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AFCI Protection of Residential Circuits In New and Existing Dwellings and Dormitories

Newly revised for changes to 2014 NEC effective 7/1/2014

Article 210.12 of the 2014 National Electrical Code (NEC) requires Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI) protection of all newly installed 125-volt, 15 & 20 ampere outlets or devices in **kitchens, laundry areas**, family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sunrooms, recreation rooms, closets, hallways, or similar rooms or areas of a dwelling or **dormitory** unit. These “outlets” include, but are not limited to, light fixtures, smoke detectors, receptacles, etc. This article also requires extensions and modifications to the branch circuit, in these areas, to be arc fault protected.

St. Paul will enforce this as follows:

1. All new dwellings, dwelling units, or **dormitory** units will be required to have AFCI protection for all circuits as required in 210.12.
2. New areas of a dwelling (such as additions) in existing dwellings will also need AFCI protection for all outlets if required by 210.12.
3. New outlets installed in existing dwelling or **dormitory** units will require AFCI protection if covered by 210.12. Existing outlets may remain as is or may optionally be AFCI protected.

New effective 1/1/2014.

Article 406.4 (D)(4) of the 2011 and 2014 NEC requires replacement receptacles in the areas stated above (Article 210.12, 2011/2014 NEC) to be protected by an Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter. This protection can be accomplished by one of the following:

- (1) A listed outlet branch circuit type arc-fault circuit-interrupter receptacle.
- (2) A receptacle protected by a listed outlet branch circuit type arc-fault circuit-interrupter type receptacle.
- (3) A receptacle protected by a listed combination type arc-fault circuit-interrupter type circuit breaker.

At present the only means of AFCI protection for a replacement of a non-grounding type receptacle is by using a combination type AFCI circuit breaker.

Note: Please see Article 210.12 and/or Article 406.4 and other pertinent sections of the 2014 National Electrical Code for further information on this and other requirements. We do not have copies available, check with your local library or electrical supply house.