



UL 464

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Audible Signaling Devices for Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems, Including Accessories

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UL Standard for Safety for Audible Signaling Devices for Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems, Including Accessories, UL 464

Eleventh Edition, Dated April 28, 2023

Summary of Topics

This new edition of ANSI/UL 464 dated April 28, 2023 has been issued to incorporate changes from proposals dated May 13, 2022 and October 14, 2022.

The requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated May 20, 2022 and October 21, 2022.

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ULC Standards
CAN/ULC 525:2023
Fifth Edition



ULSE Inc.
ANSI/UL 464
Eleventh Edition

Audible Signaling Devices for Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems, Including Accessories

April 28, 2023

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ANSI/UL 464-2023



Commitment for Amendments

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CONTENTS

Preface	7
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INTRODUCTION

1 Scope	9
2 Components	9
3 Units of Measurement	10
4 Referenced Publications	10
5 Glossary	11
6 Control Unit Interface	13
7 Audible Signal Pattern	14
7.1 Format for fire alarm signals	14
7.2 Format for carbon monoxide signals	14

CONSTRUCTION

8 General	14
9 Enclosures	14
9.1 General	14
9.2 Cast metal enclosures	15
9.3 Sheet metal enclosures	16
9.4 Nonmetallic enclosures	18
9.5 Outdoor use enclosures	18
9.6 Openings	18
9.7 Gaskets	23
9.8 Covers	24
10 Corrosion Protection	24
11 Field Wiring Connections	25
11.1 General	25
11.2 Field wiring compartment	25
11.3 Field wiring terminals and leads	26
12 Internal Wiring	28
12.1 General	28
12.2 Separation of circuits	29
13 Bonding for Grounding	30
14 Electrical Components	31
14.1 Mounting	31
14.2 Insulating materials	32
14.3 Current-carrying parts	33
14.4 Bushings	33
14.5 Semiconductors	34
14.6 Transformers, relays, and coils	34
14.7 Capacitors	34
14.8 Operating parts	34
14.9 Connectors and receptacles	35
14.10 Printed wiring boards	35
14.11 Motors	35
14.12 Batteries	35
15 Spacings	38
16 Firmware Update (if provided)	39
16.1 General	39
16.2 Firmware update	39

PERFORMANCE

17	General	40
18	Samples	40
19	Input Test.....	41
	19.1 Test voltages	41
	19.2 Test currents	42
20	Output Sound Pressure Level.....	43
	20.1 Determination of rating.....	43
	20.2 Determination of sound reduction.....	44
	20.3 Determination of low frequency signal format	44
21	Directional Characteristics	45
22	Temperature Rise.....	46
23	Dielectric Voltage-Withstand	49
24	Evaluation of Reduced Spacings on Printed-Wiring Boards	50
25	Endurance.....	51
26	Variable Ambient Temperature Test	51
	26.1 General.....	51
	26.2 Effect of shipping/storage temperature	52
	26.3 High and low ambient temperature.....	52
27	Humidity Test	54
28	Abnormal Operation and Burnout Test	54
	28.1 General.....	54
	28.2 Abnormal supply line.....	55
	28.3 Abnormal duty cycle.....	55
	28.4 Compliance.....	55
29	Component Stress.....	55
30	Jarring.....	56
31	Vibration	57
32	Strain Relief	58
33	Corrosion Tests	58
	33.1 General.....	58
	33.2 Hydrogen sulphide.....	59
	33.3 Sulphur dioxide – carbon dioxide	59
	33.4 Salt spray	60
	33.5 Alternative indoor corrosion test (21-Day)	60
34	Water Spray Test.....	60
35	Polarity Reversal.....	63
36	Electric Shock Current	63
37	Polymeric (Plastic) Materials Tests.....	67
	37.1 General.....	67
	37.2 Air-oven aging test (temperature).....	67
	37.3 Flame Test – 19 mm (3/4 in)	68
	37.4 Flame Test – 127 mm (5 in)	69
	37.5 Ultraviolet light and water exposure test.....	70
38	Mechanical Strength Tests for Enclosures	70
39	Interference from Radio Frequency and Electromagnetic Radiation.....	72
	39.1 General.....	72
	39.2 Extraneous radio frequency transients.....	73
	39.3 Supply-line transients.....	74
	39.4 Internally induced transients	74
	39.5 Signal-line transients.....	75
40	Evaluation of Conformal Coatings on Printed Wiring Boards	75
41	Locked Rotor Test	75
	41.1 General.....	75
	41.2 Thermal or overcurrent protection	76

41.3	Impedance Protection	77
42	Battery-Powered Units	78
42.1	General	78
42.2	Battery trouble voltage determination	78
42.3	Primary Battery Tests	81
42.4	Rechargeable batteries used as standby power source	82
42.5	Battery charging current test	82
42.6	Battery replacement test	82

MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION TESTS

43	General	83
44	Production-Line Dielectric Voltage-Withstand	83
45	Production-Line Grounding-Continuity Test for AC Mains-Voltage, Cord-Connected Products	84

MARKINGS

46	General	84
47	Marking Permanence	87
47.1	General	87
47.2	Permanence of Marking Test	87

INSTRUCTIONS

48	Manufacturer's Published Instructions	87
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SPECIALIZED REQUIREMENTS/APPLICATIONS

49	Requirements for Protective Covers and Accessories for Audible Signaling Devices	89
49.1	General	89
49.2	Manufacturer's published instructions	89
49.3	Construction Requirements	89
49.4	Markings	89
49.5	Performance Tests	90
50	Requirements for Wireless Systems	90
51	In Canada Only: Requirements for Dwelling Unit Audible Signaling Devices	91
51.1	General	91
51.2	Output Sound Pressure Level	91
51.3	Operation	91
51.4	Endurance	91
51.5	Timer tests	92
51.6	Operating mechanisms	92

ANNEX A (Normative) – ALARM SIGNAL TEMPORAL PATTERN

A1	General	93
A2	Temporal Pattern for Fire Alarm Signal	93
A3	Temporal Pattern for Carbon Monoxide Signal	93

ANNEX B (Normative) – FRENCH TRANSLATIONS OF REQUIRED MARKINGS

ANNEX C (Informative) – STANDARDS FOR COMPONENTS

ANNEX D (Informative) – TEST SAMPLE SEQUENCE

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Preface

This is the common ULSE and ULC Standard for Audible Signaling Devices for Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems, Including Accessories. It is the fifth edition of CAN/ULC 525 and eleventh edition of UL 464.

This common Standard was prepared by UL Standards & Engagement Inc. (ULSE), ULC Standards and the NEMA Technical Harmonization Committee on Notification Appliances. The standard was formally approved by the ULSE Technical Committee on Signal Appliances and the ULC Technical Committee on Fire Alarm and Life Safety Equipment and Systems. The efforts and support of the NEMA Technical Harmonization Committee, ULSE Technical Committee, and ULC Technical Committee are gratefully acknowledged.

Only metric SI units of measurement are used in this Standard. If a value for measurement is followed by a value in other units in parentheses, the second value may be approximate. The first stated value is the requirement.

In Canada, there are two official languages, English and French. All safety warnings must be in French and English. Attention is drawn to the possibility that some Canadian authorities may require additional markings and/or installation instructions to be in both official languages.

Annexes [A](#) and [B](#) are identified as normative and form a mandatory part of this Standard.

Annexes [C](#), and [D](#) are identified as informative and are for informational purposes only.

Note: Although the intended primary application of this standard is stated in its scope, it is important to note that it remains the responsibility of the users of the standard to judge its suitability for their particular purpose.

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INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 This standard applies to electrically operated bells, sirens, horns, and similar audible signaling devices, rated at 300 V or less, for fire alarm and signaling systems and intended for indoor and/or outdoor installation:

a) In Canada only: in accordance with CSA C22.1, Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, Safety Standard for Electrical Installations; and with ULC-S524, Standard for Installation of Fire Alarm Systems; and

b) In the United States only: in accordance with the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70, and the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, NFPA 72.

1.2 This standard applies to audible signaling devices for use in ordinary (non-hazardous or non-corrosive) locations.

1.3 This standard also applies to protective covers and accessories used with audible signals.

1.4 This standard does not apply to door bells, buzzers and chimes used in household and similar applications and intended for operation on Class 2 signal circuits as defined in:

a) In Canada only: CSA C22.1, Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, Safety Standard for Electrical Installations; and

b) In the United States only: the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70.

1.5 Audible signaling devices for use in hazardous or corrosive locations shall comply with the requirements of this Standard and the applicable requirements of:

a) In Canada only: CSA C22.1, Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, Safety Standard for Electrical Installations, with respect to the hazard or category classification; and

b) In the United States only: the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70.

1.6 A supplementary visual signal incorporated as part of an audible signaling device which is intended for fire alarm application shall comply with the requirements of this Standard and the applicable requirements of the Standard for Visible Signaling Devices for Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems, Including Accessories, ULC 526 and UL 1638.

2 Components

2.1 Except as indicated in [2.2](#), a component of a product covered by this Standard shall comply with the requirements for that component. See Annex [C](#) for a list of Standards covering components generally used in the products covered by this Standard.

2.2 A component need not comply with a specific requirement that:

a) Involves a feature or characteristic not needed in the application of the component in the product covered by this Standard; or,

b) Is superseded by a requirement in this Standard.

2.3 A component shall be used in accordance with rating(s) established by its manufacturer for the intended conditions of use.

3 Units of Measurement

3.1 Values stated without parentheses are the requirement. Values in parentheses are explanatory or approximate information.

4 Referenced Publications

4.1 Any undated reference to a code or standard appearing in the requirements of this Standard shall be interpreted as referring to the latest edition of that code or standard.

4.2 The following publications are referenced in this Standard:

ASA S1.40, *Specifications and Verification Procedures for Sound Calibrators*

ASA S12.51/ISO 3741, *Acoustics – Determination of sound power levels and sound energy levels of noise sources using sound pressure – Precision methods for reverberation test rooms*

ASA S1.4/Part 1/IEC 61672-1, *Electroacoustics – Sound Level Meters – Part 1: Specifications*

ASA S1.4/Part 2/IEC 61672-2, *Electroacoustics – Sound Level Meters – Part 2: Pattern Evaluation Tests*

ASA S1.4/Part 3/IEC 61672-3, *Electroacoustics – Sound Level Meters – Part 3: Periodic Tests*

ASTM B86, *Specification for Zinc and Zinc-Aluminum (ZA) Alloy Foundry and Die Castings*

ASTM B117, *Standard Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus*

ASTM E28, *Test Methods for Softening Point of Resins Derived from Pine Chemicals and Hydrocarbons, by Ring-and-Ball Apparatus*

CSA C22.1, *Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, Safety Standard for Electrical Installations*

CSA C22.2 No. 0.15, *Adhesive labels*

CSA C22.2 No. 0.4, *Bonding of electrical equipment*

CSA C22.2 No. 0.17, *Evaluation of Properties of Polymeric Materials*

CSA C22.2 No. 77, *Motors with inherent overheating protection*

CSA C22.2 No. 198.1, *Extruded insulating tubing*

CSA C22.2 No. 60065, *Audio, video, and similar electronic apparatus – Safety requirements*

CSA C22.2 No. 60086-4, *Primary Batteries – Part 4: Safety of Lithium Batteries*

IEC 61672-1, *Electroacoustics – Sound Level Meters – Part 1: Specifications*

ISO 8201, *Alarm Systems – Audible emergency evacuation signal – Requirements*

NBC, *National Building Code of Canada*

UL 224, *Extruded Insulating Tubing*

UL 746C, *Polymeric Materials – Use in Electrical Equipment Evaluations*

UL 796, *Printed Wiring Boards*

UL 864, *Control Units and Accessories for Fire Alarm Systems*

UL 969, *Marking and Labeling Systems*

UL 1004-1, *Rotating Electrical Machines – General Requirements*

UL 1004-2, *Impedance Protected Motors*

UL 1004-3, *Thermally Protected Motors*

UL 1642, *Lithium Batteries*

UL 2054, *Household and Commercial Batteries*

UL 60065, *Audio, Video, and Similar Electronic Apparatus – Safety requirements*

UL 60086-4, *Primary Batteries – Part 4: Safety of Lithium Batteries*

UL 60384-14, *Fixed Capacitors for Use in Electronic Equipment – Part 14: Sectional Specification: Fixed Capacitors for Electromagnetic Interference Suppression and Connection to the Supply Mains*

ULC-S524, *Installation of Fire Alarm Systems*

ULC 526, *Visible Signaling Devices for Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems, Including Accessories*

ULC 527, *Control Units for Fire Alarm Systems*

ULC 541, *Speakers for Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems, Including Accessories*

5 Glossary

For the purpose of this Standard, the following definitions apply:

5.1 BATTERY – General term for (1) A single cell, or (2) a group of cells connected together either in a series and/or parallel configuration. May be ready for use or may be an installed component.

5.2 BATTERY PACK – A battery which is ready for use, contained in a rigid enclosure, with or without protective devices.

5.3 CONSTANT TEMPERATURE – Temperature is considered to be constant when three successive readings indicate no change when taken at intervals of 10 % of the previously elapsed duration of the test, but not less than at 5 min intervals.

5.4 DECIBEL (dB) – One-tenth of a bel, the number of decibels denoting the ratio of the two amounts of power being ten times the logarithm to the base 10 of this ratio.

NOTE: The abbreviation dB is commonly used for the term decibel, and is determined as follows:

$$n = 10 \log_{10} \frac{P_1}{P_2} \text{ dB}$$

Where:

P_1 and P_2 = The two values of power, expressed in the same unit (e.g., sound pressure level); and

N = value in decibels.

5.5 DUTY CYCLE – The ratio of the sum of all pulse durations to the total period, during a specified period of operation.

5.6 DWELLING UNIT – A suite operated as a housekeeping unit, used or intended to be used as a domicile by one or more persons and usually containing cooking, eating, living, sleeping and sanitary facilities.

NOTE: Definition of this term is consistent with that used in the National Building Code of Canada.

5.7 EMERGENCY WARNING – A system used to provide information and instructions to people in a building, area, site, or other space using intelligible voice communications methods. An Emergency Warning System is used to notify occupants that an emergency exists.

5.8 FIRMWARE – A control program that is embedded in the notification appliance.

5.9 FREE FIELD – An environment in which a sound wave may propagate in all directions without obstructions or reflections within the frequency range of interest.

5.10 MANUFACTURER'S PUBLISHED INSTRUCTIONS – Published installation and operating documentation provided for each product or component. The documentation includes directions and necessary information for the intended installation, maintenance, and operation of the product or component.

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5.11 PRIMARY BATTERY – A battery which can only be discharged once. It is not designed to be rechargeable and must be protected from a charging current.

5.12 PRIVATE MODE – Mode of operation intended to notify only those persons directly concerned with the implementation and direction of emergency action initiation and procedure in the area protected by the fire-alarm and signaling system.

5.13 PUBLIC MODE – Mode of operation intended to notify occupants or inhabitants in the area protected by the fire-alarm and signaling system.

5.14 REFERENCE AXIS – The "reference axis" of a signaling device is a line passing through the reference point coincident with the geometrical axis of the sound propagation pattern. For symmetrical structures, the reference axis is usually perpendicular to a plane passing through the edge of the sound source or opening of a horn.

5.15 REFERENCE POINT – The "reference point" of a signaling device is a point on the outside of the signaling device in line with the geometrical center of the sound source projected perpendicular to a plane passing through the edge of the sound source. For horn type audible signaling devices, the "reference point" is the geometrical center of the opening of the horn.

5.16 RESONANCE – Condition of peak vibratory response where a small change in excitation frequency causes a decrease in system response.

5.17 SECONDARY BATTERY – A battery that is intended to be discharged and recharged many times in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

5.18 SOFTWARE – A program that is used to program a notification appliance's function and or its performance through the device's firmware.

5.19 SOUND – Energy that is transmitted by pressure waves in air or other materials and is the objective cause of the sensation of hearing. Commonly called noise if it is unwanted.

5.20 SOUND LEVEL METER – An electronic instrument for measuring the RMS level of sound in accordance with an accepted national or international standard.

5.21 SOUND PRESSURE – A fluctuating pressure superimposed on the static pressure by the presence of sound. The unqualified term means the root-mean-square sound pressure. In air, the static pressure is barometric pressure.

5.22 SOUND PRESSURE LEVEL (SPL) – Ten times the common logarithm of the ratio of the square of the sound pressure under consideration to the square of the standard reference pressure of 20 μ Pa. The quantity obtained is expressed in decibels.

5.23 SPECIAL TOOL – A device not normally carried by the public (e.g., a key), normally provided by the manufacturer, to deter unauthorized access to the equipment.

NOTE: This is intended to deter unauthorized access to the equipment, while being available on site either at a defined location or from a "responsible person" familiar with and having knowledge of the equipment.

5.24 TROUBLE SIGNAL – A visual, audible, or transmitted signal indicating a fault condition associated with a notification appliance.

6 Control Unit Interface

6.1 An audible signaling device incorporating circuitry for functional interfacing with a control unit for purposes such as supervision, point addressing, multiplexing, synchronization, wireless communication etc., shall also comply with the applicable functional requirements of standards such as:

a) In Canada only:

1) ULC-S545; and

2) ULC 527.

b) In the United States only:

- 1) UL 985; and
- 2) UL 864.

7 Audible Signal Pattern

7.1 Format for fire alarm signals

7.1.1 Devices used for fire alarm signals whose signal format is not controlled by a control unit shall be capable of reproducing a 3 pulse signal temporal pattern conforming with [Figure A2.1](#) in Annex A, either internally or when pulsed from an external source.

7.2 Format for carbon monoxide signals

7.2.1 Audible signaling devices used for carbon monoxide alarms and whose signal format is not controlled by a control unit, shall be capable of reproducing a 4 pulse signal temporal pattern either internally or when pulsed from an external source. Refer to [Figure A3.1](#) in Annex A.

CONSTRUCTION

8 General

8.1 The construction of an audible signaling device for fire alarm or emergency use shall comply with the construction requirements contained in this section unless, where permitted by test, the construction is determined to be equivalent to these requirements.

8.2 Unless otherwise indicated, the construction requirements specified for a product shall also apply to any accessories with which it is to be used.

9 Enclosures

9.1 General

9.1.1 The frame and enclosure of an audible signaling device shall be sufficiently strong and rigid to resist the abuses to which it is likely to be subjected without adversely affecting its performance due to total or partial collapse with attendant reduction of spacings, loosening or displacement of parts and development of other conditions which could impair operation of the audible signaling device and increase the risk of fire or electrical shock. Refer to Section [38](#), Mechanical Strength Tests for Enclosures.

9.1.2 Electrical parts or hazardous moving parts of an audible signaling device shall be located or enclosed to provide protection from unintentional contact with uninsulated live parts.

9.1.3 An audible signaling device intended to be installed on an outlet box or similar mounting enclosure, is to be judged with respect to compliance of the combination with the requirements of [9.1.1](#) and [9.1.2](#).

9.1.4 An operating part, such as a gear mechanism, light-duty relay, or similar device, shall be protected against mechanical damage and fouling by dust or other material which impairs its intended operation.

9.1.5 The enclosure of a device shall be provided with means for mounting in the intended manner. Any fittings, such as brackets, hangers, or similar hardware required for mounting shall be furnished with the device.

9.1.6 An enclosure shall have provision for the connection of metal-clad cable, conduit, or nonmetallic sheathed cable. Space shall be provided within a terminal or wiring compartment to permit the use of a standard conduit bushing on conduit connected to the compartment when a bushing is required for installation. An enclosure without such provision is permitted when:

- a) It is furnished with definite instructions indicating the sections of the enclosure which are intended to be drilled in the field for the connection of raceways, or
- b) The device is intended for mounting on a standard outlet box that is listed or approved for the intended use.

9.1.7 An audible signaling device intended for either flush or surface mounting in a back box shall use a standard enclosure that has been evaluated for the intended use or an enclosure that complies with the requirements of this standard.

9.1.8 An audible signaling device need not be furnished with a back box where means for attachment to a standard outlet box are provided and the spacings comply with Section [15](#) Spacings.

9.1.9 The mounting means of an audible signaling device to an enclosure shall be accessible without disassembly of any components not identified in the manufacturer's published instructions of the audible signaling device. The mounting means shall be independent of those means used for securing components or parts of the assembly. Removal of a complete assembly is not considered to be disassembly of a component.

9.1.10 An enclosure shall be constructed to minimize the possibility of emission of flame, molten metal, flaming or glowing particles, or flaming drops. See Section [28](#), Abnormal Operation and Burnout Test.

9.1.11 An audible signaling device of less than 23 kg (50.7 lb) mass may be arranged for mounting to an outlet box provided that, if the audible signaling device mass is more than 11 kg (24-1/4 lb), it is plainly marked as specified in Section [46](#), Marking.

9.1.12 An audible signaling device of more than 23 kg (50.7 lb) mass shall incorporate space or a compartment for field wiring and shall be provided with means for physical mounting and support by other than an outlet box.

9.2 Cast metal enclosures

9.2.1 The thickness of cast metal for an enclosure shall be as indicated in [Table 9.1](#).

Exception: Cast metal of lesser thickness may be employed if, consideration being given to the shape, size, and function of the enclosure, it provides equivalent mechanical strength. See Mechanical Strength Tests for Enclosures, Section [38](#).

Table 9.1
Cast Metal Enclosures

Use, or dimensions of area involved	Minimum thickness			
	Die-cast metal,		Cast metal of other than the die-cast type,	
	mm	(in)	mm	(in)
Area of 155 cm ² (24 in ²) or less and having no dimension greater than 152 mm (6 in)	1.6	(1/16) ^a	3.2	(1/8)
Area greater than 155 cm ² (24 in ²) or having any dimension greater than 152 mm (6 in)	2.4	(3/32)	3.2	(1/8)
At a threaded conduit hole	6.4	(1/4)	6.4	(1/4)
At an unthreaded conduit hole	3.2	(1/8)	3.2	(1/8)

^a The area limitation for metal 1.6 mm (1/16 in) in thickness may be obtained by the provision of reinforcing ribs subdividing a larger area.

9.2.2 If threads for the connection of conduit are tapped all the way through a hole in an enclosure wall, there shall be not less than 3.5 or more than 5 threads in the metal, and the construction shall be such that a standard conduit bushing can be properly attached.

9.2.3 If threads for the connection of conduit are tapped only part of the way through a hole in an enclosure wall, there shall be not less than 3.5 full threads in the metal and there shall be a smooth, rounded inlet hole which shall afford protection to the conductors equivalent to that provided by a standard conduit bushing.

9.2.4 An audible signaling device assembly designed to be supported by rigid conduit shall be of sufficient strength to be able to support 5 times the weight of the audible signaling device assembly and comply with Section 38, Mechanical Strength Test for Enclosures. When provided with a conduit hub, or the equivalent, the hub shall have not less than 5 full threads.

9.2.5 Die-cast metal for other than flush boxes is permitted when it complies with one of the alloy specifications given in ASTM B86.

9.3 Sheet metal enclosures

9.3.1 The thickness of sheet metal employed for the enclosure of an audible signaling device shall be not less than that indicated in Table 9.2.

Exception: Sheet metal of lesser thickness may be employed if, consideration being given to the shape, size, and function of the enclosure, it provides equivalent mechanical strength. See Mechanical Strength Tests for Enclosures, Section 38.

**Table 9.2
Minimum Thickness of Sheet Metal**

Maximum dimensions of enclosure				Minimum thickness of sheet metal					
				Steel				Copper, brass or aluminum,	
Group	Length or width,		Area,		Zinc-coated,		Uncoated,		mm (in)
	mm	(in)	cm ²	(in ²)	mm	(in)	mm	(in)	
A	76.2	(3)	39 ^a	(6)	0.64 ^b	(0.025)	0.53 ^b	(0.021)	0.58 ^c (0.023)
B	203	(8)	232	(36)	0.76 ^{b,d}	(0.030)	0.69 ^{b,d}	(0.027)	0.91 ^d (0.036)
C	305	(12)	581	(90)	0.86 ^d	(0.034)	0.81 ^d	(0.032)	1.14 ^d (0.045)

^a Volume of enclosure not more than 197 cm³ (12 in³).

^b Sheet steel for an enclosure intended for outdoor use (rain-tight) is required to be not less than 0.91 mm (0.036 in) in thickness if zinc coated and not less than 0.81 mm (0.032 in) in thickness if uncoated.

^c Sheet copper, brass, or aluminum for an enclosure intended for outdoor use (rain-tight) is required to be not less than 0.74 mm (0.029 in) in thickness.

^d For a cover in Group B or C having a supporting frame or equivalent reinforcing and not intended for outdoor use, the thickness of sheet steel may be less than that specified in the table but shall be not less than 0.53 mm (0.021 in) [0.64 mm (0.025 in) if zinc coated], and the thickness of copper, brass, or aluminum may be less than that specified in the table but shall be not less than 0.74 mm (0.029 in).

9.3.2 A plate or plug closure for an unused conduit opening or other hole in the enclosure shall have a thickness not less than:

- a) 0.36 mm (0.014 in) for steel or 0.43 mm (0.017 in) for nonferrous metal for a hole having a 6.4 mm (1/4 in) maximum dimension; and
- b) 0.69 mm (0.027 in) for steel or 0.81 mm (0.032 in) for nonferrous metal for a hole having a 35 mm (1-3/8 in) maximum dimension.

9.3.3 A hole larger than 35 mm (1-3/8 in) diameter shall have a closure whose thickness is not less than that required for the enclosure of the audible signaling device or shall have a standard knockout seal. Such plates or plugs shall be securely mounted.

9.3.4 A knockout in a sheet metal enclosure shall be secured but shall be capable of being removed without undue deformation of the enclosure. See Section 38, Mechanical Strength Tests for Enclosures.

9.3.5 A knockout shall be provided with a surrounding surface area of sufficient size to permit seating of a conduit bushing, and shall be so located that a bushing employed at any knockout likely to be used during installation will not result in spacings between uninsulated live parts and the bushing of less than those indicated under Section 15, Spacings.

9.3.6 A sheet metal member to which a wiring system is to be connected in the field shall have a thickness not less than 0.81 mm (0.032 in) for uncoated steel, of not less than 0.86 mm (0.040 in) for galvanized steel, and not less than 1.14 mm (0.045 in) for nonferrous metal.

9.3.7 At any point where conduit or metal-clad cable is to be attached, sheet metal shall be of such thickness or shall be so formed or reinforced that it has a stiffness at least equivalent to that of an uncoated flat steel sheet having a minimum thickness of 1.35 mm (0.053 in).

9.3.8 An enclosure intended for recessed mounting shall have no nonfunctional openings on any of the enclosed sides.

9.4 Nonmetallic enclosures

9.4.1 An enclosure or parts of an enclosure of nonmetallic material shall have the mechanical strength and durability and be so formed that operating parts will be protected against damage. The mechanical strength of the enclosure shall be at least equivalent to a sheet metal enclosure of the minimum thickness specified in [Table 9.2](#). Refer to Section [38](#), Mechanical Strength Tests for Enclosures.

9.4.2 The continuity of any grounding system to which an appliance is capable of being connected shall not rely on the dimensional integrity of the nonmetallic material.

9.4.3 Among the factors taken into consideration when judging the acceptability of a nonmetallic enclosure are the following:

- a) The mechanical strength;
- b) Resistance to impact;
- c) Moisture-absorptive properties;
- d) Flammability and resistance to ignition from electrical sources;
- e) Dielectric strength, insulation resistance, and resistance to arc tracking; and
- f) Resistance to distortion and creeping at temperatures to which the material may be subjected.

NOTE: All these factors are considered with respect to aging in accordance with Section [37](#), Tests on Polymeric (Plastic) Materials.

9.5 Outdoor use enclosures

9.5.1 The enclosure of an audible signaling device intended for outdoor use shall incorporate the following:

- a) Means for mounting designed to prevent water spray from entering the enclosure. See Section [34](#), Water Spray Test.
- b) Holes for conduit that shall be threaded unless they are located below the lowest termination point or other live part within the enclosure. If knockouts or unthreaded holes are provided, there shall be provision for drainage of the enclosure.

9.5.2 A surface mount enclosure intended for outdoor use shall be provided with external means for mounting.

Exception: Internal means for mounting may be employed if constructed so as to prevent water from entering the enclosure.

9.5.3 For outdoor use, an enclosure of sheet steel less than 3.04 mm (0.12 in) in thickness, 3.18 mm (0.125 in) or less if zinc coated, shall be galvanized by the hot-dip process after forming and assembly, or shall be made from hot-dipped sheets, or shall be provided with a coating which is at least the equivalent, with respect to corrosion protection, of zinc applied by the hot-dip process.

9.6 Openings

9.6.1 Openings in the top of the enclosure shall be so constructed and shall be of such size that the entry of foreign objects is prevented.