DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND INSPECTIONS
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# BULLETIN 01-1

**1. Section 210-12: Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupter Protection of Bedroom Receptacles:** Section 210-12 in the 1999 NEC becomes effective on January 1, 2002. This will now require arc-fault (AFCI) protection of all bedroom receptacles in dwelling units. St. Paul will enforce this as follows: All new dwellings or dwelling units will be required to have AFCI protection as stated in the NEC. New bedrooms (such as additions) in existing dwellings will also need AFCI protection. New receptacles installed in existing dwelling unit bedrooms will require AFCI protection. Existing receptacles in existing bedrooms may remain as is or may optionally be AFCI protected. AFCI protection may be obtained by using an AFCI circuit-breaker or receptacle (when they become available). AFCI circuit-breakers have been available from 4 different manufacturers for over a year, so no excuses of product availability will be considered. In the case of fuse panels, this may require a circuit-breaker sub-panel to conform to this Section. These requirements will be effective on any electrical permit issued on or after January 1, 2002

**2. Section 110-26(a): Working Spaces in Front of Air Conditioning Units.** We are finding quite a number of air-conditioning installations where the outside disconnect is mounted behind the unit and violating 110-26(a). Please be aware that these disconnects still need the 30"wide by 3' deep working clearance in front.

**3. 3-inch pan boxes.** The cubic-inch capacity of a 3" pan box does not allow a 14-2 NMB Romex cable in it. You cannot mount a light fixture, smoke detector, etc. on one of these pan boxes and fulfill the requirements of Section 370-16.

**4. Section 110-22:** You are required to legibly and permanently mark all new or altered circuits on a directory in the panelboard. Especially in commercial occupancies, try to use locations within a building, not names. People change offices, but the physical office does not change locations!

**5. Section 210-7(d)(2):** If a receptacle is replaced at a location where GFCI protection is required by today's Code, GFCI protection must be provided even though it may not have been there previously.

**6. Section 110-3(b):** You cannot cut the cord cap off a cord-and-plug connected appliance and "hard-wire" it into a junction box.

**7.** It is the interpretation of this office that 3-season porches are habitable rooms and must have receptacles to conform with Section 210-52(a).

**8.** It is the interpretation of this office that if a dwelling-unit room has more than 50% of its plaster or sheetrock removed for replacement that the entire room must have receptacles to conform with 210-52(a).

**9.CALL FOR FINAL INSPECTIONS!** The Uniform building Code Section 108.3, which is adopted as State Law, requires the inspection Authority be notified of the need for an inspection. You may also fax, or e-mail requests for finals unless an appointment is necessary.

**10. All residential service changes**, other than converting an existing service from overhead to underground, must also conform to bulletin 80-1. For example, this includes 100A fuse to breaker change, 200A fuse to breaker, 100A breaker to larger size etc. etc. Be reminded that the minimum size service for dwellings is 100amp.If a 60A fuse panel is replaced, the whole service must be upgraded to 100A. Before moving a service location, contact Xcel Energy for location approval. All meter sockets must be of the bypass type or Xcel will refuse connection.

**11. Permits: By State Law, an Electrical Permit must be processed before the job starts.** If you have a rush job, permits may be faxed in to (651) 266-9124, or may be immediately activated on the internet. We are finding entirely too many jobs lately where the permit is "in the mail". Starting a job without a permit is a misdemeanor under State Law and St. Paul Ordinance. You may also be charged a "double fee" for starting without a permit.