



*"The Capital City of the Palm Beaches"*

**CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Construction Industry and Construction Services Department Staff

**FROM:** Doug Wise, Construction Services Director

**RE:** October 1, 2009 Implementation of the 2008 NEC and Revisions to the FBC

**DATE:** September 17, 2009

Effective October 1, 2009, the Florida Building Commission has adopted the NFPA-70 2008 (the 2008 National Electrical Code [NEC]). While there are far too many changes to the NEC in the latest version to list in this document, there are some significant ones that everyone should be aware of:

- Tamper-resistant receptacles are now required in all residential occupancies (406.11).
- Arc fault protection is now mandated in residential occupancies on all 15 or 20 Amp branch circuits that are not already required to be protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) or over 120 Volts nominal (2110.12[B]).
- Multi-wire branch circuits that share a common grounded conductor (neutral) must share a common disconnect or the neutrals must be disconnected at the same time (210.4[B]).
- Multi-wire branch circuits must now be grouped by ties or wraps to indicate phase and grounded conductors (210.4[D]).
- GFCI protection requirements have been expanded and clarified in many occupancies (210.8).
- Common area branch circuits may not be fed from within dwelling units or tenant spaces (210.25[B]).
- The code has clarified that when boxes contain 120 Volt and 277 Volt wiring, physical separation must be provided (406.4[G]).
- The inside of waterproof conduits installed on outside walls is now considered to be a wet location (300.9).
- Conductors installed within raceways on rooftops with direct sunlight exposure must now be de-rated (310.15[B][2][a]).
- Occupiable balconies and porches over 20 SF must now have a receptacle outlet (GFCI protected)(210.52[E][3]).
- Locking means required in various sections of the code must be permanent (The means not the lock itself)(410.141[B], 422.31[B], 424.19, 440.14 Ex.1, 600.6[A][2][3], 620.51[A]Ex.1, 620.53 & 55).
- In locations other than dwellings and associated accessory structures, ballasts serving "twin pin" fluorescent fixtures must have disconnecting means within sight of the fixture (410.130[G][3]). When these fixtures are fed with multi-wire branch circuits the disconnecting means shall break all supply conductors including the grounded conductor (neutral)((410.130[G][2]).
- The code now clarifies what constitutes a vending machine and that they must be protected by GFCI (422.51).
- Electric drinking fountains must be protected by GFCI (422.52).
- The Florida Building Commission has exempted one and two family swimming pool pumps from GFCI protection as indicated in the new electrical code.

- Provision must be made at the electrical service for the bonding of other systems pursuant to 250.94

The entire 2008 NEC is available for browsing online free of charge by registering at:

[http://www.nfpa.org/freecodes/free\\_access\\_document.asp?id=7008SB](http://www.nfpa.org/freecodes/free_access_document.asp?id=7008SB)

Additionally, the Florida Building Commission used the October 1<sup>st</sup> adoption to incorporate the latest revisions to the Florida Codes. Among the revisions that become effective on that date are:

- Interior designers are now recognized as design professionals and redundant language that echoes other statutes or rules has been eliminated.
- Wind mitigation requirements formerly under rule 9B-3.047 are now incorporated in Chapter 1 in Section 105.
- Modifies the Residential Volume to clarify a brick, stone or other masonry veneer must be provided a bearing ledge at least equal to the thickness of the veneer being installed.
- Clarifies that increases in stress allowed by 1605.3.1.1 shall not be combined with load reductions allowed by ACI 530.
- Clarifies the definition of “public” swimming pool to include private pools serving multi-family (5 or more) and commercial buildings that are not necessarily open to the public.
- Significantly updates the public swimming pool requirements in 424.1 to match recent changes in the national standards.
- Energy code updates are implemented to fix existing glitches and update form 1100B-08.
- The Plumbing Volume is updated to clarify the area of pool deck assumed to be served by the required fixtures.
- The Plumbing Volume is updated to clarify access requirements and maximum travel distance for swimming pool restrooms in an adjacent building
- The Plumbing Volume is updated to reduce the number of fixtures required in swimming pools over 7500 SF in surface area.

Please review the latest updates at:

[http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fbc/thecode/2009\\_Supplements/Second\\_2009\\_Supplements.htm](http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fbc/thecode/2009_Supplements/Second_2009_Supplements.htm)

All updates and the Florida Code are available at:

<http://www.floridabuilding.org/BCISOld/bc/default.asp>

Please ensure that all new projects adhere to these “new” requirements. You may contact Construction Services staff for assistance in understanding the new requirements. As previously noted, all applications for permit received after October 1, 2009, will be required to comply during either plan review or inspection, as appropriate.