



SEC-015 Extension Cord Use

Effective Date Monday, July 25, 2005

Status Final

Last Revised Friday, January 13, 2023

Policy Type [University](#)

Contact Office

[Environmental Health and Safety](#)

Oversight Executive

[Vice President for Research](#)

Applies To

Academic Division The Medical Center

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Reason for Policy

To reduce fire hazards and health risks associated with substandard wiring, specifically, extension cords as mandated by the International Fire Code as adopted by the State of Virginia.

Definition of Terms

Extension Cord

Any detachable/portable 110-volt or higher voltage wiring that is used to transfer power from an outlet or power source to a power consuming device. Typically, an extension cord has one male plug on one end and one to three receptacles on the other end.

Permanent Wiring

Wiring that is used for more than 8 hours in a day and is left connected at all times.

Policy Statement

Extension cords are not to be used at the University of Virginia as permanent wiring. Instead of using an extension cord, three options exist:

1. Move the appliance/equipment closer to a building receptacle.
2. Have a new receptacle installed near the new equipment.
3. Use a power strip with a circuit breaker.

Use of an extension cord in a temporary situation should be properly secured.

Compliance with Policy:

Failure to comply with the requirements of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion in accordance with relevant University policies and may result in prosecution in accordance with state and federal law. This includes complying with the applicable adopted version of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code along with the associated legal proceedings to restrain, correct, or abate such alleged violation.

Questions about this policy should be directed to [Environmental Health & Safety](#).

Major Category [Safety, Security and Environmental Quality](#)

Next Scheduled Review Friday, January 23, 2026

Revision History Confirmed 1/13/23; Confirmed 10/25/19.

Applies To Text

Academic Division and the Medical Center.

Supersedes Policy Text

XIV.G.1: Extension Cord Use.

Last modified February 5, 2024 - 3:11pm

Approved By Policy Review Committee

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