UL 496

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Lampholders

UL Standard for Safety for Lampholders, UL 496

Fourteenth Edition, Dated September 5, 2017

Summary of Topics

This revision of ANSI/UL 496 dated November 16, 2026 includes the following changes in requirements:

- ***Mechanical conformity and electrical rating of ANSI fit designations; Sections 5.1.5, 5.1.6, and 6.2.3.***

- ***Revisions and updates to Markings Section 7; 2.5A, 2.16A, 2.58A, 4.5.2.3, 4.8.1.2, 4.8.3.2, 4.8.3.3, 4.8.4.2, 4.8.5.2, 4.8.6.4, 4.10.6.3.3, 5.2.15.3.3, Figure 12, Section 7 (Advisory Note), Sections 7.0, 7.1, 7.2, 7.2 7.2A, 7.4 7.3A, 7.4, and Table 23.***

- ***Editorial Updates and Corrections; 2.41, 3.3, 4.2.2.2.1, 4.2.2.3.1, 4.2.2.4.1, 4.8.3.1, 4.9.11, 4.9.12, and 5.2.15.1.2.***

- ***Update Supplement SA Lampholder adapters and load fittings; SA1.1, Table SA1, SA3.9, and SA3.10.***

- ***Lampholder Adapters; SA2.1.***

Text that has been changed in any manner or impacted by ULSE's electronic publishing system is marked with a vertical line in the margin.

The new and revised requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated June 5, 2026.

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CSA Group
CSA C22.2 No. 43-17
Seventh Edition

ULSE Inc.
UL 496
Fourteenth Edition

Lampholders

September 5, 2017

(Title Page Reprinted: November 16, 2026)

Approved American National Standard

ANSI/UL 496-2026

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Preface

This is the harmonized CSA Group and ULSE standard for lampholders. It is the seventh edition of CSA C22.2 No. 43, and the fourteenth edition of UL 496. This edition of CSA C22.2 No. 43 supersedes the previous editions published in 2008, 2004, 1984, 1965, 1958, and 1937. This edition of UL 496 supersedes the previous edition published in 2008. This harmonized standard has been jointly revised on November 16, 2026. For this purpose, CSA Group and ULSE are issuing revision pages dated November 16, 2026.

This harmonized standard was prepared by a task force comprising members representing CSA Group, ULSE, NEMA (National Electrical Manufacturers Association), and EFC (Electro-Federation Canada). The efforts and support of the Technical Harmonization Committee for Lampholders of the Council on the Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards of the Nations of the Americas (CANENA) are gratefully acknowledged.

This standard is considered suitable for use for conformity assessment within the stated scope of the standard.

This standard was reviewed by the CSA Integrated Committee on Lighting Products, under the jurisdiction of the CSA Technical Committee on Consumer and Commercial Products and the CSA Strategic Steering Committee on Requirements for Electrical Safety, and has been formally approved by the CSA Technical Committee.

Application of Standard

Where reference is made to a specific number of samples to be tested, the specified number is to be considered a minimum quantity.

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.

Level of harmonization

This standard uses the IEC format but is not based on, nor is it to be considered equivalent to, an IEC standard. This standard is published as an identical standard for CSA and ULSE.

An identical standard is a standard that is exactly the same in technical content except for national differences resulting from conflicts in codes and governmental regulations. Presentation is word for word except for editorial changes.

Reasons for differences from IEC

This standard provides requirements for Lampholders in accordance with the codes of Canada and USA. At present there is no IEC standard for Lampholders for use in accordance with these codes. Therefore, this standard does not employ any IEC standard for base requirements.

Interpretations

The interpretation by the standards development organization of an identical or equivalent standard is based on the literal text to determine compliance with the standard in accordance with the procedural rules of the standards development organization. If more than one interpretation of the literal text has been identified, a revision is to be proposed as soon as possible to each of the standards development organizations to more accurately reflect the intent.

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1 Scope

1.1 The requirements of this standard cover holders and connectors for electric lamps, including incandescent, fluorescent, and other electric-discharge-type lamps, rated as indicated in Clause 6, to be used in accordance with CSA C22.1, Canadian Electrical Code (CE Code), Part I, and the National Electrical Code (NEC), NFPA 70.

1.2 These requirements cover screw lampholders, including those intended to be mounted directly on an outlet-box, lampholders for special uses, lampholders for electric signs, and adapters that convert one lampholder size to another.

1.3 These requirements also cover holders for automatic starters used with fluorescent lamps.

1.4 These requirements also cover GU24 and GU24-1 holders for fluorescent and LED self-ballasted lamps and fluorescent lamp adapters with mating pin bases.

1.5 These requirements also cover indicator lamps.

1.6 These requirements also cover lampholder inserts.

1.7 These requirements also cover naval-use lampholders. See Supplement SB.

1.8 These requirements do not cover fluorescent self-ballasted lamps and fluorescent lamp adapters covered in UL 1993.

1.9 These requirements do not cover seasonal-lighting lampholders, which are covered in UL 588, and CSA C22.2 No. 37.

1.10 These requirements do not cover electrode receptacles for use in gas-tube signs, which are covered in UL 879 and CSA C22.2 No. 34.

1.11 These requirements do not cover devices requiring a cross-bar, mounting strap, or other mounting means; such devices are considered to be luminaires.

1.12 These requirements do not cover nightlights, which are covered in UL 1786 and CSA C22.2 No. 256.

1.13 These requirements do not cover ceiling outlet-box lampholders that incorporate one or more of the following features:

a) more than one lampholder;

b) provisions for conduit connection such as openings or knockout;

c) an integral ballast, transformer or power supply; or

d) a lamp shade or lamp guard that completely encloses the lamp.

Such devices are covered by UL 1598 and CSA C22.2 No. 250.0.

1.14 In Canada, general requirements applicable to these products are provided in CSA C22.2 No. 0.

2 Definitions

2.1 For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply:

2.2 Actuating member – the part of a switch actuator that extends outside the body and is exposed to contact by the user.

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2.3 Actuator – the part that drives a switch mechanism into action.

2.4 Adapter – a device that adapts one form or size of connecting means to another, and in some cases incorporates circuits or controls such as a dimmer or photo-control or a switch.

2.5 Base – that part of a lampholder that is used for mounting of the device.

2.5A Bulk shipment – any packaging container having more than one lampholder not provided with a unit container.

NOTE: Bulk shipping devices are to be shipped without being packaged in individual unit containers.

2.6 Cap – a component of screw-type lampholders that is provided to supply a mounting means for the lampholder, enclose live or current-carrying parts, and/or prevent inadvertent accessibility to live parts.

NOTE: Internationally, the word “cap” is used in place of the North American term “base” to describe the means of connection of the lamp to the lampholder.

2.7 Center contact – a contact used in a screw lampholder to engage the center contact of a lamp base.

2.8 Current tap – an adapter that is screwed into a base-supply lampholder and provides multiple outlets of the lampholder or slotted receptacle type.

2.9 Damp location – an interior or exterior location that is normally or periodically subject to condensation of moisture. Damp locations include partially protected locations under canopies, roofed open porches, and similar locations.

2.10 Device screw base – a cylindrical component of a screw device having an external male thread or form for engaging a corresponding lampholder.

2.11 Dry location – a location not normally subject to dampness. Dry locations include locations subject to temporary dampness, as in the case of a building under construction, provided ventilation is adequate to reduce the likelihood of accumulation of moisture.

2.12 Enclosure – that part or parts of a lampholder that:

a) renders inaccessible all or any parts of the equipment that may otherwise present a risk of electric shock; or

b) retards propagation of flame caused by electrical disturbances occurring within.

2.13 General-use – suitable for direct installation in the field.

2.14 Holder, GU24 and GU24-1 – a holder with a twist and lock bi-pin configuration that is intended to supply power to fluorescent and LED self-ballasted lamps and fluorescent lamp adapters with mating pin bases. This holder is not intended for use with incandescent lamps.

2.15 Husk – a covering over a screwshell, usually of paper, that renders the screwshell and terminals inaccessible.

2.16 Indicator lamp – an indicating device consisting of a lamp, with or without a lampholder, that is provided with leads or terminals. In some cases indicator lamp also incorporates a bracket or other mounting provision.

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2.16A Instruction sheet – a generic term for information that is provided with the product in printed form (e.g., an insert, stuffer sheet, installation instructions, etc.). Required product markings may be provided in an instruction sheet, where so permitted by this standard. The manufacturer may include other materials – unrelated to the marking requirements of this standard – in the instruction sheet.

2.17 Insulating link – a section of the chain of a pull-type switching mechanism intended to prevent the accessible portion of the chain from becoming energized.

2.18 Interior – a component of an screw metal shell lampholder that engages the threads of the lamp base and that supports live parts, such as lamp contacts, switch contacts, and actuators, and that is intended to be enclosed within a body.

2.19 Intermediate contact – a contact used in an E26d or E39d double-contact lampholder to engage the ring contact of a double-filament lamp.

2.20 Isolated screwshell – a mechanical device for engaging the threads of a screw base lamp that supports the lamp but is not conductively connected to the supply circuit.

2.21 Lamp base – the part of a lamp that engages the lampholder and makes contact with the electrical circuits of the lampholder.

2.22 Lamp cavity – that portion of the lampholder which is provided for the insertion of the lamp.

2.23 Lamp connector – a set of contacts provided with flexible conductors which provides for electrical connection to a lamp but does not provide support.

2.24 Lampholder – a wiring device intended for making connection to the electrical circuits of a lamp and, in some cases, providing support.

2.25 Lampholder, bayonet – a device equipped with retaining slots in the shell for holding the lamp base.

2.26 Lampholder, candle-type (stem type) – a screw lampholder having an insulating covering (husk), such as paper, over the screwshell and terminals, which in some cases provides the required depth of lamp cavity. In some cases the lampholder also has a close-fitting, nonmetallic outer decorative casing.

NOTE: These lampholders are commonly used in luminaires and portable luminaires to give the appearance of a candle.

2.27 Lampholder, ceiling outlet-box – a lampholder intended for mounting to a ceiling outlet-box that also serves as the outlet-box cover.

2.28 Lampholder, circuit-interrupting – a fluorescent-type lampholder that incorporates a switch to de-energize a circuit when the lamp is removed.

2.29 Lampholder, cleat-type – a lampholder used for open wiring on insulators that in some cases have exposed wiring terminals prior to installation.

2.30 Lampholder, flush-type – a lampholder intended for mounting in an outlet-box with a cover plate, usually serving as a pilot or indicator light.

2.31 Lampholder insert – a device that is interposed between the base of a screw lamp and the lampholder center contact.

NOTE: Such devices are commonly used to reduce the lamp power consumption or for remote control such as dimming.

2.32 Lampholder, metal cap and shell – a lampholder type consisting of a metal cap and shell, an interior, and an insulating lining.

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2.33 Lampholder, open-rated – a screw lampholder with an EX26 medium base or EX39 mogul base and intended for use with a “Type O” metal halide lamp. These lampholders have a physical means that only allows the use of a lamp that is “Type O” and excludes lamps with an E26 or E39 base.

2.34 Lampholder, pendant-type (cord-grip lampholder) – a lampholder intended to be supported and suspended by a flexible cord.

2.35 Lampholder, pulse-rated – a lampholder or lamp connector intended for use with a lamp that requires a starting pulse in excess of 600 Vpk.

2.36 Lampholder, refrigeration – a lampholder intended to be installed in a refrigerated compartment of refrigerators or freezers.

NOTE: The interior of a refrigerated compartment is considered an indoor damp location.

2.37 Lampholder, screw – a lampholder employing a threaded screwshell.

NOTE: Standardized screw types include the following bases:

a) E10 (miniature);

b) E11 (mini can);

c) E12 (candelabra);

d) E17 (intermediate);

e) E26 (medium);

f) E29 (admedium) (not standardized);

g) E39 (mogul).

2.38 Lampholder, screw-ring – an externally threaded lampholder intended for mounting in a panel opening by means of a threaded ring.

2.39 Lampholder, seasonal-lighting – a lampholder that is restricted for use with Christmas-tree and decorative lighting outfits and which by its construction and application is not suitable for general use.

2.40 Lampholder, skeleton-type – a screw lampholder that does not use conductive screwshell threads to make electrical contact with the lamp screw base. Electrical contact with the lamp screw base is made with one or more separate contacts in the side wall of the lamp cavity or a ring contact in the bottom of the lamp cavity.

2.41 Lampholder, temporary use – a lampholder intended for installation and use in accordance with Article 590 of the National Electrical Code,NFPA 70, and Section 76 of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, CSA C22.1.

2.42 Lampholder, weatherproof – a lampholder intended for direct exposure to the weather.

2.43 Lamplock – a feature intended to keep a lamp from being removed except by a person having a key or special tool.

2.44 Lining – an intermediate piece of insulating material constructed to prevent electrical contact between live parts, such as the screwshell, and the outer shell, cap, or cover.

2.45 Live part – a part that is energized during normal operation.

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