TITLE: ELECTRICAL – CONDUCTOR, OUTLET, AND SWITCH

VERSION: V3.0

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DEFINITION: Conductor: An object or type of material that carries electrical current.

Outlet and Switch: Installations that connect to an electricity supply.

PURPOSE: Conductor: To safely allow for the flow of electrical current through the service point, service equipment, or branch wiring.

Outlet and Switch: Allow user to safely access power to energize electrical devices.

COMMON COMPONENTS: Receptacle; Outlet; Faceplate; Wire; Electrical conductor; Busbar; Terminal; Wire connection; Cables; Junction box (including switch box, light fixture box, smoke detector box, and receptacle box); Wire nut

LOCATION:

☒	Unit	Throughout the Unit
☒	Inside	Throughout the Inside
☒	Outside	Throughout the Outside

MORE INFORMATION: Low voltage wiring (e.g., telephone, doorbell, thermostat) is excluded from this standard.

DEFICIENCY 1: Outlet or switch is damaged.
LOCATION: ☒ Unit ☒ Inside ☒ Outside

DEFICIENCY 2: Testing indicates a three-pronged outlet is not properly wired or grounded.
LOCATION: ☒ Unit ☒ Inside ☒ Outside

DEFICIENCY 3: Outlet does not have visible damage and testing indicates it is not energized.
LOCATION: ☒ Unit ☒ Inside ☒ Outside

DEFICIENCY 4: Exposed electrical conductor.
LOCATION: ☒ Unit ☒ Inside ☒ Outside

DEFICIENCY 5: Water is currently in contact with an electrical conductor.
LOCATION: ☒ Unit ☒ Inside

DEFICIENCY 1 – UNIT: OUTLET OR SWITCH IS DAMAGED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	Any portion of a visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) outlet or switch is damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality) such that it may not safely carry or control electrical current at the outlet or switch.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Life-Threatening	The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:
- Identify all outlets and switches.
- Look at each outlet and switch for signs of damage (e.g., smoke, burn marks, arcing).

REQUEST FOR HELP:
- If a personal item (e.g., clothing, small appliance, plant, toy) is concealing the outlet or switch and can reasonably be removed, ask the resident to move the item.

ACTION:
- None

MORE INFORMATION:
- An electrical conductor that is not enclosed or properly insulated should be evaluated under Deficiency 4 of this standard.
- An outlet that is inoperable but does not have visible damage should be evaluated under Deficiency 3 of this standard.
- A switch that is inoperable but does not have visible damage and corresponds to a hard-wired fixture or appliance should be evaluated under the respective item's standard. Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - Cooking Appliance
  - Garage Door
  - Lighting – Auxiliary
  - Lighting – Exterior
  - Lighting – Interior
  - Sharp Edges
  - Ventilation
  - Water Heater

DEFICIENCY 1 – INSIDE: OUTLET OR SWITCH IS DAMAGED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	Any portion of a visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) outlet or switch is damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality) such that it may not safely carry or control electrical current at the outlet or switch.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Life-Threatening	The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:
- Identify all outlets and switches.
- Look at each outlet and switch for signs of damage (e.g., smoke, burn marks, arcing).

REQUEST FOR HELP:
- If an item (e.g., small appliance, plant, decorative item) is concealing the outlet or switch and can reasonably be removed, ask the POA to move the item.

ACTION:
- None

MORE INFORMATION:
- An electrical conductor that is not enclosed or properly insulated should be evaluated under Deficiency 4 of this standard.
- An outlet that is inoperable but does not have visible damage should be evaluated under Deficiency 3 of this standard.
- A switch that is inoperable but does not have visible damage and corresponds to a hard-wired fixture or appliance should be evaluated under the respective item's standard. Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - Cooking Appliance
  - Garage Door
  - Lighting – Auxiliary
  - Lighting – Exterior
  - Lighting – Interior
  - Sharp Edges
  - Ventilation
  - Water Heater

DEFICIENCY 1 – OUTSIDE: OUTLET OR SWITCH IS DAMAGED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	Any portion of a visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) outlet or switch is damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality) such that it may not safely carry or control electrical current at the outlet or switch.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Life-Threatening	The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:
- Identify all outlets and switches.
- Look at each outlet and switch for signs of damage (e.g., smoke, burn marks, arcing).

REQUEST FOR HELP:
- If an item (e.g., plant, decorative item) is concealing the outlet or switch and can reasonably be removed, ask the POA to move the item.

ACTION:
- None

MORE INFORMATION:
- An electrical conductor that is not enclosed or properly insulated should be evaluated under Deficiency 4 of this standard.
- An outlet that is inoperable but does not have visible damage should be evaluated under Deficiency 3 of this standard.
- A switch that is inoperable but does not have visible damage and corresponds to a hard-wired fixture or appliance should be evaluated under the respective item's standard. Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - Cooking Appliance
  - Garage Door
  - Lighting – Auxiliary
  - Lighting – Exterior
  - Lighting – Interior
  - Sharp Edges
  - Ventilation
  - Water Heater

DEFICIENCY 2 – UNIT: TESTING INDICATES A THREE-PRONGED OUTLET IS NOT PROPERLY WIRED OR GROUNDED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	Testing of a three-pronged outlet that is reasonably accessible (i.e., can be reached without moving obstructions, dismantling, destructive measures, or actions that may pose a risk to persons or property) indicates that it is not properly wired or grounded.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Severe	The Severe category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of permanent disability, or serious injury or illness, to a resident; or the physical security or safety of a resident or their property would be seriously compromised.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	30 days	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:	- Identify all three-pronged outlets that are reasonably accessible.
REQUEST FOR HELP:	- If a personal item (e.g., clothing, small appliance, plant, toy) is concealing the outlet and can reasonably be removed, ask the resident to move the item.
ACTION:	- Using a three-pronged outlet tester, determine whether the outlet is properly wired and grounded.
MORE INFORMATION:	- A three-pronged, ungrounded outlet that is GFCI-protected is not considered a deficiency. - An outlet that is not energized and does not have visible damage should be evaluated under Deficiency 3 of this standard.

DEFICIENCY 2 – INSIDE: TESTING INDICATES A THREE-PRONGED OUTLET IS NOT PROPERLY WIRED OR GROUNDED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	Testing of a three-pronged outlet that is reasonably accessible (i.e., can be reached without moving obstructions, dismantling, destructive measures, or actions that may pose a risk to persons or property) indicates that it is not properly wired or grounded.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Severe	The Severe category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of permanent disability, or serious injury or illness, to a resident; or the physical security or safety of a resident or their property would be seriously compromised.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	30 days	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:	- Identify all three-pronged outlets that are reasonably accessible.
REQUEST FOR HELP:	- If an item (e.g., small appliance, plant, decorative item) is concealing the outlet and can reasonably be removed, ask the POA to move the item.
ACTION:	- Using a three-pronged outlet tester, determine whether the outlet is properly wired and grounded.
MORE INFORMATION:	- A three-pronged, ungrounded outlet that is GFCI-protected is not considered a deficiency. - An outlet that is not energized and does not have visible damage should be evaluated under Deficiency 3 of this standard.

DEFICIENCY 2 – OUTSIDE: TESTING INDICATES A THREE-PRONGED OUTLET IS NOT PROPERLY WIRED OR GROUNDED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	Testing of a three-pronged outlet that is reasonably accessible (i.e., can be reached without moving obstructions, dismantling, destructive measures, or actions that may pose a risk to persons or property) indicates that it is not properly wired or grounded.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Severe	The Severe category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of permanent disability, or serious injury or illness, to a resident; or the physical security or safety of a resident or their property would be seriously compromised.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	30 days	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:	- Identify all three-pronged outlets that are reasonably accessible.
REQUEST FOR HELP:	- If an item (e.g., plant, decorative item) is concealing the outlet and can reasonably be removed, ask the POA to move the item.
ACTION:	- Using a three-pronged outlet tester, determine whether the outlet is properly wired and grounded.
MORE INFORMATION:	- A three-pronged, ungrounded outlet that is GFCI-protected is not considered a deficiency. - An outlet that is not energized and does not have visible damage should be evaluated under Deficiency 3 of this standard.

DEFICIENCY 3 – UNIT: OUTLET DOES NOT HAVE VISIBLE DAMAGE AND TESTING INDICATES IT IS NOT ENERGIZED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	An outlet that is reasonably accessible (i.e., can be reached without moving obstructions, dismantling, destructive measures, or actions that may pose a risk to persons or property) does not have visible damage and testing indicates that it is not energized.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Severe	The Severe category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of permanent disability, or serious injury or illness, to a resident; or the physical security or safety of a resident or their property would be seriously compromised.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	30 days	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:	- Identify all outlets that are reasonably accessible.
REQUEST FOR HELP:	- If a personal item (e.g., clothing, small appliance, plant, toy) is concealing the outlet and can reasonably be removed, ask the resident to move the item.
ACTION:	- Using an outlet tester, determine whether the outlet is energized.
MORE INFORMATION:	- None

DEFICIENCY 3 – INSIDE: OUTLET DOES NOT HAVE VISIBLE DAMAGE AND TESTING INDICATES IT IS NOT ENERGIZED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	An outlet that is reasonably accessible (i.e., can be reached without moving obstructions, dismantling, destructive measures, or actions that may pose a risk to persons or property) does not have visible damage and testing indicates that it is not energized.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Severe	The Severe category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of permanent disability, or serious injury or illness, to a resident; or the physical security or safety of a resident or their property would be seriously compromised.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	30 days	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:	- Identify all outlets that are reasonably accessible.
REQUEST FOR HELP:	- If an item (e.g., small appliance, plant, decorative item) is concealing the outlet and can reasonably be removed, ask the POA to move the item.
ACTION:	- Using an outlet tester, determine whether the outlet is energized.
MORE INFORMATION:	- None

DEFICIENCY 3 – OUTSIDE: OUTLET DOES NOT HAVE VISIBLE DAMAGE AND TESTING INDICATES IT IS NOT ENERGIZED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	An outlet that is reasonably accessible (i.e., can be reached without moving obstructions, dismantling, destructive measures, or actions that may pose a risk to persons or property) does not have visible damage and testing indicates that it is not energized.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Severe	The Severe category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of permanent disability, or serious injury or illness, to a resident; or the physical security or safety of a resident or their property would be seriously compromised.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	30 days	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:	- Identify all outlets that are reasonably accessible.
REQUEST FOR HELP:	- If an item (e.g., plant, decorative item) is concealing the outlet and can reasonably be removed, ask the POA to move the item.
ACTION:	- Using an outlet tester, determine whether the outlet is energized.
MORE INFORMATION:	- None

DEFICIENCY 4 – UNIT: EXPOSED ELECTRICAL CONDUCTOR.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	Electrical conductor is not enclosed or properly insulated (e.g., damaged or missing sheathing that exposes the insulated wiring or conductor, open port, missing knockout, missing outlet or switch cover, or missing breaker or fuse). OR An opening or gap is present and measures greater than ½ inch.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Life-Threatening	The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:
- Visually inspect all electrical conductors and determine if any are not enclosed or properly insulated (e.g., damaged or missing sheathing that exposes the insulated wiring or conductor, open port, missing knockout, missing outlet or switch cover, or missing breaker or fuse).
- Visually inspect for any opening or gap.

REQUEST FOR HELP:
- None

ACTION:
- If an opening or gap is present, measure the space to determine the size of the opening or gap.

MORE INFORMATION:
- If improper material is used to insulate the conductor or fill an unintentional gap, then it should be evaluated under this deficiency.
- Example conductors to be evaluated under this deficiency include but are not limited to:
  - Knockouts
  - Device cover plates that are missing (i.e., evidence of prior installation, but now are not present or are incomplete)
  - Device cover plates that are damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality)
  - Lighting fixtures
  - Visible wire nuts on electrical conductors
  - Wiring that is insulated but not protected by sheathing or conduit
  - Hardwire smoke alarm with an exposed conductor
  - Wall-mounted light fixture with a damaged or missing cover
- Example conductors that should not be evaluated under this deficiency include but are not limited to:
  - Low voltage wiring (e.g., telephone, doorbell, thermostat)
  - A device designed by the manufacturer to intentionally have a gap or space to support ventilation
  - Light fixture wiring that is exposed by design
  - Ceiling-mounted light fixture with a damaged or missing cover
- Other than electrical service panels, inspector should not open any electrical enclosures to evaluate for this deficiency.
- If a lightbulb is missing from a fixture, then it should be evaluated under the Lighting – Interior and Lighting – Exterior standards, respectively.

DEFICIENCY 4 – INSIDE: EXPOSED ELECTRICAL CONDUCTOR.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	Electrical conductor is not enclosed or properly insulated (e.g., damaged or missing sheathing that exposes the insulated wiring or conductor, open port, missing knockout, missing outlet or switch cover, or missing breaker or fuse). OR An opening or gap is present and measures greater than ½ inch.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Life-Threatening	The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:
- Visually inspect all electrical conductors and determine if any are not enclosed or properly insulated (e.g., damaged or missing sheathing that exposes the insulated wiring or conductor, open port, missing knockout, missing outlet or switch cover, or missing breaker or fuse).
- Visually inspect for any opening or gap.

REQUEST FOR HELP:
- None

ACTION:
- If an opening or gap is present, measure the space to determine the size of the opening or gap.

MORE INFORMATION:
- If improper material is used to insulate the conductor or fill an unintentional gap, then it should be evaluated under this deficiency.
- Example conductors to be evaluated under this deficiency include but are not limited to:
  - Knockouts
  - Device cover plates that are missing (i.e., evidence of prior installation, but now are not present or are incomplete)
  - Device cover plates that are damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality)
  - Lighting fixtures
  - Visible wire nuts on electrical conductors
  - Wiring that is insulated but not protected by sheathing or conduit
  - Hardwire smoke alarm with an exposed conductor
  - Wall-mounted light fixture with a damaged or missing cover
- Example conductors that should not be evaluated under this deficiency include but are not limited to:
  - Low voltage wiring (e.g., telephone, doorbell, thermostat)
  - A device designed by the manufacturer to intentionally have a gap or space to support ventilation
  - Light fixture wiring that is exposed by design
  - Ceiling-mounted light fixture with a damaged or missing cover
- Other than electrical service panels, inspector should not open any electrical enclosures to evaluate for this deficiency.
- If a lightbulb is missing from a fixture, then it should be evaluated under the Lighting – Interior and Lighting – Exterior standards, respectively.

DEFICIENCY 4 – OUTSIDE: EXPOSED ELECTRICAL CONDUCTOR.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	Electrical conductor is not enclosed or properly insulated (e.g., damaged or missing sheathing that exposes the insulated wiring or conductor, open port, missing knockout, missing outlet or switch cover, or missing breaker or fuse). OR An opening or gap is present and measures greater than ½ inch.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Life-Threatening	The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:
- Visually inspect all electrical conductors and determine if any are not enclosed or properly insulated (e.g., damaged or missing sheathing that exposes the insulated wiring or conductor, open port, missing knockout, missing outlet or switch cover, or missing breaker or fuse).
- Visually inspect for any opening or gap.

REQUEST FOR HELP:
- None

ACTION:
- If an opening or gap is present, measure the space to determine the size of the opening or gap.

MORE INFORMATION:
- If improper material is used to insulate the conductor or fill an unintentional gap, then it should be evaluated under this deficiency.
- Example conductors to be evaluated under this deficiency include but are not limited to:
  - Knockouts
  - Device cover plates that are missing (i.e., evidence of prior installation, but now are not present or are incomplete)
  - Device cover plates that are damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality)
  - Lighting fixtures
  - Visible wire nuts on electrical conductors
  - Wiring that is insulated but not protected by sheathing or conduit
  - Hardwire smoke alarm with an exposed conductor
  - Wall-mounted light fixture with a damaged or missing cover
- Example conductors that should not be evaluated under this deficiency include but are not limited to:
  - Low voltage wiring (e.g., telephone, doorbell, thermostat)
  - A device designed by the manufacturer to intentionally have a gap or space to support ventilation
  - Light fixture wiring that is exposed by design
  - Ceiling-mounted light fixture with a damaged or missing cover
- Other than electrical service panels, inspector should not open any electrical enclosures to evaluate for this deficiency.
- If a lightbulb is missing from a fixture, then it should be evaluated under the Lighting – Interior and Lighting – Exterior standards, respectively.

DEFICIENCY 5 – UNIT: WATER IS CURRENTLY IN CONTACT WITH AN ELECTRICAL CONDUCTOR.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	Water is currently in contact with an electrical conductor.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Life-Threatening	The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:	- Visually determine if water is in contact with the electrical conductor.
REQUEST FOR HELP:	- If a personal item (e.g., clothing, small appliance, plant, toy) is concealing the electrical conductor and can reasonably be removed, ask the resident to move the item.
ACTION:	- None
MORE INFORMATION:	- None

DEFICIENCY 5 – INSIDE: WATER IS CURRENTLY IN CONTACT WITH AN ELECTRICAL CONDUCTOR.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:	Water is currently in contact with an electrical conductor.	
HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:	Life-Threatening	The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	
HCV PASS / FAIL:	Fail	
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:	24 hours	

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:	- Visually determine if water is in contact with the electrical conductor.
REQUEST FOR HELP:	- If an item (e.g., small appliance, plant, decorative item) is concealing the electrical conductor and can reasonably be removed, ask the POA to move the item.
ACTION:	- None
MORE INFORMATION:	- None