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## ***TECHNICAL BULLETIN***

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**Code Effective Date:**            **January 1, 2008**

**U P D A T E D**

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

**Topic:**                    **National Electrical Code and Arc-fault Circuit-interrupter Protection**

This document provides information with regard to the referenced version of the *National Electrical Code* (NEC) and to the requirements for arc-fault circuit-interrupter protection in BCNYS Chapter 27, which refers to NFPA 70, the *National Electrical Code* (NEC) and RCNYS Part VIII, Electrical.

***What is applicable version of the NEC for enforcement and why?***

The BCNYS, Chapter 27, references the 2005 version of NFPA 70 (NEC). Electrical inspections shall provide for conformance to the referenced version and not to newer versions. Each version of the reference standards has to be approved by the Fire and Building Code Council (Codes Council) before it is effective. The inspection of electrical systems is the responsibility of the local code enforcement official. This provision is also applicable to electrical inspection companies who are third party inspectors.

***Are arc-fault circuit-interrupters required in residential buildings regulated by the BCNYS?***

YES. Chapter 27 of the BCNYS references the 2005 version of the NEC which in section 210-12, requires arc-fault circuit-interrupter protection for all branch circuits that supply 125-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere outlets installed in dwelling unit bedrooms. The term “outlet” is defined in the NEC as:

*A point on the wiring system at which current is taken to supply utilization equipment.*

***Are arc-fault circuit-interrupters required in residential buildings regulated by the RCNYS?***

YES. The RCNYS is applicable to detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) not more than three stories in height with a separate means of egress. Part VIII of the RCNYS has specific requirements for electrical installations, based on the 2002 edition of the NEC. Section 3301.1, entitled “Applicability”, provides that Chapter E33 through Chapter E42 shall establish the general scope of the electrical system and equipment requirements of this code. Chapter E33 through Chapter E42 cover those wiring methods and materials most commonly encountered in the construction of one- and two-family dwellings and structures regulated by the RCNYS. Arc-fault circuit-interrupters are required by the RCNYS section E3802.1, bedroom outlets:

*All branch circuits that supply 125-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20- ampere outlets installed in dwelling unit bedrooms shall be protected by an arc-fault circuit interrupter to provide protection*

*of the entire branch circuit.*

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