



Transmitted by email

August 19, 2024

Milos Coric
Chair for UL Technical Committee 0496 - Lampholders
Standards Program Manager
UL Standards & Engagement
1603 Orrington Ave.
Suite 2000
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Milos:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission technical staff (staff) has observed on online websites the availability of lampholder socket adapters with a NEMA Type 5-15R grounding type receptacle outlet (see Figure 1).¹ Because an Edison base lamp socket has no ground contact, the adapter receptacle outlet is ungrounded and poses a potential risk of shock, providing a false sense of security to consumers. Staff will submit into the UL Standards & Engagement (ULSE) Collaborative Standards Development System (CSDS) the following proposed change to UL 496 – *Standard for Safety for Lampholders*:

Rationale

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission technical staff (staff) has noted, available for sale from online retailers, numerous lampholder socket adapters with outlets that are NEMA Type 5-15R grounding-type receptacles. These offerings include a wide array of configurations including single receptacles, multiple receptacles, and multiple receptacles with a feedthrough Edison-base socket (some switched) that may make them appealing to potential buyers, especially those with older homes that typically have fewer receptacle outlets. Three examples of the configurations are shown below. Because an Edison base lamp socket has no ground contact, the installed adapter receptacle outlet is ungrounded. This configuration poses a risk of shock to users and provides a false sense of security. Staff is proposing to revise UL 496 Supplement SA to establish an explicit industry-consensus requirement to permit these adapter receptacles only to be a polarized, Type 1-15R configuration.

¹ This letter was prepared by the CPSC staff. It has not been reviewed or approved by, and may not represent the views of, the Commission.



Figure 1: Examples of lampholder socket adapters with outlets that are NEMA Type 5-15R grounding-type receptacles.

Proposed Change (New text is underlined)

SA2.1 A receptacle shall comply with the requirements in UL 498 and CSA C22.2 No. 42. The receptacle shall be polarized, NEMA Type 1-15R only.

Thank you for the opportunity to propose this change for consideration by the TC to address this safety concern. If you have any questions, please contact me at atrotta@cpsc.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Trotta
Director
Division of Electrical Engineering and Fire Sciences
Directorate for Engineering Sciences

CC: Jacqueline Campbell, CPSC Voluntary Standards Coordinator