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NASA TECH BRIEF

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center

Fluorescent Color Coding of Power Receptacles

Many computer facilities are updated, modified, and rearranged very frequently. Part of this work involves disconnecting and reconnecting various power cables that are plugged into receptacles located beneath floors. Since the light conditions are poor, the receptacles are difficult to locate in the mazes of wiring.

The receptacles can be easily located if they are painted with fluorescent paints. The receptacles are color coded according to power ratings. Although the concept itself is simple, the low-light visibility of the fluorescent paint has been shown to save considerable time during repair or replacement. Technicians using flashlights have located and identified painted receptacles from as far as 50 feet (15 meters).

Fluorescent color coding can be used in other poorly lit areas as well. For example, some mechanical and structural components requiring frequent servicing can also be easily identified using a flashlight when they are color coded.

Note:

No further documentation is available. Specific questions, however, may be directed to:

Technology Utilization Officer
Johnson Space Center
Code AT3
Houston, Texas 77058
Reference: B75-10109

Patent status:

NASA has decided not to apply for a patent.

Source: C. C. Oleson and A. D. Vidana of
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Categories: 01 (Electronics - Components and Circuitry)
02 (Electronics Systems)
07 (Machinery)
08 (Fabrication Technology)