



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

Date: January 29, 2008

From: Kimberley Mack, AIA
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City of Helena Building Division

Enforcement effective date: February 4, 2008

Subject: 2005 ed. - National Electrical Code, Section 410.73 - Special Provisions for Electric-discharge Lighting Systems of 1000 v. or less. Subsection (G) – Disconnecting Means

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

Section 410.73 - Special Provisions for Electric-discharge Lighting Systems of 1000 v. or less – Subsection (G) - Disconnecting Means

As written in the 2005 ed. of the National Electrical Code, a means of disconnect was not required at the fluorescent luminair (fixture) until January 1, 2008. This requirement has been in the 2005 NEC since its adoption by the State on February 24, 2006.

In indoor locations, other than dwellings and associated accessory structures, **a means of disconnect shall be provided on the following types of fluorescent luminaires (fixtures) that can be serviced in place.** The disconnect shall be either internal or external to the fixture.

1. Luminaires that utilize double ended lamps.
2. Luminaires containing a ballast(s) and supplied from multiwire branch circuits.

The disconnect can be either inside or outside the luminaire and must disconnect all supply conductors simultaneously, including the grounded conductor if one is provided. Exceptions are provided for; hazardous (classified) locations, emergency illumination, cord-and-plug connected luminaires, industrial, and luminaires not supplied by a multiwire branch circuit and in which disconnection does not leave the illuminated space in total darkness. A disconnect device is now available at the local supply houses and shall be installed in any application where previous device has not yet been installed and inspected.

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

City of Helena, Montana