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INFORMATIONAL LETTER

DATE: June 1, 2020

TO: Residential or Assisted Living Facilities (RALF)

FROM: Nate Elkins, Supervisor, Fire Life Safety Program

SUBJECT: Prohibited Use of Multiplug Adapters

References: (a) IDAPA 16.03.22.405.01a
(b) Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc. (UL)

1. The purpose of this memo is to inform facilities that the use of multiplug adapters, with or without overcurrent protection, in Residential or Assisted Living Facilities is strictly prohibited in accordance with IDAPA 16.03.22.405.01a effective July 1, 2020 effective July 1, 2020.
2. The intent is to prohibit conditions that will lead to the overloading of building electrical circuits that, in turn, could result in a fire and to mitigate any confusion of what is or is not allowed. The devices intended to be prohibited are referred to as a "multiplug adapter" but can be identified as a "current tap." Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc. (UL), in its Guide Information for the listing category EMDV, defines "current tap" or multiplug adapters as follows: "A male and female contact device that, when connected to an outlet receptacle or cord set, provides multiple outlets or outlet configurations.
3. When multiplug adaptors are used for several appliances, such devices produce enough heat to ignite nearby combustibles in the time it takes to trip the overcurrent protection device. Simultaneous operation of many small loads may cause dangerous localized resistance heating without tripping the overcurrent protection device. Additionally, these devices may result in loose electrical connections because of the weight of the cords pulling on them. The use of these devices also indicate that the building's electrical wiring is inadequate for the connected loads or occupancy demands.

4. If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact this office. Also, refer to frequently asked questions (FAQ) that are posted effective July 1, 2020 on the Assisted Living and the Facility Fire Safety and Construction websites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate Elkins", written in a cursive style.

Nate Elkins,
Supervisor, Fire Life Safety Program
Division of Licensing & Certification

NE/lj