

# Relocatable Power Taps

**Q I have seen these power strips that pop up out of a counter in a kitchen, are these power strips Listed for use in kitchen counters? Are they intended to take the place of the small appliance branch circuit?**

**A** UL Lists power strips under the product category “Relocatable Power Taps (XBYS).” Guide Information for this product category can be found on UL’s Online Certification Directory at [www.ul.com/database](http://www.ul.com/database), and on page 343 in the 2007 UL White Book.

There are some Listed relocatable power taps that have been investigated for use in kitchen counters. They are marked as suitable for use in kitchens and have been subjected to a spill test when the power tap is recessed into the counter with no attachment plugs inserted into the power tap. Relocatable power taps are not intended to be used as a substitute for fixed wiring and are not intended to replace the small appliance branch circuit as detailed in *NEC* 210.52.

This information will be added to the Guide Information for Relocatable Power Taps (XBYS) in the 2008 UL White Book.

**Q I have seen computer carts in hospital rooms and exam areas that are provided with relocatable power taps. The Guide Information for Relocatable Power Taps (XBYS), states that “relocatable power taps have not been investigated and are not intended for use with general patient care areas or critical patient care areas of health care facilities as defined in Article 517 of ANSI/NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*. How can these carts be Listed when they conflict with the XBYS Guide Information?**

**A** As indicated in the question, the Guide Information for Relocatable Power Taps (XBYS) located on page 343 of the 2007 UL White Book states that relocatable power taps are not intended for use in general or critical patient care areas of a hospital. The use is restricted from these patient care areas because UL cannot control what is connected to the power taps which could result in leakage current that would be in excess of what is permitted for pa-

tient care areas of hospitals. The Guide Information for XBYS can also be viewed at [www.ul.com/database](http://www.ul.com/database) on UL’s Online Certification Directory and enter XBYS at the Category Code Search.

UL does Classify complete system medical cart assemblies for use in hospitals under the product category “Medical Equipment (PIDF).” Guide Information for this product category can be found on UL’s Online Certification Directory at [www.ul.com/database](http://www.ul.com/database) and enter PIDF at the Category Code Search, and on page 228 in the 2007 UL White Book.

These carts are Classified as a complete medical system with the cart and medical equipment provided. This way the equipment connected to the power tap is controlled and the leakage current levels are determined to be below the permitted leakage current levels for patient care equipment in accordance with UL 60601-1, the Standard of Safety for Medical Electrical Equipment, Part 1: General Requirements for Safety.

**Q How do I know if a meter socket was evaluated for a top or bottom feed or both?**

**A** UL Lists meter sockets under the product category Meter Sockets (PJYZ) located on page 233 in the 2007 UL White Book. This information can also be located using UL’s Online Certification Directory at [www.ul.com/database](http://www.ul.com/database) by entering “PJYZ” at the UL Category Code Search.

The Guide Information for meter sockets states: “Meter sockets are suitable for supply wiring to enter the enclosure from either the top or the bottom, unless the meter socket is marked ‘Overhead Feed Only’ or ‘Underground Feed Only,’ or the equivalent. The marking ‘Top Feed’ is considered equivalent to ‘Overhead Feed,’ and ‘Bottom Feed’ is considered equivalent to ‘Underground Feed.’”

**Q How do I know if a switchboard or panelboard is Listed for top or bottom feed or both?**

**A** Switchboards are Listed under the category Deadfront Switchboards (WEVZ), located on page 325 in the 2007 UL White Book. This information can also be located using UL’s Online

Certification Directory at [www.ul.com/database](http://www.ul.com/database) by entering “WEVZ” at the UL Category Code Search. The Deadfront Switchboard Marking Guide, located in Appendix A of the 2007 UL White Book, provides additional details regarding conduit entry/exit points. Specifically, on page 17 of the marking guide, under the heading “Conduit Entry,” the publication states, “UL evaluates switchboards to determine compliance for the clearance of conductors and conduit entering into the bottom of a switchboard, per *NEC* 408.5. Acceptability of other conduit entry/exit points can only be determined at the time of installation.” As also noted in this section of the marking guide, other entry points have been evaluated by UL “...if instructions and drawings showing the intended conduit or raceway locations are (1) supplied with the switchboard section or enclosure or (2) contained in the manufacturer’s catalog (identified by the catalog number or other designation that appears on the switchboard).”

Panelboards, including “Enclosed Panelboards”, are Listed under the product category Panelboards (QEUY), located on page 251 in the 2007 UL White Book. This information can also be located using UL’s Online Certification Directory at [www.ul.com/database](http://www.ul.com/database) by entering “QEUY” at the UL Category Code Search. As noted in the guide information: “Only panelboards

marked to indicate that they are for use in specific enclosures (identified by either catalog number or specific dimensional information) and panelboards labeled as “Enclosed Panelboards” have been investigated to determine that wiring space is adequate.” With respect to this statement, it should be noted that wire-bending space for Listed “Enclosed Panelboards” is evaluated to ensure compliance with *NEC* 408.55. This *Code* section defines the required top, bottom, and side wire-bending space for the enclosure of a panelboard. All enclosed panelboards, including those without a factory provided hole or knockout (or other provision for connection of a wiring system), would be required to comply with these basic requirements.

Conduit entry and exit points, such as holes, knockouts, or other provisions for connection of a wiring system, in panelboard enclosures have only been evaluated by UL where they are factory-supplied. Any field-punched knockouts have to be evaluated by the AHJ in the field for suitability of wire bending space, maintenance of an environmental rating on the enclosure, spacings to live parts, etc. If a product is factory supplied with knockouts on the bottom or the side for a bottom or side entry and the installer punches a hole for conduits in the top, it is up to the AHJ to evaluate the suitability of that modification to the enclosure. #