



CLARIFICATION/ENFORCEMENT MEMO
Community Development Department
Building Division
447-8437

Date: January 29, 2008

From: Kimberley Mack, AIA
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Enforcement effective date: February 4, 2008

Subject: 2005 ed. - National Electrical Code, Section 210.12 Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection

This memo is to notify the electrical construction field of a current code provision that will be enforced effective February 4, 2008.

Section 210.12 Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection:

As currently written in the 2005 ed. of the National Electrical Code, permits the use of branch/feeder AFCI complying with Section 210.12(B) and exception a or b, for protection of branch circuits in dwelling unit bedrooms until January 1, 2008. This requirement has been in the 2005 NEC since its adoption by the State on February 24, 2006.

The change requires all arc-fault circuit interrupters installed after January 1, 2008, to be of the combination type. Exceptions a) and b) are still applicable. The combination type AFCI provides protection for both series and parallel arc faults. These devices are now available at the local supply houses and shall be installed in any application where a previous device has not yet been installed and inspected.

See the 2005 National Electrical Code for specific language relating to this subject.

A Heads Up:

Upon adoption of the 2008 edition of the National Electrical Code, Section 210.12(B), combination-type AFCI-protection devices will be required in all dwelling unit rooms, except for kitchens, bathrooms, garages and basements.

City of Helena, Montana