
Shock Hazard with Tall (metallic) Audio Visual Carts

During an inspection in a school kindergarten room, an Inspector found a metal audiovisual utility cart, where the metallic portion of the cart was energized.

This dangerous condition poses a serious shock hazard to persons coming in contact with the cart or equipment connected to the cart.

Further investigation has identified numerous other metallic utility carts in educational facilities and offices that are energized when the power bar on the cart is connected to a wall outlet. The molded cord cap on the flexible supply cord has been found to fail as a result of abuse, excessive use or poor connection of the grounding in the molded cord cap.

To protect people from shock and injuries, the following is recommended

1. Inspect all metallic carts with a power bars bolted to it.
2. The attachment cap should have all three prongs intact and in good condition. Plugs with broken ground pins are unsafe and should not be used.
3. If a faulty cart is suspected, Do Not Use until a qualified person tests and deems the cart is safe.
4. The polarity and ground continuity of the power bar should be tested using a polarity tester (see diagram below). Also test for any potential to ground with an approved voltage meter.
5. Carts with power bars that are not polarized or indicate potential to ground when tested, shall be taken out of service immediately.
6. All carts and power bars should be inspected from time to time and repaired or replaced as necessary to ensure the safety of the user.



Typical Audio
Visual Cart

Attachment Cap

