

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT FORM

Proposed amendment submitted by:

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Date: February 15, 2017

Company /Organization: Electrical Contractors Business Association

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EL-17-01-17

Applicable code:

Applicable code section:

Select only one code: *IEBC-15 IBC-15 IRC-15 IPC-15 IMC-15 IECC-15 IEBC-15 NEC-17 (NFPA 70)*

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

334.10 Uses Permitted. Type NM, Type NMC, and Type NMS cables shall be permitted to be used in the following, except as prohibited in 334.12:

(2) Multi-family dwellings permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction.

(3) Other structures permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction. Cables shall be concealed-installed within walls, floors, or ceilings that provide a thermal barrier of material that has at least a 15-minute finish rating as identified in listings of fire-rated assemblies.

334.12 Uses Not Permitted

(A) Types NM, NMC, and NMS. Types NM, NMC, and NMS cables shall not be permitted as follows:

- (1) In any dwelling or structure not specifically permitted in 334.10(1), (2), (3), and (5)
- (2) Exposed within a dropped or suspended ceiling cavity in other than one- and two-family and multifamily dwellings
- (3) As service-entrance cable
- (4) In commercial garages having hazardous (classified) locations as defined in 511.3
- (5) In theaters and similar locations, except where permitted in 518.4(B)
- (6) In motion picture studios
- (7) In storage battery rooms
- (8) In hoistways or on elevators or escalators
- (9) Embedded in poured cement, concrete, or aggregate
- (10) In hazardous (classified) locations, except where specifically permitted by other articles in this Code

334.30 Securing and Supporting

(B) Unsupported Cables

(2) Is not more than 1.4 m (4 1/2 ft.) from the last point of cable support to the point of connection to a luminaire or other piece of electrical equipment and the cable and point of connection are within an accessible ceiling in one-, two-, or multifamily dwellings.

Check one: Delete without substitution: Add new section to read as follows:
 Delete section and substitute the following: Revise sections to read as follows:
 ~~Show Line through material to be deleted.~~ Underline material to be added.

Proposed code language:

334.10 Uses Permitted. Type NM, Type NMC, and Type NMS cables shall be permitted to be used in the following, except as prohibited in 334.12:

(2) Multi-family dwellings permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction.

(3) Other structures permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction. Except as permitted by 334.10 (6), Cables shall be concealed within walls, floors, or ceilings that provide a thermal barrier of material that has at least a 15-minute finish rating as identified in listings of fire-rated assemblies.

Exception to (2) and (3): For buildings or structures required to be of Type I or Type II construction, Type NM, Type NMC, and Type NMS cables shall be permitted to be used, provided that where so applied in buildings or structures exceeding three stories above grade, circuits run in Type NM, NMC, or NMS cable shall not leave the floor or dwelling unit from which the circuits originate

(6) Exposed within

- a. dropped and suspended ceiling cavities
- b. accessible attics and roof spaces
- c. unfinished basements and crawl spaces

Except as permitted by 334.30 (B) (2) for connections to luminaires and equipment, cables shall be installed to closely follow the surface of framing members, running boards, or the equivalent

334.12 Uses Not Permitted.

(A) Types NM, NMC, and NMS. Types NM, NMC, and NMS cables shall not be permitted as follows:

- (1) In any dwelling or structure not specifically permitted in 334.10(1), (2), (3), and (5)
- ~~(2) Exposed within a dropped or suspended ceiling cavity in other than one- and two-family and multifamily dwellings~~
- ~~(3)~~ As service-entrance cable
- ~~(4)~~ In commercial garages having hazardous (classified) locations as defined in 511.3
- ~~(5)~~ In theaters and similar locations, except where permitted in 518.4(B)
- ~~(6)~~ In motion picture studios
- ~~(7)~~ In storage battery rooms
- ~~(8)~~ In hoistways or on elevators or escalators
- ~~(9)~~ Embedded in poured cement, concrete, or aggregate
- ~~(10)~~ In hazardous (classified) locations, except where specifically permitted by other articles in this Code

334.30(B)(2) Is not more than 1.4 m (4 1/2 ft.) from the last point of cable support to the point of connection to a luminaire or other piece of electrical equipment and the cable and point of connection are within an accessible ceiling. ~~in one, two, or multifamily dwellings.~~

Reason / Justification:

The use of types NM, NMC and NMS cables were severely restricted with the adoption of the 2002 NEC, the Proposed Amendments removes those restrictions, essentially allowing its use in multi story, multifamily and commercial buildings again.

Type NM, NMC, and NMS cables are a more cost efficient wiring method for many installations; consequently, the amendment is consumer friendly in terms of initial construction cost

All of our bordering states have amended Article 334 in a very similar way, so this simplifies enforcement by eliminating misunderstandings when NH contactors work in Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts and conversely when contractors from neighboring states work in NH

Financial Analysis/Fiscal Impact of proposed amendment:

Reduced cost of work in place for the property owner

For Building Code Review Board Use:

Not approved: ~~*~~ ^{incorrect} ~~SCB~~ Approved: ~~*~~ ^{SCB}

Approved with modifications: _____

Scheduled Hearing Date: _____

Exhibit #: _____

Chair's Signature: 

Date: 10 March 2017

Printed Name: _____