

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT FORM

Proposed amendment submitted by:

Name: David Lage

EL-14-02-15

Date: November 18, 2015

Company /Organization: New Hampshire State Building Code Review Board

Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305

Telephone: (603)223-3898 E-mail bldgcodebrd@dos.nh.gov

Applicable code: NEC-17 (NFPA 70)

Applicable code section: 210.12

Select only one code: IBC-09 IBC-09 IRC-09 IPC-09 IMC-09 IECC-09 IEBC-09 NEC-17 (NFPA 70)

Current language (including section numbers and include prior adopted amendments):

210.12 Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection

Arc-fault circuit-interrupter protection shall be provided as required in 210.12(A) (B), and (C). The arc-fault circuit interrupter shall be installed in a readily accessible location.

Check one: Delete without substitution: Add new section to read as follows:

Delete section and substitute the following: Revise section to read as follows:

~~Show Line through material to be deleted.~~ Underline material to be added.

Proposed code language:

Insert an Exception following the opening paragraph of 210.12 as follows:

Exception:

Where the connection of a listed device or appliance for medical purposes life safety medical device is determined by a New Hampshire licensed electrician as the cause of repeated tripping of an AFCI, that AFCI shall be permitted to be replaced with a device that does not provide AFCI protection in accordance with (1) and (2).

(1) Marking. A label shall be provided at the branch circuit overcurrent protective device and at all receptacles supplied by that branch circuit stating "No AFCI Protection".

(2) Notifications. A form available at the NH Electricians' Licensing Board website shall be filed with the Board and local authority having jurisdiction by the licensed electrician removing the AFCI. The form shall be filed by registered letter or email with a read receipt requested within five (5) working days following the AFCI replacement.

Reason / Justification:

This proposed amendment considers a problem encountered within a very restrictive code section. There is no exception to the general rule in the 2017 National Electrical Code. The very idea that there is nothing recognized by the NEC to permit any variance from the general rule places the installer into a position that would constitute a code violation if for any reason an alternate method is applied.

HB533 was written and sponsored because of such a scenario. Certain types of medical equipment by their inherit design powered from a single family dwelling would not function when supplied by a branch circuit protected by Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupter Protective device. Due to the restrictive language in Section 210.12 this person would not be able to live in her home as the AFCI requirement eliminated any possibility for her to get power to her medical equipment necessary for everyday life.

The proposed exception is intended to provide the electrical community within the State of New Hampshire with a practical means to address a situation where a newly installed or existing AFCI device is incompatible with a life safety medical device.

It specifically will help the electrical contractor as it provides a prescriptive process to assess a matter of possible AFCI incompatibility that, technically, was not previously available.

The proposed exception will provide a prescriptive avenue for code enforcers who are seeking advice on possible AFCI incompatibilities. Additionally, requiring the electrician to notify the NH Electricians' Licensing Board assures they are aware of a change in an installation that may have been previously inspected. The local authority having jurisdiction will be aware of the change as an electrical permit will be required for this work.

During consideration of this matter it was identified there is no clear method to track AFCI related matters locally or statewide. Requiring notification to the Electricians Licensing Board and by issuance of an electrical permit provides the means to track any AFCI related matters at both the local and state levels.

Requiring notification by registered mail or by email with a read receipt requested will assure the tracking means is available and the proper delivery of documents without additional burden to the consumer.

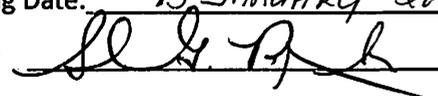
Financial Analysis/Fiscal Impact of proposed amendment:

There may be some saving to the property owner if this method is followed when the property is being newly built, but more than likely will be no savings generated for the property owner as the additional time and effort required by the electrician may be involved and the owner would be able to keep the removed breaker for replacement in the future if possible. The intention is to provide a code compliant option for such situations that may arise.

For Building Code Review Board Use:

Not approved: _____ Approved: _____ Approved with modifications:

Scheduled Hearing Date: 15 JANUARY 2016 Exhibit #: 1

Chair's Signature:  Date: 15 Jan 2016

Printed Name: Shawn G. Bergeron

