



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Telephone: 651-266-8989
Facsimile: 651-266-9124
Web: www.stpaul.gov/dsi

BULLETIN 07-1

1. Yes! The City of St. Paul is still in the Electrical Inspection business! Also, as of May 17, 2007 the name of our Department will change from LIEP to the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). We are still enforcing Bulletin 80-1 on any service upgrade, panel change- anything where the existing panel is replaced. Permit is for the service (\$53) and all circuits (\$11 each), existing and added.
2. NEC Sect. 210.52(A): The area behind a door is considered part of this wall space for receptacle location. The Code does not say “usable wall space”. All proposals to the NEC to add the word “usable” have been rejected.
3. NEC Sect. 210.8(A)(7) Receptacles installed within 6ft of the edge of laundry, utility and wet bar sinks must have GFCI protection. In many cases, this requires the 20 Amp laundry receptacle to have GFCI protection.
4. Adding cords to appliances: NEC Sect. 422.16 requires using a cord identified or listed for the purpose. Also, the specific appliance must be listed for cord-and-plug connection. Cutting off the last 4’ of an extension cord and using that to connect an appliance is not acceptable.
5. Section 408.4: Panelboard directories must be marked with the specific purpose or use of each circuit “with sufficient detail to be distinguished from all others”. We are still finding panelboards with no circuit identification whatsoever. Get used to doing this, because the 2008 NEC is going to have additional requirements for the directory- it’s not going away.
6. NEC 110.16: All switchboards, panelboards, MCC’s, Industrial control panels and meter sockets in other than dwelling occupancies must have a field-installed, readily visible label warning of arc-flash hazard. This is required to be field-installed.
7. It is a violation of the box fill requirements in Article 314 to run even a single NMC cable into a 3”round “pan box”. This single NM cable will exceed the cubic inch allowances.
8. On final inspections, we are finding clothes washers, dryers and other appliances encroaching on the required working clearances of NEC 110.26 for the service panelboard. It is the contractor’s responsibility to ensure that the planned location of such appliances will not violate these clearances.
9. The requirements for the location of emergency lighting are in the Building Code, not the NEC. The General Contractor should have reviewed plans that indicate the proposed location for these lighting units. The building inspector should be consulted with any questions on the location of emergency lighting. If emergency lighting is required by the Building Code, the NEC then tells you how to wire it. The NEC does require that if battery backup emergency lighting is used, they must be fed off the lighting circuits in the area, not receptacle circuits, and that circuit must be identified in the panel. (Section 700.12(F))
10. NEC Section 410.73(G): This is a requirement for an individual disconnecting means for most fluorescent luminaires in other than dwelling units. This 2005 NEC requirement is not in force at present, but is scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2008. This will be before the 2008 NEC is adopted. Please study this section, since there are five exceptions to the basic rule.

(OVER)

11. NEC 250.52(A)(3): Concrete-encased electrodes consisting of a total of 20' or more of ½" or larger reinforcing rod in a building footing is a required electrode for the building service. We are still having continuing problems of compliance with this Section close to 2 years after it went into effect. We are able to read prints as well as anyone else, and will not accept the story that there is no reinforcing rod in a footing if the building plans show some. Either that, or the General Contractor may be cited for not following the plans! Jackhammers are available for rental to correct this situation. A lug listed for the purpose is required to connect the GEC to the reinforcing rod. "Acorn" lugs for ground rods are not listed for this purpose.

12. A new State law regarding the installation of carbon monoxide detectors went into effect January 1, 2007 for new single & multi-family dwellings requiring that CO detectors must be installed within 10' of every sleeping room. Other occupancies will have to follow these requirements at later dates. This detector can be hard-wired, plugged into a receptacle or battery operated and attached to the wall. The law does not state the enforcing authority for this requirement, so we are informing you of this law as a courtesy and leave compliance up to you.

13. Section 210.52(F). Unless a dwelling unit meets one of the two exceptions to this section, a separate, 125-volt, 20 ampere circuit shall be installed at the laundry location even if the appliances installed there require a different voltage or current rating. Many apartments/condos are installing "stackable" washer/dryer combinations which in some cases require only a 240-volt, 30 ampere receptacle for power. The NEC still requires that a 125-volt, 20 ampere laundry receptacle on its own circuit be installed even though it is not needed at that time.

14. Call for trench inspections! Note Section 3800.3770 of the Minnesota Rules which state that if work is covered without an inspection the contractor is responsible for all costs incurred with removing the cover for an inspection. This section also covers wallcoverings installed without a rough-in inspection.

15. Call for final inspections! Note that under Section 3800.3780 subpart 2 of the Minnesota Rules, all permits with a fee of \$250 or less are void after 1 year and a new permit must be obtained to complete the work. Subpart 1 requires a call or other notice (fax, E-mail) to the inspector that the work is ready for final inspection.

16. We normally (99.9% of the time) will be able to do an inspection the same day (M-F) you call, if the Inspector is notified between 7:30 and 9am Monday-Friday. We still get complaints from homeowners or general contractors asking why we're so far behind on inspections and how it's delaying their job.

17. Permits may be obtained by mail, by faxing with a credit card, electronically on the DSI website (WWW.STPAUL.GOV/DSI) or in person in our office. The electronic version allows you to apply for and immediately receive the active permit by printing it out on your printer. This eliminates postage, time lost in mailing and processing, and eliminates the uncertainty of when you have a valid permit. Click the "online permits" link in the lower left-hand corner of the main page for further information on how to sign up. Remember, by City Ordinance, permits must be obtained (not just mailing the form, but you receiving the Contractor's copy) BEFORE work commences. We process permits on a daily basis. If you have an emergency such as storm damage, obviously you can't wait for the permit to be processed, but call the area inspector immediately - they all have voice mail on their phones- and let them know what is going on.

18. Our website (WWW.STPAUL.GOV/DSI) also has a complete set of all the bulletins, handouts (including Bulletin 80-1) and you are also able to download a permit form. Click on "Electrical Permits" at the top of the main page to go to the Electrical page. Our old website address (LIEP.US) will be going away and soon will no longer work. If you have our website as one of your "favorites", please change to the new one.