

CHANGE TYPE: Modification

E3905.8

Boxes at Fan Outlets

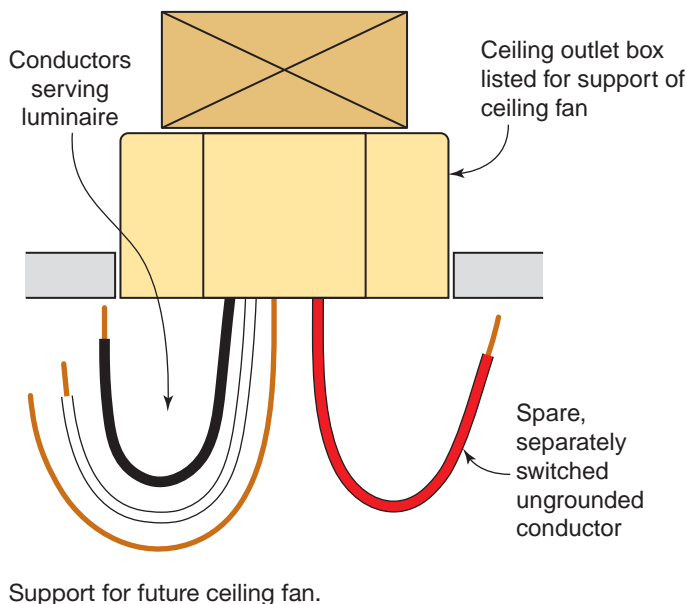
CHANGE SUMMARY: When a ceiling outlet box is wired for a future ceiling fan, the box must be listed for the support of a ceiling fan.

2012 CODE: E3905.9 E3905.8 Boxes at Fan Outlets. Outlet boxes and outlet box systems used as the sole support of ceiling-suspended fans (paddle) shall be marked by their manufacturer as suitable for this purpose and shall not support ceiling-suspended fans (paddle) that weigh more than 70 pounds (31.8 kg). For outlet boxes and outlet box systems designed to support ceiling-suspended fans (paddle) that weigh more than 35 pounds (15.9 kg), the required marking shall include the maximum weight to be supported.

Where spare, separately switched, ungrounded conductors are provided to a ceiling mounted outlet box, and such box is in a location acceptable for a ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan, the outlet box or outlet box system shall be listed for sole support of the ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: In new home construction, ceiling fans often are installed in bedrooms and other living spaces of the dwelling unit. Typically, two switches are installed, one to control the fan operation and one to control the light. Many times, the ceiling outlet installation is wired for a future ceiling fan to be controlled with a separate switch, but only the ceiling light (luminaire) is installed initially. The spare ungrounded conductor from the second switch is capped at the ceiling outlet box for future use. This installation provides options for future homeowners to choose the location and style for any ceiling fan they may wish to install, while still providing the convenience of separate switching of the fan and the accompanying light kit. However, the initial installation may include a box that is listed to support luminaires only,

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and homeowners may not know that ceiling fans require outlet boxes or support systems that are designed specifically for ceiling fans. To address this, the code now requires the ceiling outlet box or outlet box system to be listed for supporting ceiling fans when a spare, switch-controlled ungrounded conductor is provided to the ceiling outlet. The new text intends to add a level of safety to the home and prevent injury due to falling ceiling fans.