



New Requirements for GFCIs: Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) is requiring Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters to have "end of life" and "reverse line-load miswire" provisions. Since the early 1970's, GFCIs have significantly reduced electrical injuries and electrocutions by interrupting power before it reaches a level that would cause injury. A 2001 field study, however, determined that a small, but significant per cent of GFCIs, particularly older ones, did not work after several years. This created a demand for more stringent safety features that can alert users when a GFCI malfunctions.

The new provisions do the following:

- **End of Life:** When a GFCI receptacle is incapable of passing its internal test function, thereby indicating that it can no longer provide ground fault protection, it will either (a.) render itself incapable of delivering power; or (b.) indicate by visual or audible means that the device must be replaced.
- **Reverse Line-Load Miswire:** A GFCI will deny power to the receptacle face if it is miswired.

In the United States, manufacturers must stop producing old versions of GFCIs on July 28, 2006, and must introduce new, redesigned GFCIs after that date. Distributors can sell and contractors can install GFCIs until their supplies run out.