



DBS Electrical Program Newsletter

6/1/2017

Idaho Adopts the 2017 NEC

Enforcement begins July 1st 2017

The 2017 NEC shall be in full force and effect on and after July 1 2017. Amendments to the NEC were also adopted through the negotiated rule making process. The only

change from the 2014 amendments was how article 210.12 Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection will be enforced.

“Article 210.12 shall apply in full. Exception: In dwelling units Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection shall only apply to all branch circuits and outlets supplying bedrooms. All other locations in dwelling units are exempt from the requirements of Article 210.12”

210.12 Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection

Options

This new language makes it clear to contractors and installers that the entire text of article 210.12 has been adopted. It also clarifies that that in dwelling units the entire branch circuit and all

outlets will require AFCI protection. Contractors and installers may use any of the options in article 210.12(A) (1-6) to meet the requirements of AFCI. It is also important to realize that

Board Meeting



The Idaho Electrical Board meets every three months to discuss the direction of the electrical program and concerns from the industry or citizens. On April 26th the electrical board had a busy day. Proposed statute changes were addressed in an effort to align the statutes with technology that is being used by the Division of Building Safety. The question of what constitutes a full-time employee in regards to the signee Master Electrician was also discussed. The board is also looking at giving CEU credits to licensed electricians attending board meetings. Members of the electrical community along with the public at large are always encouraged to attend the board meetings. This is your chance to be heard and bring any thoughts or concerns to the board. The next board meeting will be held on July 26th of 2017

a dormitory or guest rooms and guest suites do not fall under the “dwelling unit” exemption. These occupancies will require full AFCI protection.

CEU POLICY CHANGE TO ALIGN WITH 2015 RULE

In 2015 the rules changed concerning the requirements for continued education for electrical license holders in the state of Idaho. This change requires that the required 24 hours of continued education be in the following 3 categories. 8 hours of code update covering changes to the latest edition of the NEC, 8 hours of code-related training and 8 hours of industry related training. In the past we have accepted 16 hours of code related and 8 hours of industry related. This is outside of what the statute allows. In an attempt to get aligned with statutes we will allow individuals who have taken a 16 hour code update prior to July 1st 2017 and an 8 hour industry related code update to use these courses to renew their licenses. Individuals taking courses after July 1st 2017 will be required to meet the 8 code update, 8 code related and 8 industry related CEU

requirement. This meets the requirements of the new rule and the intent of the rule to have licensed electrician participate in continued education in three different categories. It should be understood that you may take more than the required 8 hours for any one category, but you will only be allowed to use 8 hours for renewal of your license.

ELECTRIC FLOOR HEAT

There have been questions raised about who can install electric floor heat and if/when it has to be inspected.

Electric floor heat is required to be installed by a licensed electrician. Tile installers are not licensed to install electric floor heat or any other piece of equipment that conveys or is operated by electricity. The code is also clear on inspections of electric floor heat.

Article 424.46

Inspections and Tests state, “cable installations shall be...inspected and approved before cables are covered or concealed.” All installations of cables under floor coverings are required to be inspected prior to covering. DBS inspectors will require a

“squawk box” or “loud mouth” sensor to be installed at the time of the inspection. This will insure integrity of the installed cable before the floor covering is installed.

MULTIPLE FEEDERS TO BUILDINGS

The 2017 IAEI *Analysis of Changes*, book makes reference to article 225.30 (F) regarding multiple feeders in one or two family dwellings. Unfortunately this change ran into a snag for the final vote at NFPA. Language was proposed to require the feeders to be not smaller than 1/0. This new proposal caused enough concern to stop the approval of the new language the way it is found in the analysis of changes book. The board is looking at running this language as an amendment to the code this year in an attempt to make these types of installations legal. The language would be exactly as found in the analysis book with the addition of requiring 1/0 or larger feeders. Until we can get the amendment through we cannot allow for these types of installations.