

Illegal Outlets Found on Submarines



The junction box on the right has been illegally modified: For one thing, it has an extension cord hard-wired into it. Both junction boxes should appear like the one on the left.

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Since the beginning of the fiscal year, the Naval Safety Center surveyors visited 17 submarines and discovered an alarming trend. Sailors are making unauthorized modifications to 110-volt AC outlet junction boxes in berthing compartments.

We found Sailors installing unauthorized outlets and cover plates, and hard-wiring extension cords into the boxes.

These modifications raise numerous questions:

- Is the modification in accordance with ship's drawings?
- Who authorized the modification?
- What precautions were taken to make the modification?
- Was the circuit tagged out before modification work began?
- Why did zone inspections not uncover the illegal modifications?

- Is there a real need for more 110-volt AC outlets?

- Have the illegal outlets resulted in unreported electrical shocks, and if so, how many?

- Could this modification cause a fire?

If the command determines a need for more outlets, they must submit documentation to the appropriate planning yard for approval and schedule work for the next restricted availability or overhaul period. The submarine's squadron can provide help with this planning.

Meanwhile, all hands should remember it is against regulations—and *dangerous*—to make unauthorized modifications to any Navy ship. ☺