



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Division of Code Enforcement and Administration

Phone : (518) 474-4073
www.dos.state.ny.us

Fax : (518) 486-4487
E-mail: info@dos.state.ny.us

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Effective Date: January 1, 2003

Source Document: 19NYCRR 1220 - *Residential Code of New York State (RCNYS)*
19NYCRR 1221 - *Building Code of New York State (BCNYS)*

Topic: NEC Service entrance conductor length and length concealed in a wall prior to disconnecting means.

This bulletin is intended to clarify questions regarding the maximum length of service entrance conductors prior to the service disconnecting means and the maximum length of unprotected service entrance conductors concealed within a wall cavity in NFPA 70, the National Electrical Code (NEC) - 1999, referenced standard for the *Building Code of New York State* and in the *Residential Code of New York State (RCNYS)*. NEC section 230-70(a) and RCNYS section E3501.6.2, each state:

The service disconnecting means shall be installed at a readily accessible location either outside of a building or inside nearest the point of entrance of the service conductors.

The code language does not limit the length of either exposed or concealed service entrance conductors. The intent is to provide a service disconnecting means that is at an accessible location as close as is practical to the point at which these conductors enter a building.

Furthermore, these codes do not prohibit, nor limit, the length of unprotected service entrance conductors which are concealed in a wall cavity. NEC section 300-4(d) and RCNYS section E3702.2.2 and table E3702.1 state that where cables are installed parallel to the sides of rafters, studs or floor joists, cables shall be installed not less than 1.25 inches from the edge of framing member where nails or screws are likely to penetrate or shall be protected by a steel plate, sleeve, or equivalent at least 1/16 inch thick. This section is applicable to both edges of the framing member.

As a practical matter, the location of the disconnecting means and the length of the service entrance conductors should be established by the designer and installer in consultation with the local code enforcement official prior to the installation.

Some utility company specifications establish maximum lengths for service entrance conductors prior to the disconnecting means. These specifications cannot be enforced by a code enforcement authority because such specifications are **not** part of the enforceable rules and regulations of the State of New York.

Ronald E. Piester, R.A., Director
Division of Code Enforcement and Administration