



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS
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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

JOSEPH V. DORIA
Commissioner

March 5, 2009

To: Electrical Subcode Officials

RE: Telecommunications Wiring and Fire Rated Assemblies

Dear Subcode Officials:

This letter provides a clarification of the permit and inspection requirements for the installation of telecommunications wiring, which includes telephone, data and cable television. This type of work is minor work (in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.17A) in Class 3 buildings where fire rated assemblies are penetrated, and in all Class 2 and Class 1 buildings, including multi-family residential high rise structures.

The Uniform Construction Code (UCC) states that notice of minor work must be given to the enforcing agency before the work commences (N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.17A(a)). Oral notice meets this requirement and may be provided in person or by telephone before the work begins (N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.17A(b)1). In addition to providing notice to the enforcing agency, a permit application must be filed and fee paid within five business days of the date of the oral notice (N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.17A(b)2).

Construction permit fees for the installation of telecommunications wiring should be charged based on the ownership of the building. For a building that has one owner with multiple tenants, the fee is the minimum fee for each floor penetration (located on the lower portion of the electrical technical section) and the total number of drops going to each individual tenant (on the upper portion of the electrical technical section, listed as "communication points"). For a building that contains individually owned units, a construction permit is issued for the core installation. The minimum fee is charged for penetrations through each floor. A permit and fee is also required for each individual unit that receives a drop and the fee is based on the number of drops to each unit; it is placed on the 'communications point' line.



The inspections confirm compliance with the National Electrical Code (NEC)/2005 with specific attention to Section 300.21, Spread of Fire or Products of Combustion. This section states that openings around electrical penetrations through fire-resistant-rated walls, partitions, floors, or ceilings are required to be fire-stopped using approved methods to maintain the fire-resistance rating. Chapter 8 of NEC/2005 applies to the specific type installation, typically the supporting and securing of the wiring.

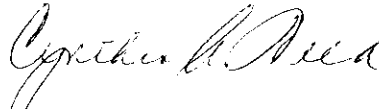
Finally, any work being performed in or on a building or structure is subject to the regulations of the UCC. The Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors requires that this work be performed either by a New Jersey licensed electrical contractor or by an installer who possesses a Telecommunications Wiring Exemption Certificate.

In summary, minor work is not exempt from the UCC. The requirements for minor work are in the UCC at N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.17A. Before work begins, oral notification is required to be given to the enforcing agency; the electrical technical section of the construction permit application must be signed by a New Jersey licensed electrical contractor or by an applicant who possesses a Telecommunications Wiring Exemption Certificate within five business days. By definition, "minor work" does not require a plan review; therefore, plans are not required to be submitted for this type of work.

A notice of violation for work performed without a permit is issued for any installations that are not in compliance with the UCC regulations. If compliance is not achieved, then a stop work order is posted and issued in accordance with the regulations.

Should you be in need of further assistance on this issue, please contact Suzanne Borek of the Code Assistance Unit at (609) 984-7609.

Very truly yours,



Cynthia A. Wilk
Director

