2020 NEC Code Changes for Residential

Below is a list of some of the more significant changes for residential. This list is not the complete list of NEC changes from the 2017 to 2020 codes. Additional information should be reviewed in the 2020 NEC.

210.8 Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for Personnel

(A) Dwelling Units. All 125-volt through 250 volt receptacles installed in the locations specified in 210.8(A)(1) through(11) and supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts or less to ground shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.

(Dishwashers still require GFCI protection. Requirement has moved to 422.5(A)(7)

(Doors and doorways have been removed from the code requiring the garbage disposal to require GFCI protection)

(1) Bathrooms (all receptacles)

(2) Garages and accessory buildings (all receptacles except dedicated snow melting circuits)

(3) Outdoors

(4) Crawl spaces

(5) Basements

(6) Kitchens (shall include range receptacle if located within 6 ft. of sink)

(7) Sinks- (within 6')

(8) Boathouses

(9) Bathtubs or shower stalls- (within 6')

(10) Laundry Areas (~~includes dryer receptacle~~) **(Ga. Amended to remove)**

(11) Indoor damp and wet locations (mud rooms; animal wash-down areas; etc.)

(E) Equipment Requiring Servicing. GFCI protection is required for the heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment receptacles (see also 210.63(A). (This also includes the receptacle located in attic for servicing of equipment)

(F) Outdoor dwelling Unit Outlets. GFCI protection is required for **all** outdoor dwelling unit outlets, other than those for snow-melting equipment covered in 210.8(A)(3) Ex, that are supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150V or less to ground, 50 amperes or less. (~~This will include outdoor condensing units~~) **(Ga. Amended to remove)** (Ex: GFCI protection is **not** required on lighting outlets other than those covered in 210.8(C)

210.11(2) Branch Circuits Required. At least one 20A, 120V branch circuit is required to supply receptacle(s) in the laundry area as required by 210.52(F). The laundry receptacle circuit is **not permitted to supply lighting or receptacle outlets in other rooms.** (Laundry receptacle circuit is required even if the laundry appliance is a 30A, 240V combination washer/dryer)

210.52(C) Countertops and Work Surfaces. In kitchens, pantries, breakfast rooms, dining rooms and similar areas of dwelling units, receptacle outlets for countertop and work surfaces that are 12" or wider must be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(1) through (C)(3) and **are not permitted to be used to meet the receptacle outlets for wall space as required by 210.52(A)**

210.52(C)(2) Island and Peninsular Countertops and Work Surface Spaces.

(a) At least one receptacle shall be provided for the first 9 sq. ft., or fraction thereof, of the countertop or work surface. A receptacle outlet shall be provided for every additional 18 sq. ft., or fraction thereof, of the countertop or workspace.

(b) At least one receptacle outlet shall be located within 2 ft. of the outer end of a peninsular countertop or work surface. A peninsular countertop shall be measured from the connected perpendicular wall.

230.67(A) and (B) Surge Protection. All services suppling dwelling units must be provided with a surge-protective device. The surge protective device must be an integral part of the service disconnect or be located immediately adjacent to the service disconnect. (Ex. The surge-protective device is permitted be located in the down-stream panel board. (The surge-protective device must be a Type 1 or Type 2 SPD.); **(Where service equipment is replaced, surge protection must be installed)**

230.85 Emergency Disconnects. For one- and two-family dwelling units, all service conductors must terminate in a disconnecting means having a short-circuit current rating equal to or greater than the available fault current and installed in a readily accessible location. If more than one disconnect is provided, they must be grouped. Each disconnect must be one of the following:

(1) Service disconnects marked: **EMERGENCY DISCONNECT, SERVICE DISCONNECT**

(2) Meter disconnects installed in accordance with 230.82(3) must be marked: **EMERGENCY DISCONNECT, METER DISCONNECT, NOT SERVICE EQUIPMENT**

(3) Other listed disconnect switches or circuit breakers on the load side of the meter and supply side of each service disconnect marked: **EMERGENCY DISCONNECT, NOT SERVICE EQUIPMENT**

(Markings must be permanently affixed and have sufficient durability to withstand the environment involved in accordance with 110.21(B))

314.27(C) Outlet Boxes for Support of Ceiling-Suspended (Paddle) Fan Outlets. All outlet boxes mounted in the ceilings of habitable rooms of dwelling units are required to be *listed* for the sole support of a ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan or an outlet box complying with the applicable requirements of 314.27 and providing access to structural framing capable of supporting of a ceiling-suspended fan bracket or equivalent must be installed. This requirement is applicable only in locations acceptable for the installation of a ceiling-suspended fan.

406.9(C) Receptacles in Damp or Wet Locations. Bathtub and Shower Space. Receptacles are not permitted to be installed within a zone measured 3 ft. horizontally and 8 ft. vertically from the top of the bathtub rim or shower stall threshold. The zone is all-encompassing and includes the space directly over the tub or shower stall. (Ex to (C): In bathrooms with less than the required zone, a receptacle is permitted on the furthest wall opposite the bathtub rim or shower stall threshold.