400.1 Scope. Article 400 covers the general requirements, applications, and construction specifications for flexible cords and flexible cables as contained in Table 400.4.

400.3 Suitability. Flexible cords and flexible cables, as well as their fittings must be suitable for the use and location.

**AUTHOR’S COMMENT:** Other NEC Articles might have specific requirements. Figure 400–1

400.4 Types of Flexible Cords and Flexible Cables. The use of flexible cords and flexible cables must conform to the description contained in Table 400.4.

400.7 Uses Permitted.

(A) Uses Permitted. Flexible cords and flexible cables within the scope of this article can be used for the following applications:

1. Pendants [210.50(A) and 314.23(H)].
2. Wiring of luminaires [410.14 and 410.30(B)].
3. Connection of portable lamps, portable and mobile signs, or appliances [422.16].
4. Elevator cables.
5. Wiring of cranes and hoists.
6. Connection of utilization equipment to facilitate frequent interchange [422.16]. Figure 400–2
7. Prevention of the transmission of noise or vibration [422.16].
8. Appliances where the fastening means and mechanical connections are specifically designed to permit ready removal for maintenance and repair, and the appliance is intended or identified for flexible cord connections [422.16].
(9) Connection of moving parts.

(10) Where specifically permitted elsewhere in this Code.

**AUTHOR’S COMMENT:** Flexible cords and flexible cables are permitted for fixed permanent wiring by 501.10(A)(2) and (B)(2), 501.140, 502.4(A)(1)(e), 502.4(B)(2), 503.3(A)(2), 550.10(B), 553.7(B), and 555.13(A)(2).

### 400.7(A)(6)

A flexible cord can be used to connect utilization equipment to facilitate frequent interchange.

**VIOLATION [400.7(B)]**

Utilization equipment supplied by a flexible cord must have an attachment plug [400.7(B)].

There is no maximum length requirement for cords.

**Figure 400–2**

(2) Run through holes in walls, structural ceilings, suspended/dropped ceilings, or floors. **Figure 400–4**

**AUTHOR’S COMMENT:** According to an article in the International Association of Electrical Inspectors magazine (*IAEINews*), a flexible cord run through a cabinet for an appliance isn’t considered as being run through a wall. **Figure 400–5**

(3) Run through doorways, windows, or similar openings.

(4) Attached to building surfaces.

(5) Where concealed by walls, floors, or ceilings, or located above suspended or dropped ceilings. **Figure 400–6**

### 400.7(B)

**Attachment Plugs.** Attachment plugs are required for flexible cords used for any of the following applications: **Figure 400–3**

- Portable lamps, portable and mobile signs, or appliances [400.7(A)(3)].
- Stationary equipment to facilitate its frequent interchange [400.7(A)(6)]. See 422.16.
- Appliances specifically designed to permit ready removal for maintenance and repair, and identified for flexible cord connection [400.7(A)(8)].

**AUTHOR’S COMMENT:** An attachment plug can serve as the disconnecting means for stationary appliances [422.33] and room air conditioners [440.63].

### 400.8 Uses Not Permitted.

Unless specifically permitted in 400.7, flexible cords must not be:

(1) Used as a substitute for the fixed wiring of a structure.