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"Partnering to Improve Consistency & Customer Service"

2019 CA Electrical Code Changes

(Effective January 1, 2020)

- This subdivision incorporates mandatory torque tightening requirements for electrical terminations in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. (110.14 (D))
- The list of locations for GFCI receptacles in “other than dwelling units” is expanded to include receptacle outlets in crawl spaces and receptacles in unfinished basements. (210.8 (B)) Also now required for drinking coolers, spray washing machines, tire inflation machines provided for public use, and vending machines. (422.5)
- Arc fault protection is now required in guest rooms and guest suites. (210.12 (C))
- All meeting rooms of not more than 1,000 square feet in other than dwelling units are now required to have receptacle outlets installed. Floor and wall receptacles required. (210.71)
- Added “work surfaces” to countertop receptacle requirements in kitchens, pantries, breakfast rooms, dining rooms, and similar areas. (210.52(C))
- Each required garage receptacle shall be installed no higher than 5 1/2’ above the floor. (210.52(G))
- Indoor service equipment (not in one-two family dwellings) requires a 15/20 amp receptacle in the same room/area and within 25ft of the equipment. (210.64)
- Receptacles with USB Charger, permits these devices to be installed if they are listed and constructed per ANSI/UL 498 (406.3 (F))
- New occupancies have been added to the receptacle tamper-resistant requirements: Preschools and elementary education; business offices; corridors; waiting rooms and the like in clinics, medical and dental offices and outpatient facilities; assembly occupancies described in Section 518.2; and dormitories. (406.12)
- Flexible cords supplying trash compactors are permitted to be between 3–4 feet long. A longer, flexible cord to facilitate connection for dishwashers in an adjacent space is permitted to be between 3–6½ feet long. The receptacle for a trash compactor must be located in the space occupied by the appliance or adjacent, and the receptacle for a built-in dishwasher must be located in the space adjacent to the space occupied by the dishwasher. (422.16 (B)(2))
- Section 440.9 now requires a “wire-type” equipment grounding conductor (EGC) for outdoor portions of metallic raceway systems that use non-threaded fittings installed on a roof. (440.9)
- Omitted underground conduit clearances and depths associated to swimming pools. Now all installations are in accordance with Table 300.5. (680.11)
- A photovoltaic array boundary is established with requirements for circuits outside and inside the array boundary. Three rapid-shutdown methods are provided for circuits inside the array boundary. Changed rapid shutdown voltage limitation length of time to 30 seconds (was 10 seconds) (690.12)
- Marking requirements for rapid shutdown were significantly revised to warn emergency responders of hazards presented by a PV system and associated conductors. (690.56 (C))
- Added Article for Large-Scale Photovoltaic Electric Power Production Facilities (Art. 691)

- Exposed raceways and cable systems that are part of an emergency circuit shall be labelled for that use at 25ft intervals. Receptacles supplied by an emergency circuit shall be marked with a distinctive color (700.10).
- Changed “inverter output” verbiage to “power source output” that changes some labelling. For example; the label for two power sources with overcurrent protection on opposite ends of the busbar shall state, “WARNING: POWER SOURCE OUTPUT CONNECTION – DO NOT RELOCATE THIS OVERCURRENT DEVICE” (705.12).
- Interconnected power sources (PV, etc) are allowed in center-fed busbar panels if the connection is made at either end, not both ends of the busbar and does not exceed 120 percent of the busbar rating (705.12(B)(2)(3)(d)).