There are often many questions about code compliance that pop up during a project, and it can be difficult to understand how the code applies to these products. Our furniture power offering is unique, and it’s common to wonder if your installation is up to code. Use our guide to find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about furniture power and meeting code.

PRODUCTS INCLUDED*

• radiant® Furniture Power Center
• adorne® Furniture Power Center
• Round Furniture Power Center
• Desktop Power Center Slim
• deQuorum™ Flip-Up Table Box
• InteGreat™ A/V Table Box

*Not all questions pertain to every product. For information regarding a specific SKU, reach out to our support team to verify.
FPDU:
Furniture Power Distribution Unit [refers to all of our products listed above]: An electrical enclosure provided with an attached power supply cord and attachment plug or current tap for connection to a permanently installed branch circuit receptacle outlet. The FPDU is provided with a mounting means for attachment to a furnishing. The electrical enclosure may be provided with one or more receptacle outlets.

Multioutlet Assemblies:
A surface, flush or freestanding assemblage consisting of a raceway and fittings or other enclosure provided with one or more receptacles for the purpose of supplying power to utilization equipment.

Work Surface:
A horizontal or nearly horizontal surface used to perform tasks. There are two types of dry use work surfaces defined by UL 111, the standard for Multioutlet Assemblies:
- a. Normally dry use work area surface (e.g., office desk, table)
- b. Normally dry use work area located directly adjacent to a lavatory or other water source (e.g., kitchen sink countertop)

cETLus Listed/ETL Listed:
The product has been evaluated and listed by Intertek, an OSHA certified Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory. The product has been tested to the applicable UL and CSA standards.

cULus Listed/UL Listed:
The product has been evaluated and listed by Underwriters Laboratories. The product has been tested to the applicable UL and CSA standards.

Spill Test (Dry Work Surfaces): The UL 962A, 1363 and 111 Spill Test for dry work surfaces is performed for any product listed to these product standards. The Spill Tests all utilize a container filled with eight (8) fluid ounces of saline solution.
What types of products must be subjected to the Spill Test?
If the product is listed to UL 962A then it has been subjected to the UL 962A Spill Test. Any products listed to UL 962A that are intended to be mounted on or inside of a desk (or similar furnishing surface) must be subjected to the Spill Test as outlined in the standard. If the installation instructions indicate that the product may be mounted in a face-up orientation, the UL Listed FPDU has been subjected to the UL 962A Spill Test (which mimics the requirements of the UL 111 Spill Test for dry use work surfaces). These products also comply with Article 406.5(F), 406.5 (G) and 406.5 (H) of the 2017 NEC.

Can I install the FPDU by a sink?
Unfortunately, you cannot install the FPDU by a sink. These products are only intended to be installed in a dry work surface that’s not adjacent to a sink or water source.

But didn’t the FPDU pass the Spill Test?
Yes, but for dry work surfaces not adjacent to water sources. There are two different tests for each type of dry work surface (defined above). It’s not required that the FPDU comply with tests for both types of dry work surfaces, and our FPDU products have not been evaluated for use in countertops located next to a sink or water source. They may not be mounted in compliance with Article 406.5 (E).

Are there any exceptions to the Spill Test?
Yes, there are two exceptions:
1. When the instructed installation of the FPDU is for it to be mounted above the furnishing surface and oriented such that spilled liquid on the furnishing surface cannot enter any part of the FPDU, these requirements do not apply.
2. When the FPDU is provided with a portable GFCI Class A that complies with the Standard for Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters, UL 943, and the GFCI is located at the attachment plug or within twelve (12) inches (305mm) of the attachment plug, compliance with the Spill Test is not required.
How can the FPDU be installed horizontally, but normal receptacles cannot?
There are provisions within Article 406.5 of the NEC that cover receptacle mounting for products installed in seating areas or work surfaces. First, they must be listed for work surfaces or countertop applications. If they’re not listed for this purpose, the receptacles cannot be installed face-up in or on a countertop surface or work surface. However, even if the receptacle itself isn’t listed for this application, if it’s considered part of an assembly listed as the FPDU, cord-and-plug-connected, it can be.

Where can I install the FPDU?
Generally, FPDUs are for fixed mounting to portable or stationary furnishing as a power supply connection for cord-and-plug-connected electrical utilization equipment in accordance with NEC, NFPA 70. This means that FPDUs aren’t intended to be used as fixed wiring of a structure or of fixed furnishings, as receptacles often are. Instead, FPDUs should be utilized for furnishings that aren’t secured to the building and cannot be hard wired. There is room for interpretation in instances where the furniture requires securement to the building structure so that it doesn’t tip over. In these cases, you have the flexibility to use the FPDU in this furniture, but it would be best to consult your local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to be sure.

Can I install the FPDU into a bar area?
In some instances, yes. The bar area must be considered furniture and not the structure of the building itself. For example, sometimes the bar area is bolted down and considered part of the ground or structure. In this case, the FPDU is not allowed to be installed. However, if the bar area is a piece of furniture that is sitting on top of the ground and not bolted down, it is compliant to install the FPDU in that location.

What about walls, ceilings or floors?
No, you cannot install the FPDU into any of these locations. They’re all considered part of the building itself. FPDUs are products intended for use in furniture.

What about headboards?
If the headboard is attached to the bed, then you can install the FPDU into it. If the headboard is bolted to the wall, you cannot install the FPDU into it.
**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

**Where can I find the UL 962A Standard for Furniture Power Distribution Units?**
You can view it [HERE](#).

**Can I plug the FPDU into a power strip/relocatable power tap?**
No, you cannot power the FPDU or plug-in outlet center by plugging the unit into another one. This is commonly referred to as “daisy chaining” and violates many safety codes and standards, including OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) and UL. As UL 962A states, FPDUs are intended to be connected to permanently installed branch circuit receptacle outlets and are not intended to be series connected (daisy chained) to other FPDUs, relocatable power taps or extension cords.

**The older version of the Desktop Power Center offered Surge Protection, but the Desktop Power Center Slim does not. Is overcurrent protection required on the unit?**
UL 962A doesn’t require overcurrent protection for units rated 15A or less when utilizing minimum 14AWG power cords and housing less than (4) receptacles. This means that there are some products that do not require overcurrent protection, such as the Desktop Power Center Slim. This product is an exception because it is rated 15A, utilizes 14AWG conductors/power cord and houses only three (3) receptacle outlets. Therefore, it doesn’t require overcurrent protection because it complies with the requirements from UL 962A.

**Why are some units cETLus Listed and others are cULus Listed? Does this mean they aren’t code compliant?**
The cETLus mark is a listing mark provided by Intertek that lists products to UL and CSA standards. Intertek is an OSHA recognized NRTL (Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory). This means that a cETLus Listed product is compliant to the same requirements as the cULus Listed product. For example, our FPDU products are often cETLus Listed by Intertek to UL 962A and CSA C22.2 No. 308. This means that although cETLus is a different listing mark, it is equivalent to the cULus Listing mark and thus complies with code requirements.

**For more information or answers, contact Wiremold Technical Support.**

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