings of an outdoor seasonal-use cord-connected wiring device shall comply with the construction requirements in the Standard for Attachment Plugs and Receptacles, UL 498.

7.5 effective June 30, 2011

7.6 Load fittings shall be provided with self-closing outlet closures.

7.6 effective June 30, 2011

7.7 A polymeric material used for electrical insulation or enclosure of live parts shall have a flame class rating of V-1, V-0, VTM-1, or VTM-0 in accordance with the requirements of the Standard for Tests for Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances, UL 94. The flame class rating of the material shall be judged at the minimum thickness employed at the walls and barriers in the device which are critical to the functioning of the insulation or enclosure of the device.

7.7 effective June 30, 2011

7.8 A polymeric material used for electrical insulation or enclosure of live parts shall have a Comparative Tracking Index (CTI) rating of 175 V or greater or a performance level class of at least 3.

Exception No. 1: A polymeric material used for electrical insulation or enclosure of live parts is not required to comply with this requirement if it complies with the Comparative Tracking Index Test, Section 12.

Exception No. 2: A polymeric material used in an enclosure that is separated through air by more than 1/32 inches (0.8 mm) from uninsulated live parts and more than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) from arcing parts is not required to comply with this requirement.

7.8 effective June 30, 2011

7.9 A polymeric material used for electrical insulation or enclosure of live parts shall have Hot Wire Ignition (HWI) and High-Current Arc Resistance to Ignition (HAI) ratings or performance level classes of at least those shown in Table 7.1 for the flame class rating determined in accordance with 7.7. For materials with other than VTM flammability classifications, the HWI and HAI ratings of the material shall be evaluated using the specimen thickness employed in the end product or nominal 1/8-inch (3.2-mm) thickness, whichever is greater.

Exception No. 1: A polymeric material used for electrical insulation or enclosure of live parts is not required to comply with the HWI requirements if it complies with the Glow Wire Test, Section 13.

Exception No. 2: A polymeric material used for electrical insulation or enclosure of live parts is not required to comply with the HAI requirements if it complies with the High-Current Arc Resistance to Ignition Test, Section 14.

7.9 effective June 30, 2011

Table 7.1
Electrical properties of insulating materials

Table 7.1 effective June 30, 2011

Flammability classification ^a	HWI PLC ^b	HAI PLC ^c	CTI ^d
V-0, VTM-0	3	3	3
V-1, VTM-1	3	3	3

^a Flammability Classification – Described in the Standard for Tests for Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances, UL 94.
^b Hot Wire Resistance to Ignition Performance Level Category – Described in the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Short Term Property Evaluations, UL 746A.
^c High-Current Arc Resistance to Ignition Performance Level Category – Described in UL 746A.
^d Comparative Tracking Index – Described in UL 746A.

7.10 A polymeric material having values 0, 1, 2 or 3 as specified in Table 7.1 are not required to be subjected to the tests described in 7.9. For materials whose electrical properties have not yet been determined, the tests described in Sections 12 – 14 shall be conducted.

7.10 effective June 30, 2011

7.11 A polymeric material used for electrical insulation or enclosure of live parts shall have the Relative Thermal Index (RTI) rating of 60°C as described in the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Long Term Property Evaluations, UL 746B.

7.11 effective June 30, 2011

7.12 All fittings shall be resistant to sunlight and mechanical abuse in accordance with the Standard for Polymeric Material – Use in Electrical Equipment Evaluations, UL 746C.

7.12 effective June 30, 2011

7.13 A solidly molded-on fitting shall exclude moisture by adhering tightly to the jacket of the cord at the point that the jacket or the cord enters the plug as determined by 7.14 and 7.15.

7.13 effective June 30, 2011

7.14 To determine the adhesion between the cord and the body of the fitting, the cord is to be bent sharply to an angle of 90 degrees with the plane of the cord entry and visually examined for openings that might permit the entry of moisture into the body.

7.14 effective June 30, 2011

7.15 If the visual examination called for in 7.14 is unable to verify that acceptable adhesion exists, but there is reason to suspect that an acceptable seal may exist between the cord and the plug at some concealed location within the plug, the representative power-supply cords may be cut apart for examination. The adhesion may be determined to be acceptable if the examination of the inner construction reveals a positive seal at all points around the periphery of the cord.

7.15 effective June 30, 2011

8 Drain Openings

8.1 An enclosure body shall be constructed to prevent the accumulation of water on live parts, electrical components or conductors not identified for use in contact with water.

8.1 effective June 30, 2011

8.2 An enclosure body that permits water to enter the unit during the Rain and Sprinkler Test, Section 24, shall be provided with a drain hole.

8.2 effective June 30, 2011

8.3 Drain holes, if provided, shall be located in the surface likely to prevent the accumulation of water.

8.3 effective June 30, 2011

8.4 Drain holes shall permit the insertion of 0.125-inch (3.2-mm) diameter rod.

8.4 effective June 30, 2011

8.5 Drain holes shall have a barrier to prevent contact with live metal parts by an object that may be used to clear drain hole.

8.5 effective June 30, 2011

9 Gaskets

9.1 A gasket or bushing required to prevent water from entering the enclosure shall be secured to prevent its loosening by a clip, clamping ring, adhesion, or other mechanical means.

9.1 effective June 30, 2011

9.2 A gasket shall have a minimum temperature rating of 60°C (140°F).

9.2 effective June 30, 2011

9.3 The adhesive used to secure a gasket or bushing that is required to prevent water from entering the enclosure, and which is likely to be exposed or not compressed as intended during user maintenance, shall comply with the Gasket Adhesion Test, Section 26:

- a) For the gasket adhesive combination only; or
- b) With the gasket installed.

9.3 effective June 30, 2011

10 Fittings Intended to Accommodate Fuses or Overcurrent Protection

10.1 The enclosure of an overcurrent protective device (OCP) shall comply with the material requirements in 7.7.

10.1 effective June 30, 2011

10.2 Integral overcurrent protection (short circuit and overload protection), if provided, shall be rated in accordance with Table 6.1.

10.2 effective June 30, 2011

10.3 The integral overcurrent protective device shall also comply with the Standards for Low-Voltage Fuses – Part 1: General Requirements, UL 248-1, and Low-Voltage Fuses – Part 14: Supplemental Fuses, UL 248-14.

10.3 effective June 30, 2011

10.4 The overcurrent protective device, other than that required by 6.1, may be located in the attachment plug, in the outlet(s), or between the attachment plug and the outlet(s) and shall be connected to the ungrounded conductor. Supplementary overcurrent protection (short circuit and overload protection) is an acceptable method of providing the protection required by 6.1, however, thermal cutouts, thermal relays, and other devices not intended to open short circuits, shall not be used.

10.4 effective June 30, 2011

10.5 A fused attachment plug or load fitting shall be constructed so that there shall not be exposure of live parts during removal or replacement of the fuse, nor exposure of live parts with the fuse cover partially open while the plug or current tap is inserted 0.08 inch (2.03 mm) into a receptacle. Exposure of live parts shall be determined by contact with the accessibility probe illustrated in Figure 10.1.

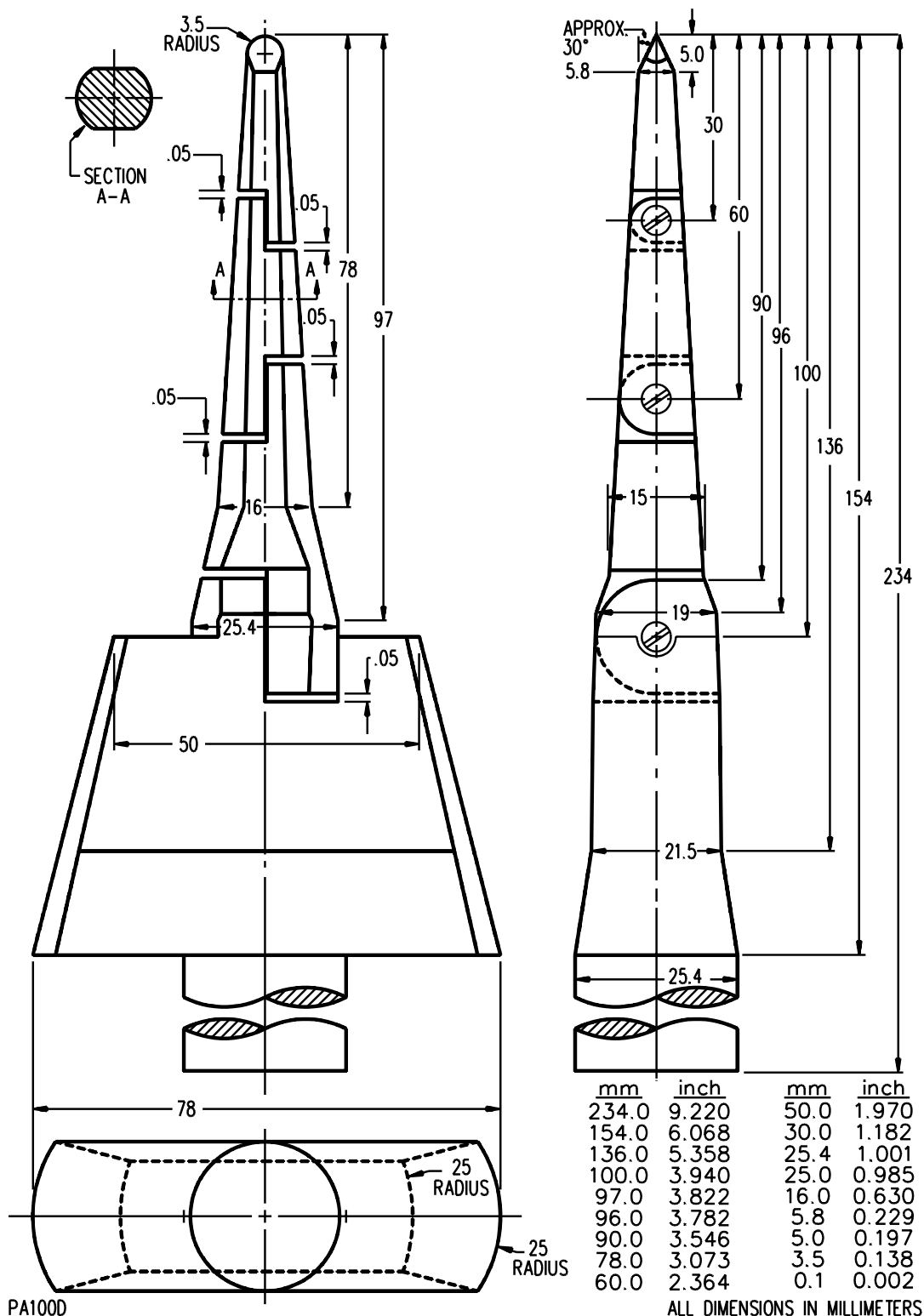
10.5 effective June 30, 2011

10.6 The overcurrent protective device shall have a minimum short-circuit rating of 1000 A and shall be of the replaceable or manually resettable type. A replaceable fuse shall be of a readily available type to reduce the likelihood of the plug being replaced with one that is unfused. The overcurrent protective device shall not be of the automatic resetting type.

10.6 effective June 30, 2011

Figure 10.1
Articulate probe with web stop

Figure 10.1 effective June 30, 2011



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