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American National Standard

**Sheet-Steel Outlet Boxes, Device Boxes,
Covers, and Box Supports**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Foreword.....	5
Section 1 GENERAL	7
1.1 Scope.....	7
1.2 References	7
1.3 Definitions	7
Section 2 SPECIFICATIONS	11
2.1 Material	11
2.2 Corrosion Protection	11
2.2.1 Outside Surfaces.....	11
2.2.2 Inside Surfaces.....	11
2.2.3 Screws.....	11
2.2.4 Spot or Injection Welds	11
2.3 Openings	12
2.3.1 Conduit Knockouts	12
2.3.2 Cable-Size Knockouts	12
2.3.3 Diameters of Knockouts	12
2.3.4 Open Holes	12
2.4 Supports	13
2.4.1 Supporting Ears.....	13
2.4.2 Stud Face Brackets.....	13
2.4.3 Stud Side Brackets.....	13
2.4.4 Bar Hangers (Adjustable or Fixed).....	13
2.4.5 Holes Provided For Mounting	14
2.5 Cover Screws	14
2.6 Boxes For Supporting Equipment Or Accessories	14
2.6.1 Boxes for Luminaire Support.....	14
2.6.2 Boxes for Ceiling-Suspended Fan Support.....	14
2.7 Device Boxes.....	14
2.8 Boxes and Mounts For Other Devices and Accessories	14
2.9 Boxes for High and Low Voltage Circuits	14
2.10 Markings	14
2.10.1 Boxes and Covers	14
2.10.2 Boxes for Supporting Equipment or Accessories.....	15
2.10.3 Clamps	15
2.11 Grounding.....	15
2.12 Dimensions	16
2.12.1 Trade Sizes	16
2.12.2 Dimensional Tolerances.....	16
2.13 Figures (see Table 3).....	16

Tables

1 Diameter of Knockouts	12
2 Openings in a Box	13
3 Index of Figures	17
4 Index of Design Configurations.....	20

Figures

1 Device Box.....	21
-------------------	----

2	Outlet Box	21
3	Minimum Box/Cover Face Opening.....	22
4	Clearance Between Device Box Plaster Ear Mounting Screws	23
5	Alternate Knockout Configurations	24
6	Alternate Cover Mounting Hole(s)/Slot(s) Configurations.....	25
7	Alternate Device Mounting Configurations for Covers.....	26
8	Alternative Pryout Configurations	27
9	Alternate Exposed Work Cover Configurations.....	28
70	3-1/4" Round Cable Box	29
80	3-1/2" Octagon Box, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep	30
81	3-1/2" Octagon Cable Box, 1-1/2" Deep	31
90	4" Round Box, 1/2 [16] Knockouts.....	32
91	4" Round Box (Pan) with Cable Clamps	33
100	4" Octagon Box, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, 1/2 [16], 3/4 [21], or 1 [27] Knockouts	34
101	4" Octagon Cable Box, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep.....	35
110	4" Square Box, 1-1/4", 1-1/2", and 2-1/8" Deep, 1/2 [16] Knockouts.....	36
111	4" Square Box, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, 3/4 [21] and 1 [27] Knockouts	37
112	4" Square Box, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, Combination 1/2 [16] and 3/4 [21] Knockouts	38
113	4" Square Cable Box, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep	39
120	4-11/16" Square Cable Box, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, 1/2 [16] Knockouts.....	40
121	4-11/16" Square Cable Box, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, 3/4 [21] and 1 [27] Knockouts.....	41
122	4-11/16" Square Box, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, Combination 1/2 [16] and 3/4 [21] Knockouts	42
125	3 1/2" Octagon Box Extension, 1-1/2" Deep, 1/2 [16] Knockouts	43
130	4" Octagon Box Extension, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, 1/2 [16], 3/4 [21], and 1 [27] Knockouts.....	44
140	4" Square Box Extension, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, 1/2 [16] Knockouts.....	45
141	4" Square Thru-Wall Box, 1-1/4" and 1-1/2" Deep, 1/2 [16] Knockouts.....	46
142	4" Square Box Extension, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, 3/4 [21] and 1 [27] Knockouts.....	47
143	4" Square Thru-Wall Box, 1-1/2" Deep, 3/4 [21] Knockouts	48
144	4" Square Box Extension, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, Combination 1/2 [16] and 3/4 [21] Knockouts.....	49
145	4" Square Thru-Wall Box, 1-1/2" Deep, Combination 1/2 [16] and 3/4 [21] Knockouts.....	50
150	4-11/16" Square Box Extension, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, 1/2 [16] Knockouts	51
151	4-11/16" Square Box Extension, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, 3/4 [21] and 1 [27] Knockouts	52
152	4-11/16" Square Box Extension, 1-1/2" and 2-1/8" Deep, 3/4 [21] and 1 [27] Knockouts	53
160	Concrete Ring, 1/2 [16], 3/4 [21], and 1 [27] Knockouts	54
161	Hung Ceiling Box, 1/2 [16] and 3/4 [21] Knockouts	55
170	Gang Boxes, 1-5/8" and 2-1/2" Deep, 1/2 [16], 3/4 [21] and 1 [27] Knockouts.....	56
200	Non-gangable Device Boxes, 1/2 [16] Knockouts	57
201	Non-gangable Device Boxes, 3/4 [21] Knockouts	58
202	Flush Device Box Extender (Goof Ring).....	59
210	4" Square Box for Two Devices, 1/2 [16] Knockouts	60

211	4" Square Box for Two Devices, 3/4 [21] Knockouts	61
220	Single Device Box for 1/2 [16] or 3/4 [21] Knockouts	62
221	Gangable Device Box for Cable, 2-1/4" Deep, with Bevel Corner	63
222	Single Device Box for Cable	64
240	Tile Wall Boxes, 1/2 [16] Knockouts, Single and Multigang	65
241	Masonry Thru-Wall Boxes, 1/2 [16] and 3/4 [21] Knockouts, Single Gang.....	66
280	Flat Cover for 3-1/2" Octagon Box, with or without 1/2 [16] Knockout.....	67
281	Flat Cover for Single Convenience Outlet for 3-1/2" Octagon Box.....	68
300	Flat Cover for 4" Octagon Box, With or Without 1/2 [16] Knockouts	69
301	Flat Cover for Single Convenience Outlet for 4" Octagon Box	70
302	Flat Cover for Duplex Convenience Outlet for 4" Octagon Box.....	71
303	Raised Cover with One 1/2 [16] Knockout for 4" Octagon Box	72
304	Raised Cover with Center Blanked Out for 4" Octagon Box.....	73
305	Raised Cover for Drop Cord for 4" Octagon Box.....	74
310	Flat Cover for 4-11/16" Square Box, with or without 1/2 [16] Knockouts.....	75
311	Raised Cover for 4-11/16" Square Box, with or 1/2 [16] Knockout.....	76
312	Raised Cover with Center Blanked Out for 4-11/16" Square Box	77
313	One-Device Cover for 4" Square Box	78
314	Two-Device Cover for 4" Square Box.....	79
315	One-Device Tile Cover for 4" Square Box	80
316	Two-Device Tile Cover for 4" Square Box	81
317	Surface Cover for One GFCI Receptacle for 4" Square Box.....	82
318	Surface Cover for One GFCI Receptacle for 4" Square Box.....	83
319	Surface Cover for One Toggle Switch and One GFCI Receptacle for 4" Square Box	84
320	Surface Cover for Single Receptacle for 4" Square Box	85
321	Surface Cover for One Toggle Switch and One Single Receptacle for 4" Square Box	86
322	Surface Cover for One Toggle Switch for 4" Square Box.....	87
323	Surface Cover for Two Toggle Switches for 4" Square Box.....	88
324	Surface Cover for One Duplex Receptacle for 4" Square Box	89
325	Surface Cover for One Toggle Switch and One Duplex Receptacle for 4" Square Box.....	90
326	Surface Cover for Two Duplex Receptacles for 4" Square Box	91
327	Surface Cover for 30–50–60 Ampere and 3-Wire Receptacle for 4" Square Box.....	92
328	Surface Cover for Two Single Receptacles for 4" Square Box.....	93
329	Surface Cover for One Toggle Switch and One GFCI Receptacle for 4" Square Box	94
330	One-Device Cover for 4-11/16" Square Box	95
332	One-Device Tile Cover for 4-11/16" Square Box.....	96
333	Two-Device Tile Cover for 4-11/16" Square Box.....	97
340	Surface Cover for Single Receptacles for 4-11/16" Square Box	98
341	Surface Cover for One Toggle Switch and One Single Receptacle for 4-11/16" Square Box	99
342	Surface Cover for One Toggle Switch for 4-11/16" Square Box.....	100

343	Surface Cover for Two Toggle Switches for 4-11/16" Square Box.....	101
344	Surface Cover for Single Receptacles for 4-11/16" Square Box	102
345	Surface Cover for One Toggle Switch and One Duplex Receptacle for 4-11/16" Square Box	103
346	Surface Cover for Two Duplex Receptacles for 4-11/16" Square Box	104
347	Surface Cover for 30–50–60 Ampere and 3-Wire Receptacle for 4-11/16" Square Box	105
348	Surface Cover for Two Single Receptacles for 4-11/16" Square Box	106
350	Flat Blank Covers for Gang Boxes	107
351	Flat Toggle Switch Covers.....	108
352	Raised Covers for Gang Boxes	109
360	Concrete Backplate Combination 1/2 [16] and 3/4 [21] Knockouts (Optional)	110
361	Concrete Backplate with Stud, 1/2 [16] and 3/4 [21] Knockouts (Optional).....	111
400	Box and Conduit Support.....	112

Foreword

The purpose of this standards publication is to provide a guide to the types and sizes of metal outlet boxes, and supports for general use or suggested for future design or both. The standards present dimensional data needed for the safety and convenience of interchangeability with associated equipment. All items when properly installed and properly used contribute to safety.

Properly manufactured boxes and covers are, however, only one factor in minimizing the hazards, which may be associated with the use of electricity. The reduction of hazard involves the joint efforts of the various equipment manufacturers, the system designer, the installer, and user. Information is provided herein to assist users and others in the proper selection of boxes and covers.

The manufacturer has limited or no control over the following factors which are vital to a safe installation:

- a. Environmental conditions
- b. System design
- c. Equipment selection and application
- d. Installation
- e. Operating practices
- f. Maintenance

This publication is not intended to instruct the user of the boxes and covers with regard to these factors except insofar as suitable equipment to meet needs can be recognized in this publication.

These standards are necessarily limited to defining the construction requirements for the products covered herein. The publication has been promulgated with a view towards reducing the hazard to persons and property when boxes and covers conforming to these standards are properly selected and installed in accordance with the *National Electrical Code®*.

This standards publication has been reviewed with input obtained from independent testing laboratories and major consumer representatives.

OS 1-2013 revises and supersedes OS 1-2008 and its revision OS 1-2008 (R2010).

This standard is reviewed with input obtained from independent testing laboratories and major consumer representatives. It is also reviewed periodically by the Outlet and Switch Box Section of NEMA so that it will be kept up to date with advancing technology. Comments are welcomed and should be sent to:

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This standard was developed by the Outlet and Switch Box Section. Section approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all section members voted for its approval or participated in its development. At the time this standard was approved, the Outlet and Switch Box Section was composed of the following members:

2D2C, Inc.	Kitchener, ON Canada
Allied Moulded Products, Inc.	Bryan, OH
Arlington Industries, Inc.	Scranton, PA
Eaton Cooper B-Line	Highland, IL
Eaton Cooper Crouse-Hinds	Syracuse, NY
EGS Electrical Group	Skokie, IL
ERICO	Solon, OH
Hubbell Incorporated	Shelton, CT
IPEX USA LLC	Mississauga, ON Canada
Legrand/Pass & Seymour	Syracuse, NY
Sigma Electric Manufacturing Corporation	Garner, NC
Southwire Company	Carrollton, GA
Thomas & Betts	Memphis, TN
Wiremold/Legrand	West Hartford, CT

Section 1 GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This standards publication covers those general-purpose metal outlet boxes, device boxes, covers, and supports that are widely used by the consumer. These items (covered by UL 514A) are designed to facilitate the pulling of wires, to protect and facilitate wiring splices and taps, to provide a means of mounting and protecting wiring devices, and to provide a connection for rigid conduit, electrical metallic tubing, armored cable, metal clad cable, nonmetallic sheathed cable, flexible metallic conduit and knob-and-tube wiring systems.

This standard provides useful guidance for design and performance of certain aspects of metallic floor boxes.

Excluded from this standards publication are the following: "conduit bodies" and similar types of boxes; cabinets or cutout boxes; pull boxes; floor boxes; flush device plates; boxes, plates and covers designed for use with surface metal raceway systems only; and boxes larger than 1650 cubic cm (100 cubic in.) in volume except multiple gang device boxes.

1.2 REFERENCES

The following publications are adopted in part, by reference in this publication, and are available from the organizations below. Unless otherwise noted, references are to the most recent edition.

National Electrical Manufacturers Association

1300 N. 17th Street, Suite 900
Rosslyn, VA 22209

NEMA OS 3 *Selection and Installation Guidelines for Electrical Outlet Boxes*

National Fire Protection Association

1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02169

ANSI/NFPA 70 *National Electrical Code*[®]

Underwriters Laboratories LLC

333 Pfingsten Road
Northbrook, IL 60062

ANSI/UL 514A *Metallic Outlet Boxes*

1.3 DEFINITIONS

blank cover: an outlet box cover having no knockouts or openings, other than those used to mount to a box. These covers complete the enclosure.

blank/knockout cover: an outlet box cover that contains a knockout which can be removed to accommodate a fitting for a pendant cord, etc. When left in place it may serve as a blank cover.

box (electrical): a part of an enclosure provided with means for mounting a cover, cover-plate, accessory, etc.