

US Consumer Product Safety Commission Log of Meeting

Subject: CANENA UL/CSA 60335-2-40 Sub Working Group Meeting to Discuss GFCI Requirements as they Pertain to HVAC Systems

Dates: May 21, 2021

Location: Teleconference

Prepared By: Einstein Miller (emiller@cpsc.gov, 301-987-2469), May 28, 2021

CPSC Attendees: Einstein Miller

Non-CPSC Attendees: Contact The Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) for a list of attendees

Summary of Meeting:

Contact AHRI for more details of this meeting.

This was the kick-off meeting for the sub working group of CANENA UL/CSA 60335-2-40 working group. The sub working group (SWG) is focused on the ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) requirements for HVAC systems in support of WG14. Article 210.8(F) of the 2020 edition of the National Electric Code (NEC) added a GFCI requirement for outdoor outlets, including those providing power to HVAC equipment. Since the implementation of this requirement a number of HVAC manufacturers and installers have received numerous complaints of nuisance tripping of the GFCI protection.

The meeting began with the group providing background information on the purpose of the NEC change. The group discussed the recent decision by Texas to reject Article 210.8(F) of the 2020 edition of the NEC, citing safety concerns related to loss of heating and cooling. Currently, the SWG is aware of 11 states that have rejected Article 210.8(F). The group then discussed the public comments already submitted to the NEC regarding nuisance tripping concerns associated with GFCI protection of HVAC equipment.

The group also received a presentation from the Association of Home Appliance manufacturers (AHAM) on its work on the organization's efforts with various voluntary safety standards, the NEC, and discussion with GFCI manufacturers.

The group ended the meeting by devising a plan forward. The SWG would focus on revising applicable clauses of UL/CSA 60335-2-40, and using these revisions to support updates in other applicable safety standards, including the NEC. The SWG decided that a uniform test methodology for heat pumps and air conditioning equipment would be the best way to collect test data that can be used by GFCI manufacturers to define a protection threshold for HVAC equipment. Members would provide thoughts and feedback on existing and potential test setups via email prior to the next SWG meeting on Tuesday, May 25.