SEC-015 Extension Cord Use

Effective Date Monday, July 25, 2005

Status Final

Last Revised Friday, August 21, 2026

Policy Type University

Contact Office Safety & Security (Department of), Office of Fire Safety

Oversight Executive
Associate Vice President for Safety & Security and Chief of Police

Applies To Academic Division and 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

Description

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

Description 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.

Direct questions about this policy to the Department of Safety and Security, Office of Fire Safety.

Major Category Safety, Security and Environmental Quality

Next Scheduled Review Tuesday, August 21, 2029

Revision History

Confirmed 8/21/26; Updated Contact Ofc & Oversight Exec 10/1/24; Confirmed 1/13/23; Confirmed 10/25/19.

Supercedes Policy Text
XIV.G.1 Extension Cord Use.

Approved By Policy Review Committee

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