Power Strip vs Charger Which Standard Applies?

Two product families, two standards. One certificate cannot cover both — here is how to tell them apart.

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Power Strip vs Charger: Which Standard Applies?

A one-page reference for importers who source both — and get handed one certificate for the pair.

The short answer

They are not the same product family. They are assessed against **different standards**, by **different clauses**, for **different hazards**.

One test report cannot cover both. If a supplier says it does, something is wrong.

Why they are assessed differently

A charger is a power source. It converts mains voltage into low-voltage DC. The hazards are electric shock, overheating, and energy-source classification under the audio/video and IT safety regime.

A power strip is a wiring accessory. It does not convert anything. It distributes mains power. The hazards are socket contact pressure, current-carrying capacity, mechanical strength, and shutter protection.

Different failure modes. Different test rigs. Different standards.

The standards, side by side

Product	International (IEC)	EU harmonised	United States
Charger / adapter	IEC 62368-1	EN IEC 62368-1	UL 62368-1 (or ETL — equivalent standing)
Power strip / socket-outlet	IEC 60884-1	EN 60884-1 (+ EN 60884-2-x)	UL 1363 (relocatable power tap)
Plug & receptacle components	—	EN 60884 series	UL 498
Travel adaptor / converter	—	EN 60884-2-5	UL 498A
Cord set (plug + cable)	—	—	UL 817
Surge protective device	IEC 61643-11	EN 61643-11	UL 1449

EMC (both products): EN 55032 + EN 55035 in the EU; FCC Part 15 Subpart B Class B in the US.

Energy efficiency (chargers): DOE Level VI in the US; ErP (EU) 2019/1782 in Europe.

Three mistakes that cost money

1. "Our certificate covers both"

It does not. A charger certificate proves the adapter was tested. It says nothing about the socket contacts, the shutter, or the current rating of the strip it is plugged into.

Ask for two certificates, each listing your model number.

2. A UL test report is not a UL listing

	UL test report	UL listing
Testing	Samples sent to a lab	Official UL witness testing
Factory inspection	None	Initial inspection, then quarterly
Follow-up	None	Ongoing audits, annual fees

	UL test report	UL listing
Can you print the UL mark?	**No**	Yes

Both are legitimate. They solve different problems. Trouble starts when a supplier says "we have UL" and the buyer hears "listed."

ETL carries the same standing as UL. Both are NRTL marks. Refusing ETL is a myth that costs buyers real money.

3. The USB-C power strip problem

A power strip with built-in USB-C ports is **two products in one housing**. It needs:

- ☐ The socket-outlet assessment (UL 1363 / EN 60884-1)
- ☐ The USB power source assessment (UL 62368-1 / EN IEC 62368-1)
- ☐ EMC for the switching circuitry
- ☐ A model number that matches **both** certificates

This is where most combined SKUs fail a retailer compliance review.

Buyer's checklist — run it before you pay

- ☐ Two separate certificates: one for the charger, one for the strip
- ☐ Your model number appears on **both**
- ☐ Safety standard is current — **EN IEC 62368-1**, not the retired EN 60950-1
- ☐ Charger covers EMC **and** LVD (two different tests)
- ☐ Strip certificate names EN 60884-2-x, not just EN 60884-1
- ☐ Test reports provided, with photos of the tested sample
- ☐ Certificate holder's legal name matches the company you are buying from
- ☐ For the US: confirm whether you have a **listing** or only a **test report**

One-page summary

Product	Safety standard (EU)	Safety standard (US)
Charger / adapter	EN IEC 62368-1	UL 62368-1 or ETL
Power strip	EN 60884-1 + 60884-2-x	UL 1363
USB-C power strip	**Both of the above**	**Both of the above**

If a supplier hands you one certificate for two products, that is the moment to ask — before the deposit, not after production.

Compiled November 2026. Standards and regulations change — always confirm against current official requirements for your market and product.

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Not sure which standard your SKU falls under? Send me the model number and target market — I'll tell you what's missing.

> **Questions about a specific market or model?**
>
> Send me your model number and target market — I'll tell you which documents you're missing.
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>
> Certificates and complete test reports available on request.

Compiled November 2026. Standards and regulations change — always confirm against current official requirements for your market and product. Pin layouts in the chart are simplified front-face schematics for identification, not dimensional drawings.