



UL 514C

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Nonmetallic Outlet Boxes, Flush-Device Boxes, and Covers

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UL Standard for Safety for Nonmetallic Outlet Boxes, Flush-Device Boxes, and Covers, UL 514C

Fourth Edition, Dated April 8, 2014

Summary of Topics

The new edition dated April 8, 2014 was issued to incorporate minor editorial changes, some clarifications, organizational changes, renumbering changes, and the following:

- ***Revision to the Minimum RTI Requirement for Box Extenders.***
- ***Correction of UL 514B Clause Reference Regarding Nonmetallic Cable Clamps.***
- ***Clarification of the Requirements to Evaluate the Combination of Receptacle and Cover as an Assembly.***
- ***Clarification of the Cross Sectional Area of Conduit Bodies.***

The revised requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated September 13, 2013 and February 7, 2014.

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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that have been revised and that have a future effective date are located after the Standard, and are preceded by a "SUPERSEDED REQUIREMENTS" notice.

The following table lists the future effective dates with the corresponding reference.

Future Effective Date	References
May 21, 2014	3.2, 23.7, 25.7, 25.8, 25.9, 25.10, 32.2.2, 92.1.16, 92.1.19, 92.2.7



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Fourth Edition

April 8, 2014

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The most recent designation of ANSI/UL 514C as an American National Standard (ANSI) occurred on April 8, 2014. ANSI approval for a standard does not include the Cover Page, Transmittal Pages, Title Page, or effective date information.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has adopted UL 514C on August 17, 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 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	9
2 Terminology	9
3 Glossary	9
4 Units of Measurement	10

BOXES AND COVERS

CONSTRUCTION

5 General	10
5.1 All boxes and covers	10
5.2 Boxes and covers intended for use with nonmetallic-sheathed cable or open wiring ..	11
5.3 Boxes and covers intended for use with rigid nonmetallic conduit	11
5.4 Nonmetallic outlet box covers for use in damp and wet locations	12
5.5 Boxes and covers intended for use with electrical nonmetallic tubing	13
6 Protection Against Corrosion	13
7 Assembly	13
8 Dimensions	15
9 Device Support	15
10 Floor Boxes	15
11 Ceiling-Suspended Fan Support	15
12 Partitions	16

PERFORMANCE

13 General	17
14 Protection Against Corrosion	17
15 Volume Verification Test	19
16 Scrub-Water Exclusion Test	19
17 Floor Box and Cover Loading Test	20
18 Support for Floor Boxes	21

BOXES INTENDED FOR USE WITH NONMETALLIC-SHEATHED CABLE OR OPEN WIRING

CONSTRUCTION

19 Materials	22
--------------------	----

PERFORMANCE

20 Hot-Wire Ignition	22
21 Dielectric Voltage Withstand	23

BOXES INTENDED FOR USE WITH NONMETALLIC-SHEATHED CABLE OR OPEN WIRING

CONSTRUCTION

22 Knockouts	23
23 Connections for Wiring Systems	24
24 Clamps for Nonmetallic-Sheathed Cable	25
25 Supports	25
26 Grounding	26
27 Extension Rings	26
28 Box Extenders	27

PERFORMANCE

29 Knockouts	28
30 Clamps for Nonmetallic-Sheathed Cable	28
30.1 Pull Test	28
30.2 Assembly at Low Temperature Test	29
31 Clamps for Flexible Nonmetallic Tubing	29
32 Supports	29
32.1 General	29
32.2 Fixture/Luminaire support	30
32.3 Ceiling-suspended fan support	32
32.4 Boxes intended to be installed in a finished structure	34
32.5 Boxes for support of products up to 50 pounds (22.7 kg)	34
32.6 Polymeric supporting means	35
33 Water Absorption	35
34 Flammability	36
34.1 Materials	36
34.2 Boxes	38
35 Mold Stress	40
36 Resistance to Crushing	41
37 Resistance to Impact	41
38 Threaded or Unthreaded Holes for Screws in Molded Bosses	42
39 Openings Employing Quick-Set Fastening Devices	43

COVERS FOR BOXES INTENDED FOR USE WITH NONMETALLIC-SHEATHED CABLE OR OPEN WIRING

CONSTRUCTION

40 Materials	45
40.1 General	45
40.2 Relative thermal index	46
41 Holes in Outlet Box Covers	46

PERFORMANCE

42 Flammability	47
43 Outlet Box Covers for Support of a Device	48

NONMETALLIC OUTLET BOX COVERS FOR USE IN DAMP AND WET LOCATIONS**CONSTRUCTION**

44 General	48
45 Protection Against Corrosion	49
46 Relative Thermal Index of Materials	49
47 Gaskets	49
48 Installation of Receptacles	49

PERFORMANCE

49 General	50
50 Sealing Compound	50
51 Gaskets	51
52 Resistance to Moisture	51
52.1 General	51
52.2 Assemblies for use in wet locations and wet locations with cover closed	52
52.3 Assemblies for use in wet locations	52
53 Resistance to Ultraviolet Light and Water	53
54 Mold Stress	53
55 Water Absorption	54
56 Dielectric Voltage Withstand	54
57 Hot-Wire Ignition	54
58 Crushing	55
59 Impact	55
60 Flammability	56

BOXES INTENDED FOR USE WITH ELECTRICAL NONMETALLIC TUBING**CONSTRUCTION**

61 General	56
------------------	----

PERFORMANCE

62 General	57
------------------	----

COVERS INTENDED FOR USE WITH BOXES INTENDED FOR USE WITH ELECTRICAL NONMETALLIC TUBING**CONSTRUCTION**

63 General	57
------------------	----

PERFORMANCE

64 General	58
------------------	----

BOXES AND COVERS INTENDED FOR USE WITH RIGID NONMETALLIC CONDUIT

CONSTRUCTION

65 General	58
66 Bodies, Boxes, and Covers	58
66.1 General	58
66.2 Thickness	59
66.3 Connections for conduit	59
66.4 Covers	61
67 Boxes Intended for Use in Wet Locations	63
68 Conduit Bodies	63

PERFORMANCE

69 General	65
70 Knockouts	65
71 Supports	65
72 Closures	65
73 Water Absorption	66
74 Flame-Retardant Properties	66
75 Heat Distortion	66
76 Extrusion or Molding Process	67
77 Physical Properties	67
77.1 General	67
77.2 Preparation of specimens	68
77.3 Test method	69
78 Identification Tests	70
79 Flexural Strength	70
80 Resistance to Crushing	70
81 Low-Temperature Handling	71
82 Resistance to Impact	71
83 Bending	71
84 Pull Out	72
85 Resistance to Specific Reagents	73
86 Wet Locations	74
87 Concrete Tightness	76

FLOOR NOZZLES

CONSTRUCTION

88 Materials	77
88.1 General	77
88.2 Relative thermal index	78

PERFORMANCE

89 General	78
90 Resistance to Impact	78
91 Resistance to Crushing	80

MARKING

92 Details	80
92.1 General	80
92.2 Boxes intended for use with nonmetallic-sheathed cable or open wiring	83
92.3 Boxes intended for use with rigid nonmetallic conduit	84
92.4 Outlet box covers for use in wet and damp locations	85
92.5 Boxes intended for use with electrical nonmetallic tubing	85
92.6 Assemblies encompassing receptacles and nonmetallic covers	85
93 Instructions	85

SUPPLEMENT SA - NONMETALLIC OUTLET BOXES FOR MARINE USE**GENERAL**

SA1 Scope	SA1
SA2 Glossary	SA1

CONSTRUCTION

SA3 General	SA1
SA4 Mounting	SA2
SA5 Supply Connections	SA2

PERFORMANCE

SA6 Watertight Test	SA2
SA7 Dripproof Test	SA2
SA8 Air-Oven Conditioning Test – Gaskets	SA3

MARKING

SA9 General	SA3
-------------------	-----

SUPPLEMENT SB - NONMETALLIC BOXES FOR INSTALLATION IN FIRE RESISTANCE RATED WALL AND PARTITION ASSEMBLIES**GENERAL**

SB1 Scope	SB1
SB2 Glossary	SB1

CONSTRUCTION

SB3 General	SB2
-------------------	-----

PERFORMANCE

SB4 General	SB2
SB5 Test Assembly	SB3
SB5.1 General	SB3
SB5.2 Materials	SB7
SB5.3 Construction of the test assembly	SB8
SB5.4 Testing	SB9
SB6 Acceptance Criteria	SB9

MARKING

SB7 General	SB10
-------------------	------

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INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 These requirements cover nonmetallic outlet boxes, conduit bodies, flush-device boxes, extension rings, covers, floor boxes, floor nozzles, and concrete boxes to be employed in accordance with the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70.

1.2 These requirements do not cover boxes and covers for use in hazardous locations as defined in the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70.

1.3 These requirements do not cover cabinets and cutout boxes.

2 Terminology

2.1 In the following text, a requirement that applies only to one or more types of box or cover is so identified by a specific reference in that requirement to the type or types of boxes or covers involved. Absence of such reference indicates that the requirement applies to all types of boxes or covers.

3 Glossary

3.1 For the purpose of this standard the following definitions apply.

3.2 BAR HANGER – An adjustable supporting device intended for the support of an outlet box, conduit box, or device box between two structural members in a finished or unfinished structure.

3.2 effective May 21, 2014

3.3 BOX EXTENDER – A component installed in or on a box that is mounted in a finished structure intended to extend the electrical enclosure up to the new finished surface. The box extender rests on the edge of the existing box (fixed depth) or extends into the box (adjustable depth). The flange of the box extender, if provided, rests on the finished surface.

3.4 CLAMP – Part of a box intended to secure raceway, tubing, or cable to the box.

3.5 CONCRETE BOX – A box intended for support in concrete. It may be constructed to permit end-to-end extension and the application of covers on two sides. It is not intended for installation in a floor.

3.6 CONDUIT BODY – A separate part of a raceway system intended to provide access to the interior of the system through one or more removable covers at a junction of two or more sections or at a terminal point. Boxes, such as FS, FD, and larger boxes, and fittings, such as capped elbows and service entrance elbows, are not considered to be conduit bodies.

3.7 EXTENSION RING – A ring, which is not required to be round, intended to extend the sides of an outlet box or flush-device box to increase the box depth, volume or both. It is mechanically secured to the box.

3.8 FLOOR BOX – A box provided with means for flush mounting in a floor. It is sealed against the entrance of scrub water at the floor level.

3.9 FLOOR NOZZLE – An enclosure used on a wiring system, intended primarily as a housing for a receptacle. It is provided with a means, such as a collar, for surface-mounting on a floor, and it may or may not include a stem to support it above the floor level. It is sealed against the entrance of scrub water at the floor level.

3.10 FLUSH-DEVICE BOX – A box provided with ears or flanges with No. 6-32 threaded or unthreaded holes spaced to accept the mounting yoke of a wiring device or devices. This box is provided with a mounting means, and it may or may not include clamps for connection of cable, tubing, or conduit.

3.11 OUTLET BOX – A box used on a wiring system, usually at an outlet. It is provided with means for connection to a wiring system and intended primarily to enclose splices and wiring devices, but may also be acceptable as the support of a fixture/luminaire or other equipment intended for similar installation. This box may or may not be provided with studs or a bar hanger or with clamps for securing cable, tubing, or conduit.

3.12 OUTLET BOX COVER – A cover intended to provide enclosure for the face of a box. The cover may or may not support or be provided with means for support of a wiring device, pendant cord, or the like.

3.13 PARTITION – A barrier used to separate sections of a box.

3.14 RAISED-FLOOR BOX – A floor box intended for use in raised floors, such as in electronic computer/data processing equipment rooms.

4 Units of Measurement

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

BOXES AND COVERS

CONSTRUCTION

5 General

5.1 All boxes and covers

5.1.1 The construction of a box or cover shall provide sufficient strength and rigidity in the finished product to enable the product to resist the rough handling that can be encountered during shipment, installation, and use.

5.1.2 The inner and outer surfaces of a box or cover shall not be subject to peeling, scaling or flaking and shall be smooth and free from blisters, cracks, and other defects. In the case of a molded product, excess flashing shall be removed from the mold line of all interior surfaces so that there are no sharp edges or undue obstructions to the passage of wiring or mating of parts in the intended use of the product.

5.1.3 A partition shall comply with the requirements in Partitions, Section 12.

5.1.4 A box intended for use with a partition shall have provision for proper placement of the partition during and after installation.

5.1.5 A box extender shall comply with Box Extenders, Section 28.

5.1.6 An outlet box cover constructed to support a flush duplex receptacle shall be provided with more than one securement point for the receptacle.

5.1.7 A cover shall comply with Installation of Receptacles, Section 48.

Exception: The face of a receptacle may be located behind a nonmetallic cover provided it complies with all of the following:

- a) The receptacle and cover shall be evaluated as an assembly, including compliance with 48.1;*
- b) The assembly shall be evaluated for compliance to requirements in this Standard, and the Standard for Attachment Plugs and Receptacles, UL 498;*
- c) The receptacle and cover shall be permanently attached or uniquely constructed to prevent securement of the cover to any other receptacle; and*
- d) The assembly shall be marked in accordance with 92.6.1, and provided with installation instructions in accordance with 93.6.*

5.2 Boxes and covers intended for use with nonmetallic-sheathed cable or open wiring

5.2.1 The requirements in Sections 6 – 42 cover boxes and covers intended for use with nonmetallic sheathed cable or open wiring and boxes with a volume of less than 100 cubic inches (1639 cm³), and multiple-gang flush-device boxes.

5.3 Boxes and covers intended for use with rigid nonmetallic conduit

5.3.1 The requirements in Sections 6 – 18 and 65 – 93 cover rigid nonmetallic, such as unplasticized polyvinyl chloride, boxes and covers, including blank covers.

5.3.2 The products covered by the requirements in Sections 6 – 18 and 65 – 93 are intended to be joined in the field to rigid nonmetallic conduit.

5.3.3 The nonmetallic products covered by the requirements in Sections 6 – 18 and 65 – 93 are considered to be inherently resistant to the corrosive influences of common industrial atmospheres including the vapors and mists of bases, hydrofluoric and chromic acids, and chromic acids, and pickling and plating baths. Resistance to specific reagents is covered in Resistance to Specific Reagents, Section 85 and in 92.3.1 and 92.3.2.

5.3.4 The outlet boxes covered by the requirements in Sections 6 – 18 and 65 – 93 have an interior volume of 100 cubic inches (1639 cm³) or less and are intended to provide access to wiring during installation of the wiring. They are also intended to enclose splices, taps, and wiring devices, but not intended for the support of fixtures/luminaires. From one to four unthreaded conduit-connection sockets are provided integrally with a PVC box, or the box is blank.

5.3.5 The conduit bodies covered by the requirements in Sections 6 – 18 and 65 – 93 are pull boxes intended for use with nonmetallic conduit to enclose splices and taps and to support wiring devices not involving the generation of heat – for example, lampholders are not acceptable – mounted on cover plates. Blank covers are to be provided with the bodies. From one to four unthreaded conduit-connections sockets are to be provided integrally with the body.

5.3.6 The flush-device boxes covered by the requirements in Sections 6 – 18 and 65 – 93 have an interior volume of 100 cubic inches (1639 cm³) or less. Flush-device boxes made of PVC material are intended for use with nonmetallic conduit for the support of wiring devices not involving the generation of heat – for example, lampholders are not acceptable – with the wiring devices mounted directly in the box rather than on the cover but can also be used as junction and conduit bodies. Flush-device boxes may be provided with blank covers or flush-device cover plates. At least one unthreaded conduit-connection socket or knockout is provided integrally with a PVC box, or the box is blank.

5.3.7 A flush-device box that is not multi-gang, a junction box, or an outlet box, the interior of which is larger in volume than 100 cubic inches (1639 cm³), is covered as a junction or pull box under the requirements in the Standard for Enclosures for Electrical Equipment, UL 50.

5.4 Nonmetallic outlet box covers for use in damp and wet locations

5.4.1 An outlet box cover intended for use in damp or wet locations shall comply with the applicable requirements in Sections 44 – 60 when installed as intended and shall be marked in accordance with 92.4.1 – 92.4.4.

Exception No. 1: An outlet box cover intended for use in a wet location with the cover closed is not required to comply with the requirements in 52.3.1 and 52.3.3.

Exception No. 2: An outlet box cover intended for use in a damp location is not required to comply with the requirements in 52.2.1 – 52.3.3.

5.5 Boxes and covers intended for use with electrical nonmetallic tubing

5.5.1 The products covered by the requirements in Sections 6 – 43 and 61 – 64 are boxes and covers intended for use with electrical nonmetallic tubing.

6 Protection Against Corrosion

6.1 All surfaces of all attached metal parts of a box, including screws, shall be protected against corrosion unless the metal is inherently resistant to corrosion.

Exception: The cut edges, punched holes, and the threaded surfaces of tapped holes of a part formed from galvanized stock do not need additional protection.

6.2 The thickness of the coating on a screw is not specified, but the presence of a coating is to be determined by visual inspection.

6.3 The thickness of a zinc coating on the exposed surface of a permanently attached ferrous metal mounting bracket or a clamp shall not be less than specified in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1
Thickness of coating

Material	Minimum thickness of coating inch [millimeter (mm)]			
	Intended for assembly			
	Outside of box		Inside of box	
Sheet steel	0.0005	(0.013)	0.00015	(0.0038)
Cast iron, including malleable iron	0.00015	(0.0038)	0.00015	(0.0038)

7 Assembly

7.1 Except as noted in 7.2, an assembly screw shall not have fewer than the number of threads per inch of the American National Coarse-Thread Series, in accordance with the diameter of the screw, unless it is found by investigation that the screw is not likely to abrade conductor insulation, and that the assembly is not adversely affected by vibration.

7.2 An assembly screw used to secure a cover to a box shall not have a fewer than the number of threads per inch specified in the American National Coarse-Thread Series for the diameter of the screw.

7.3 An outlet box intended to support a fixture/luminaire, but not intended to support a ceiling-suspended fan, may or may not be provided with two or more steel No. 8-32 cover retaining or fixture/luminaire support screws, and shall be provided with threaded or unthreaded holes for No. 8-32 screws.

7.4 An outlet box intended to support a fixture/luminaire, and also intended to support a ceiling-suspended fan, shall comply with Ceiling-Suspended Fan Support, Section 11.

7.5 Metal that is part of or provided with an outlet box and with which a wire or cable may make contact shall be located or protected so that contact with the part by a person or by metal outside the box will be prevented.

Exception: A grounding strap or plate may contact wires within an outlet box provided the construction complies with the requirements in 26.1.

7.6 So that contact between a supporting eyelet, nail, rivet, or screw and conductors within a box will be prevented as required by 25.3, a hole in a box that may be used for an eyelet nail, rivet, or screw shall be located in a recess, designed so that there will be a spacing of not less than 1/32 inch (0.8 mm) between the plane of the top of the recess and the head of the largest eyelet, nail, rivet, or screw that is provided with the box. If a screw or nail is not provided with the box, this spacing shall be measured:

- a) Using the largest round-head screw, specified in Table 7.1, that can be inserted in a hole that is not chamfered, or
- b) Using the largest flat-head screw that can be inserted in a hole that is chamfered.

Table 7.1
Supporting screw hole dimensions

Nominal screw	Maximum diameter of threads	Minimum dimensions of recess, inch (mm)			
size	inch (mm)	Diameter		Depth	
6	0.138 (3.51)	1/4	(6.4)	4/32	(3.2)
8	0.164 (4.17)	19/64	(7.5)	9/64	(3.6)
10	0.190 (4.83)	11/32	(8.7)	5/32	(4.0)
12	0.216 (5.49)	25/64	(9.9)	11/64	(4.4)

7.7 An assembly screw that can be tightened with a screwdriver is to be tightened with the torque specified in Table 7.2.

Table 7.2
Tightening torque

Nominal screw size	Tightening torque	
	pound-inch	(N·m)
6	12	(1.36)
8	20	(2.26)
10	35	(3.96)

8 Dimensions

8.1 A flush-device box shall have a minimum internal width of not less than 1-3/4 inches (44.5 mm).

8.2 The volume of any box, raised cover, extension ring, or fitting that increases significantly the volume of a box assembly shall be verified as described in Volume Verification Test, Section 15, or by any equivalent means. See 92.1.5 and 92.1.7 for marking requirements.

8.3 A box provided with a partition shall have the volume of each partitioned section verified as described in Volume Verification Test, Section 15, or by any equivalent means. Each partitioned section of the box shall be marked in accordance with 92.1.5.

9 Device Support

9.1 Provision for supporting a device to be enclosed in a box shall be independent of the screws used to support the box.

10 Floor Boxes

10.1 If a floor box intended for installation in concrete is not obviously of such construction that the entrance of concrete into the box will be prevented, the box is to be subjected to the test described in Concrete Tightness, Section 87.

10.2 A floor box shall be subjected to the scrub-water test described in Scrub-Water Tightness of Floor Boxes, Section 16.

10.3 A floor box intended to be installed in a wood support structure or a raised floor structure shall comply with Support for Floor Boxes, Section 18. The box shall be provided with installation instructions indicating the type of floor structure in which the box is intended to be installed.

11 Ceiling-Suspended Fan Support

11.1 In addition to the requirements for nonmetallic outlet boxes in this Standard, an outlet box intended to support a ceiling-suspended fan shall:

- a) Be provided with a minimum of two steel cover retaining or fan mounting screws and matching threaded or unthreaded holes. When other than No. 8-32 screws are provided, the box shall be marked in accordance with 92.1.14. Locking type washers or locknuts are to be utilized only when required by the installation instructions. For a screw and nut assembly, the box shall be provided with clearance holes and the screws shall be held such that they do not rotate.
- b) Comply with the support tests in 32.2.1 – 32.3.5.
- c) Be marked in accordance with 92.1.11 or 92.1.12, whichever applies.
- d) Be provided with installation instructions in accordance with 93.1.

11.2 A screw intended to secure a ceiling-suspended fan mounting bracket to an outlet box (in accordance with 11.1 (a)) shall not have more than 9/16 inch (14.3 mm) of exposed screw threads when a 1/8-inch (3.2-mm) thick bracket is secured to the box.

Exception: A screw with more than 9/16 inches of exposed threads meets the intent of the requirement where a means is provided to reduce the risk of contact between the screw threads and the wire insulation.

12 Partitions

12.1 A partition shall fit the inside of the box in which it is intended to be used. Any openings or gaps of any length between the partition and the inside surface of the box shall not be greater than 0.080 inch (2.0 mm).

12.2 A polymeric material used for a partition shall have a relative thermal index of not less than 80°C (176°F) for properties of electrical and mechanical without impact determined in accordance with the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Long Term Property Evaluations, UL 746B.

12.3 A partition manufactured from a polymeric material shall comply with the requirements for the Flammability Test as specified in 34.1.1 – 34.1.7.

Exception: A material designated 5VA, in accordance with the Standard for Tests for Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances, UL 94, need not be tested.

12.4 A partition manufactured from a polymeric material shall comply with the requirements for the Mold Stress Test, Section 35.

12.5 A partition manufactured from a polymeric material shall comply with the requirements for the Water Absorption Test, Section 33.

12.6 A partition manufactured from a polymeric material shall not ignite within 15 seconds after application of the test current, when subjected to the Hot-Wire Ignition Test, in accordance with the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Short Term Property Evaluations, UL 746A.

Exception: A polymeric material with a Performance Level Category (PLC) of 0, 1, 2, or 3 in accordance with the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Short Term Property Evaluations, UL 746A, need not be tested.

PERFORMANCE

13 General

13.1 Unless otherwise stated, not less than six samples of each type of box, cover, and the like are to be subjected to each test.

Exception: When a line of at least four sizes of boxes or the like, of a particular design, is being investigated, not less than three samples of each box are to be tested.

14 Protection Against Corrosion

14.1 The metallic-coating-thickness test described in 14.2 – 14.9 is to be used to determine the thickness of zinc coatings. The test is only to be conducted when a required coating thickness is specified.

14.2 The solution to be used for the test is to be made from distilled water and is to contain 200 grams per liter of reagent grade chromic acid (CrO_3); and 50 grams per liter of reagent grade concentrated sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4). The latter is equivalent to 27 milliliters per liter of reagent grade concentrated sulfuric acid, specific gravity 1.84, containing 96 percent of H_2SO_4 .

14.3 The test solution is to be contained in a glass vessel such as a separatory funnel with the outlet equipped with a stopcock and a capillary tube having an inside bore of 0.025 inch (0.64 mm) and a length of 5.5 inches (140 mm). The lower end of the capillary tube is tapered to form a tip, the drops from which are about 0.05 milliliter each. To preserve an effectively constant level, a small glass tube is inserted in the top of the funnel through a rubber stopper and its position is to be adjusted so that, when the stopcock is open, the rate of dropping is 100 ± 5 drops per minute. An additional stopcock may be used in place of the glass tube to control the rate of dropping.

14.4 The sample and the test solution are to be kept in the test room long enough to acquire the temperature of the room, which is to be noted and recorded. The test is to be conducted at a room temperature of $21 - 32^\circ\text{C}$ ($70 - 90^\circ\text{F}$).

14.5 Each sample is to be thoroughly cleaned before testing. All grease, lacquer, paint, and other nonmetallic coatings are to be removed completely by means of solvents. Samples are then to be thoroughly rinsed in water and dried with clean cheesecloth. Care is to be exercised to avoid contact of the cleaned surface with the hands or any foreign material.

14.6 The sample to be tested is to be supported 0.7 – 1.0 inch (18 – 25 mm) below the orifice, so that the drops of solution strike the point to be tested and run off quickly. The surface to be tested should be inclined about 45 degrees from horizontal.

14.7 After cleaning, the sample to be tested is to be put in place under the orifice. The stopcock is to be opened and the time in seconds is to be measured with a stop watch until the dropping solution dissolves off the protective metallic coating, exposing the base metal. The end point is the first appearance of the base metal recognizable by a change in color at that point.

14.8 Each sample of a test lot is to be subjected to the test at three or more points, excluding cut, stenciled, and threaded surfaces, on the inside surface and at an equal number of points on the outside surface, at places where the metallic coating may be expected to be the thinnest. On parts made from precoated sheets, a bend or the like that is subjected to the greatest deformation is likely to have thin coatings.

14.9 To calculate the thickness in inches (mm) of the coating being tested, select from Table 14.1 the thickness factor appropriate for the temperature at which the test was conducted and multiply by the time in seconds required to expose the base metal as measured in 14.7.

Table 14.1
Coating thickness factors

Temperature, Degrees		Thickness factors, 0.00001 inches (0.0003 mm) per second
		Zinc platings
F	(C)	
70	(21.1)	0.980
71	(21.7)	0.990
72	(22.2)	1.000
73	(22.8)	1.010
74	(23.3)	1.015
75	(23.9)	1.025
76	(24.4)	1.033
77	(25.0)	1.042
78	(25.6)	1.050
79	(26.1)	1.060
80	(26.7)	1.070
81	(27.2)	1.080
82	(27.8)	1.085
83	(28.3)	1.095
84	(28.9)	1.100
85	(29.4)	1.110
86	(30.0)	1.120
87	(30.6)	1.130
88	(31.1)	1.141
89	(31.7)	1.150
90	(32.2)	1.160

15 Volume Verification Test

15.1 A box, partitioned section, raised cover, extension cover, or fitting shall hold a volume of water equal to or greater than the marked volume when tested in accordance with 15.2 – 15.5.

15.2 All separable cable clamps, associated screws, and fixture/luminaire studs are to be removed. Any projections that extend outside the plane of the open face of a box, such as ears for mounting a cover or a flush device, are to be ground flush with the face of the box.

15.3 All large openings are to be closed by flat, rigid plates clamped in place across the openings. One of the plates is to contain two small holes, one for the entrance of a measuring fluid, the other for venting air.

15.4 Using modeling clay, putty, glazing compound, or similar material:

- a) A hole through the side or bottom of the sample and a hole between the sample and the plate mentioned in 15.3 are to be filled flush with the inside surface.
- b) An internal hub, if tapped through, is to be filled flush with the end of the hub.
- c) A bushed opening is to be filled flush with the conduit stop.

15.5 Using a clean, graduated vessel – pipette or the equivalent – having a volume equal to or greater than the marked volume of the sample and containing water at room temperature, water is to be transferred to the test sample through the hole in the plate mentioned in 15.3. The results are acceptable if the test sample holds a volume of water equal to or greater than the marked volume.

16 Scrub-Water Exclusion Test

16.1 For the purposes of the scrub-water exclusion test described in 16.3 – 16.6, the term “joints” is used to refer to points of potential water entry and points of access to primary wiring or connections. All distances from the plane of the floor to the joints are to be measured after the box is installed as intended.

16.2 A floor box is to be subjected to the applicable tests in 16.3 – 16.6. There shall be no entrance of scrub-water at the floor level into the box, through the box cover, cover flange, or other openings. Any water that enters under the cover flange, but does not enter the floor box shall not be able to contact primary live electrical parts or electrical wiring.

Exception No. 1: The tests in 16.5 and 16.6 do not apply to a raised-floor box.

Exception No. 2: The tests in 16.6 do not apply to a floor box intended for use in tile covered floors.

Exception No. 3: The tests in 16.3 – 16.6 do not apply to a floor box having all joints located 3/4 inch (19.0 mm) or more above the plane of the floor.

16.3 A floor box intended for use only in carpet or wood covered floors and marked in accordance with 92.1.17 shall be subjected to the tests described in 16.4 and 16.6.

16.4 A floor box assembly is to be installed in a section of floor constructed to represent an installation as intended by the manufacturer. The cover plate is to be fully secured. Sealing compound is to be used around the perimeter of the floor box or cover flange, to retain the soap solution on the floor assembly. A minimum 1/4-inch (6.3-mm) high dam is to be constructed around the floor assembly.

16.5 A scrub-water solution is to be prepared by mixing 4 tablespoons of floor cleaning soap with 1.0 gallon (3.79 L) of water. The solution is to be poured over the cover plate of the floor box so that it collects to a depth of 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) above the plane of the floor within 10 seconds or less. The solution is to remain on the floor assembly for 1 minute. The solution is then to be removed and the interior and under the cover of the floor box is to be examined for entrance of scrub water.

Exception: If the floor box has joints located higher than 3/4 inch (19.0 mm) and additional joints located lower than 3/4 inch above the plane of the floor, then the solution is to be poured only over the joint(s) below 3/4 inch (when possible) and allowed to collect to a depth of 1/8 inch above the plane of the floor.

16.6 A scrub-water solution is to be prepared by mixing one tablespoon of floor cleaning soap with 1.0 quart (0.94 L) of water. The solution is to be poured over the cover plate of the floor box within 10 seconds or less. The solution is to run off the top and the sides of the cover and shall not accumulate above the plane of the floor. The cover is then to be dried. The interior and under the cover of the floor box is to be examined for entrance of scrub-water.

17 Floor Box and Cover Loading Test

17.1 An access cover or receptacle cover plate intended for use with a floor box or a raised-floor box is to be subjected to the test described in 17.4. The cover and floor box shall support the test load for one minute without deflecting more than 1/8 inch (3.2 mm). The deflection is to be measured when the force applied reaches the specified value. The permanent deformation at any point on the cover, exclusive of gasket compression, shall not exceed 1/32 inch (0.8 mm), measured 1 hour after the test load is removed. A raised-floor box shall withstand the loading without structural failure to the mounting hardware.

17.2 For an access cover or receptacle cover plate, one sample is to be tested. The cover or cover plate is to be assembled to a floor box in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. Appropriate wiring devices are to be installed.

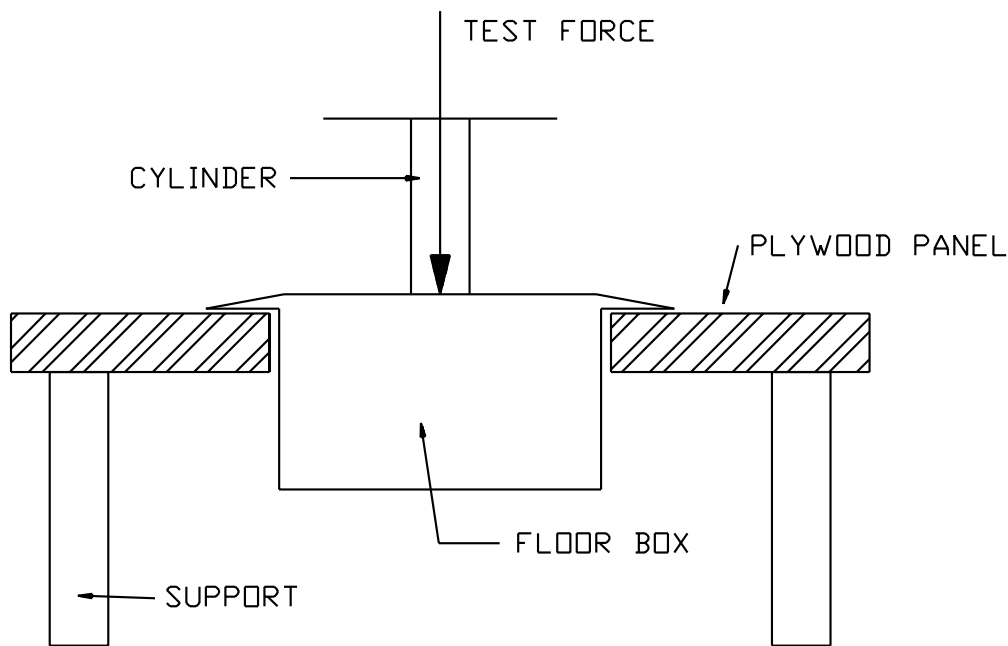
17.3 For a floor box, one sample of the box is to be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions in the center of a 3/4-inch (19-mm) thick plywood sheet that is 24 inches (610 mm) longer and 24 inches (610 mm) wider than the panel opening specified by the manufacturer. The assembly is to be supported on each side so that the box hangs freely beneath the panel, as shown in Figure 17.1. The supports are to be placed 6 inches (152 mm) from the outermost edge of the cover flange of the box.

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Figure 17.1
Floor box assembly



SM374B

17.4 The assembly described in 17.2 and 17.3 is to be subjected to the application of a load by means of a weight that exerts a force of 300 pounds (1334 N) through the flat end of a solid, right circular cylinder, 3 inches (76 mm) in diameter and a minimum of 1 inch (25 mm) long, as shown in Figure 17.1. The force is to be applied to the cover at the point resulting in maximum deflection.

18 Support for Floor Boxes

18.1 A floor box is to be subjected to the test described in 18.2 and 18.3. The support means, such as clamps, clips, or similar components, shall not break or result in the displacement of the box more than 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) from the plane of the surface of the floor when measured 1 minute after the test load is removed.

18.2 Six floor boxes are to be installed on at a time in a 3/4-inch (19-mm) thick plywood sheet. The plywood is to be mounted on supports spaced 16 inches on center with the box mounted in the middle of the supports. Screws for the support means that are larger than No. 8 are to be tightened with a torque of 35 pound-inches (3.96 N·m). A No. 8 screw is to be tightened with a torque of 20 pound-inches (2.26 N·m). A No. 6 screw is to be tightened with a torque of 12 pound-inches (1.36 N·m). See 32.4.4.

18.3 After installation as specified in 18.2, a force of 50 pounds (222 N) is to be applied for 5 minutes consecutively to each of three boxes in a direction normal to the plane of the face of the plywood sheet along the center line of the box, and tending to push the box into the opening. The same force is to be applied to each of the remaining three boxes in a direction tending to pull the box out of the opening. See 32.4.4.

BOXES INTENDED FOR USE WITH NONMETALLIC-SHEATHED CABLE OR OPEN WIRING

CONSTRUCTION

19 Materials

19.1 A material used for a box that has not been investigated for the application shall be investigated for combustibility, aging characteristics, temperature stability, resistance to ignition, dielectric strength, and physical strength.

19.2 A material that is used for a box not intended for the support of a fixture/luminaire, or for a box intended to support a fixture/luminaire weighing 49 lbs (22.2 kg) or less and marked for use in a wall, shall have a relative thermal index of not less than 80°C (176°F) for properties of electrical and mechanical without impact. See 92.1.9.

19.3 A material that is used for a box that is marked for support of a fixture/luminaire in a ceiling, or a ceiling suspended fan shall have a relative thermal index of not less than 90°C (194°F) for properties of electrical and mechanical (RTI-strength/mechanical without impact). See Table 92.1 and Clauses 92.1.18, 92.1.11, 92.1.12 and 92.1.13.

19.4 The relative thermal index specified in 19.2, 19.3, 40.2.1, and 46.1 is to be determined in accordance with the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Long Term Property Evaluations, UL 746B.

PERFORMANCE

20 Hot-Wire Ignition

20.1 When tested as described in 20.2, a polymeric material used for a box shall not ignite within 15 seconds after the application of the test current.

Exception: A material that has been previously investigated and found to be rated for the application is not required to be tested.

20.2 To determine whether a material complies with the requirement in 20.1, three 1/2-inch (12.7 mm) by 5-inch (127-mm) specimens of polymeric material in sheet form having a thickness of not more than the minimum thickness used for the box are to be tested in accordance with the requirements for hot-wire ignition described in the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Short Term Property Evaluations, UL 746A.

21 Dielectric Voltage Withstand

21.1 The molded material used for a box shall withstand for 1 minute without breakdown the application of a 60-hertz, essentially sinusoidal potential of 2500 volts when tested as described in 21.2.

Exception: A box made of a molded material that has been previously investigated and found to be rated for the application.

21.2 To determine whether a box complies with the requirement in 21.1, sample boxes are to be tested by applying the test potential across the thinnest section of the box, excluding knockouts. Each box is then to be conditioned for 24 hours in moist air having a relative humidity of 85 ± 5 percent at a temperature of $32 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($90 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$). Following this conditioning, each box is again to be subjected to the specified test potential.

BOXES INTENDED FOR USE WITH NONMETALLIC-SHEATHED CABLE OR OPEN WIRING

CONSTRUCTION

22 Knockouts

22.1 A knockout shall completely cover the opening in which it is located, and the clearance between the knockout and the opening shall not be more than 0.030 inch (0.76 mm).

22.2 The maximum dimension of a knockout intended for use with a nonmetallic fixture/luminaire stud shall not exceed 27/32 inch (21.4 mm).

22.3 The dimensions of a knockout intended for use with nonmetallic-sheathed cable shall not be more than:

- a) 0.500 inch (12.70 mm) by 0.625 inch (15.90 mm) for a single-stage cable knockout, and
- b) 0.500 by 0.625 inch for the first stage of a multi-stage knockout and 0.625 by 0.844 inch (21.44 mm) for the second stage. See 29.4.

Exception: A box intended for use with nonmetallic-sheathed cable and either provided with or having provision for a separable cable clamp may have a single-stage knockout that does not exceed 0.625 by 0.844 inch.

23 Connections for Wiring Systems

23.1 A box shall be provided with means for connection to a wiring system.

23.2 A box intended for use with open wiring or concealed knob and tube wiring shall have provisions for the separate entry of each conductor through a hole.

23.3 Each box shall be provided with a number of means for securing open wiring, concealed knob and tube wiring, and nonmetallic - sheathed cables entering the box. This number shall be consistent with the box volume but need not exceed the number of knockouts in the box. See 23.4.

Exception: A box nominally 2-1/4 by 4 inches or smaller (single-gang) need not be provided with a means for securing nonmetallic-sheathed cable. A round or octagonal box is not considered to be such a box.

23.4 To determine the minimum number of wiring and cable securing means that shall be provided with a box, the following method shall be used:

- a) For a securing means intended for use with open wiring or concealed knob and tube wiring, the number shall be calculated from the formula:

$$C = \frac{V}{2} - 1$$

in which:

C is the number of securing means, and

V is the marked volume of the box. A further subtraction of 1 is acceptable for each device intended to be fastened to the box.

- b) For a securing means that is acceptable only for nonmetallic-sheathed cable, dividing the number calculated in accordance with (a) by 2 is acceptable. See 23.5.

23.5 The result calculated as described in 23.4(a) and (b) shall be rounded, if necessary, to the nearest integer.

23.6 The securing means required by 23.3 shall be integral with, fastened to, or packed securely inside each box.

Exception: A securing means may be separate from a box provided the number of means required for each box is included in the smallest unit carton in which the box is shipped, and both the box and the means are marked in accordance with 92.2.2 and 92.2.3, respectively.

23.7 Nonmetallic boxes not larger than 2-1/4 by 4 inches (57 by 100 mm) intended for installation in a finished existing structure shall be either supplied with a means of securing the cable or conduit to the box or marked in accordance with 92.2.7.

23.7 effective May 21, 2014

24 Clamps for Nonmetallic-Sheathed Cable

24.1 A clamp provided in a box and intended for securing nonmetallic-sheathed cable shall substantially close the opening in the box surrounding the cable.

24.2 A clamp provided as part of a box and intended for use with nonmetallic-sheathed cable shall secure cable ranging in size from 14 AWG (2.1 mm²), two-wire cable with an uninsulated grounding wire to the largest oval or round multiconductor cable that can be accommodated by the clamp unless the clamp is marked to indicate its use with other cable sizes. See 30.1.1, 92.2.4, and 92.2.5.

25 Supports

25.1 A box shall be provided with means for support so that it can be securely fastened in place without depending upon the support furnished by any wiring system.

25.2 Sheet-steel end-supporting ears furnished with a box shall not be less than 0.036 inch (0.91 mm) thick if formed from uncoated stock, and not less than 0.039 inch (0.99 mm) thick if formed from galvanized stock. The ears shall be attached to the box and prevented from turning relative to the box.

25.3 Provision for support or other mounting means shall be outside the box, unless the box is constructed so that the conductors within the box cannot contact supporting screws.

25.4 A molded, threaded boss intended for support of a fixture/luminaire shall not be recessed more than 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) from the plane of the open face of the box. See 32.2.7– 32.4.1.

25.5 The supporting means of a box intended to be installed in a finished structure shall comply with the requirements in 32.4.1 and 32.4.5. Where the supporting means is constructed of a polymeric material, the supporting means shall also comply with Polymeric Supporting Means, Section 32.6.

25.6 An outlet box intended for fixture/luminaire support, intended to be installed in an unfinished construction, and marked in accordance with 92.1.8 shall comply with Fixture/Luminaire Support, Section 32.2.

25.7 An outlet box and bar hanger assembly intended for fixture support with a single load rating of “up to 50 lbs” regardless of the mounting span, intended to be installed in an unfinished construction, and marked in accordance with 92.1.8 shall comply with Fixture/Luminaire Support, Section 32.2.

25.7 effective May 21, 2014

25.8 An outlet box and bar hanger assembly intended for fixture support with more than one load rating at various mounting spans, intended to be installed in an unfinished construction, and marked in accordance with 92.1.19 shall comply with Fixture/Luminaire Support, Section 32.2.

25.8 effective May 21, 2014

25.9 A box intended to be installed in a finished structure or unfinished construction and marked for support of a product weighing more than 6 pounds (2.7 kg) and 49 pounds (22.2 kg) or less shall comply with 25.10. Installation instructions in accordance with 93.3 shall be provided with boxes intended to be installed in finished structure.

25.9 effective May 21, 2014

25.10 A box marked for use in a wall in accordance with 92.1.16 shall comply with 32.4.1 – 32.5.2.

Exception: A box for use in unfinished construction is not required to comply with 32.4.1 – 32.4.5.

25.10 effective May 21, 2014

26 Grounding

26.1 A metal strap or plate provided in a box and intended for connection of a grounding conductor shall be provided with one or more grounding screws. The strap or plate shall provide a continuous conductive path from each screw to the mounting yokes or straps of all devices that may be mounted in the box.

26.2 A grounding screw provided in a box shall be No. 8-32 or larger, have a green-colored head that is slotted or hexagonal, or both, and be plated steel, stainless steel, copper, or copper alloy. A grounding screw shall engage at least two full threads and shall be used in conjunction with upturned lugs, a cupped washer, or an equivalent method that is capable of retaining a 10 AWG conductor under the head of the screw.

27 Extension Rings

27.1 An extension ring shall fit closely with a box of the type and size with which it is intended to be used.

27.2 An extension ring manufactured from a polymeric material shall comply with the following:

- a) The relative thermal index in accordance with 19.2 and 19.4,
- b) Hot-Wire Ignition, Section 20,
- c) Dielectric Voltage Withstand, Section 21,
- d) Water Absorption, Section 33,
- e) Flammability, Section 34,
- f) Mold Stress, Section 35,
- g) Resistance to Crushing, Section 36, and
- h) The Impact Test described in 37.1 and 37.2.

28 Box Extenders

28.1 A box extender shall not be used to secure any type of product and shall be provided with installation instructions in accordance with 93.4 and 93.5.

28.2 A fixed box extender shall fit on the open face of the box. There shall not be openings between the box extender and the plane of the open face of the box.

28.3 An adjustable box extender shall fit inside the box in which it is intended to be used. There shall not be openings between the box extender and the plane of the open face of the box under any intended adjustment.

28.4 An adjustable box extender shall be marked to show the maximum allowable amount of extension in accordance with 92.1.20.

28.5 A polymeric material used for a box extender shall have a relative thermal index of not less than that required for the box for which it is intended to be used in accordance with 19.2 or 19.3.

28.6 A polymeric material used for a box extender shall not ignite within 15 seconds after application of the test current when subjected to the Hot-Wire Ignition Test in accordance with the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Short Term Property Evaluations, UL 746A.

Exception: A polymeric material with a Performance Level Category (PLC) of 0, 1, 2, or 3 in accordance with the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Short Term Property Evaluations, UL 746A, is not required to be tested.

28.7 A box extender manufactured from a polymeric material shall comply with Flammability, Section 34. With reference to 34.2, the flame shall be applied only to the exterior edge and interior flat surface.

Exception: A box extender manufactured from a polymeric material designated 5VA, in accordance with the Standard for Tests for Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances, UL 94, is not required to be tested.

28.8 A box extender manufactured from a polymeric material shall comply with the following:

- a) Dielectric Voltage Withstand, Section 21,
- b) Water Absorption, Section 33,
- c) Mold Stress, Section 35,
- d) The Impact Test described in 37.1 and 37.2.

PERFORMANCE

29 Knockouts

29.1 A force of 10 pounds (44.5 N) shall be applied to a knockout or integral cable clamp for 1 minute by means of a minimum 1-1/2 inch (38.1 mm) long by 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) diameter mandrel with a flat end. The force is to be applied in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the knockout or clamp and at the point most likely to cause movement. The knockout or clamp shall remain in place and the clearance between the knockout or clamp and the opening shall not be more than 0.030 inch (0.75 mm) when measured 1 hour after the force has been removed.

29.2 A knockout shall be easily removed by means of a screw driver, used as a chisel, without leaving any sharp edges or causing any damage to the box. The side edge of a screwdriver may be run along the edge of the knockout opening once, to remove any fragile tabs remaining along the edge.

29.3 A box that is constructed of a material that is known to be affected by low temperatures is to be conditioned for 5 hours in air maintained at minus 20 $\pm$ 1°C (minus 4 $\pm$ 2°F). Immediately following this conditioning, the test described in 29.2 shall be repeated on the box.

29.4 For a box employing multi-stage knockouts, there shall be no displacement of a larger stage when a smaller stage is removed as described in 29.1 and 29.2.

30 Clamps for Nonmetallic-Sheathed Cable

30.1 Pull Test

30.1.1 A box provided with a nonmetallic-sheathed-cable clamp(s) shall comply with the appropriate requirements in Clause 8.25 of the Standard for Conduit, Tubing, and Cable Fittings, UL 514B, CSA C22.2 No. 18.3, or NMX-J-017-ANCE. The box shall be prepared for testing in accordance with 30.1.2 and 30.1.3.

30.1.2 Knockout removal is to be in accordance with 29.2. For an integral nonmetallic clamp, the holding tabs of the clamp are to be cut. The integral clamp is not to be removed.

30.1.3 Three sample assemblies from each set of boxes having an integral nonmetallic clamp for nonmetallic-sheathed cable are to be tested in the as-received condition. Three sample assemblies from each set are to be tested immediately after being removed from being conditioned for 24 hours in air at a temperature of minus 25 $\pm$ 1°C (minus 13 $\pm$ 2°F).