



INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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MEMORANDUM

To: Building, Plumbing, and Electrical Contractors
From: Chatham County Inspection Department
Subject: Code and Enforcement changes on new permits
issued on and after April 1, 2016
Date: April 1, 2016

I. ELECTRICAL:

The North Carolina Building Code Council has mandated the 2014 National Electrical code to be adopted for use starting April 1, 2016. Note that the 2014 National Electrical Code will be enforced on the projects permitted on or after April 1, 2016. The following is a list of several 2014 code changes that will need to be considered by the builder and electrical contractor before the time of inspection. Please note that this list only suggests a few significant differences that might need pre-planning on the part of the builder when building a single family dwelling. In addition, all the approved amendments for the 2014 North Carolina Electrical Code can be found on the NCDOI OSFM Website by clicking onto:

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Codes -
Current and Past&user=State Building Codes](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Codes_-_Current_and_Past&user=State_Building_Codes) and select the NC ELECTRICAL CODE - 2014 EDITION WITH NC AMENDMENTS

1. NEC 210.8(A)(7) – GFCI PROTECTION

* Any 125 V, single phase, 15 or 20 amp receptacle within 6 ft. of the outside edge of a sink in a dwelling unit must now have ground fault circuit (GFCI) protection. This includes receptacles for a garbage disposal, refrigerator, or range hood, if they are within 6 ft. of the sink. Note that the distance does not have to be horizontal, so a receptacle on a kitchen island would also require GFCI protection if the shortest route to the sink is less than 6 ft.

2. NEC 210.8(D) – GFCI PROTECTION

* This requires that kitchen dishwasher outlets now have GFCI protection. This amendment has been *deleted*.

3. NEC 210.12(A) – AFCI PROTECTION

*The kitchen and laundry room now requires AFCI protection. For the kitchen, this requires the small appliance branch circuit, lighting circuit, and individual appliance circuits such as the garbage disposal, dishwasher, microwave, refrigerator, and range hood. AFCI protection in the laundry area includes the washer circuit, lighting, or other outlets. This can be a laundry room or area. Note that protection can be provided with a dual GFCI/AFCI type breaker or provide an AFCI protected circuit at the panel to a GFCI protected receptacle outlet.

4. NEC 210.52(I) – Foyers

*Foyers that are not part of a hallway in accordance with NEC 210.52(H) and that have an area that is greater than 60 ft/2 shall have at least one receptacle.

A FEW OTHER ELECTRICAL RESIDENTIAL CHANGES REFERENCED IN THE 2014 ELECTRICAL CODE

1. NEC 210.8(A)(9) – GFCI PROTECTION

* Receptacles that are installed within 6 feet of the outside edge of bathtub or shower stall shall be GFCI protected.

2. NEC 210.8(A)(10) – GFCI PROTECTION

* ALL 15A and 20A receptacles installed in the laundry area of a dwelling must be GFCI protected.

3. NEC 210.52(G)(1-3) – RECEPTACLE & GFCI PROTECTION-(210.8)

* A GFCI receptacle shall be installed in *each bay* of an attached or detached garage and shall not serve any outside outlets.

II. PLUMBING & BUILDING:

There has been the subject concerning the pressure reducing valve and plumbing cleanouts installation brought to the attention of the Chatham County Inspection Department in the last several months.

After study, research, and interpretation obtained by the Engineering Division of the Department of Insurance, this office shall require the following on any permits obtained on or after **APRIL 1, 2016** that may be subject to the installation of pressure reducing valves and/or plumbing cleanouts.

A. Commercial or Single Family Dwelling on Slabs – Location of the PRV Placement

1. Section 604.8 of the North Carolina State Plumbing Code states that where water pressure within the building exceeds 80 psi, an approved water pressure reducing valve conforming to ASSE 1003 with strainer shall be installed to reduce the pressure in the building water distribution piping to 80 psi or less.
2. Note that the Chatham County Inspection Department ***shall require*** that the water pressure reducing valve be installed at a point prior to the start of the water distribution piping outside the foundation wall. Note that water service piping not certified for water distribution shall terminate 5 feet outside the building. In addition, section 604.8.2 requires a shutoff prior to the PRV for necessary repair or removal.

B. Commercial or Single Family Dwelling on Crawl Spaces – Location of the PRV Placement

***Note that the Engineering Division of the Department of Insurance has interpreted that *in the building* is within the occupied space and not the crawl space unless the full open valve is within 3 feet of the crawl space door. The Chatham County Inspection Department will approve the PRV location as described.**

1. **This office will approve the PRV at a location in the crawl space prior to entering the building as referenced in section 604.8. Note that water service piping not certified for water distribution shall terminate 5 feet outside the building. In addition, section 604.8.2 requires a shutoff prior to the PRV for necessary repair or removal.**

C. Plumbing Cleanouts in Crawl Spaces

* Section 708 of the North Carolina State Plumbing Code states that there shall be a cleanout at the junction of the building drain and the building sewer. In addition, cleanouts on concealed piping or piping under a floor slab or in a crawl space of less than 24 inches in height or a plenum shall be extended through and terminate flush with the finished wall, floor or ground surface or shall be extended to the outside of the building. ***Note that the building and the plumbing contractor must work together to either achieve the proper cleanout locations or maintain a clear height to the cleanout in a crawl space location.***