



State of Idaho
Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Idaho Electrical Board

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08/19/2024 Minutes
Public Hearings Summary

Division Staff: Amy Lorenzo, Executive Officer
Steve Greene, Electrical Program Manager
Jill Randolph, Legal Counsel
Erin Einarsson, Board Support Specialist

The meeting was called to order by Executive Officer Amy Lorenzo at 3:30 PM MT.

This was a public meeting to provide a summary of the public comments received from the six public hearings held in Boise, Pocatello, Rexburg, Twin Falls, Moscow and Post Falls as well as any comments emailed to the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL) on IDAPA 24.39.10 Temporary Rules of the Idaho Electrical Board. There was a total of 78 attendees statewide at the public hearings, with 75 unique attendees. A broad section of the industry was represented including electricians, contractors, suppliers, educators, home builders and state officials. The primary goal of these meetings was to gather information so that the Idaho Electrical Board and DOPL can present draft rules that align with the feedback and concerns of the stakeholders as well as meeting the expectations of the legislators.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Adopting the 2023 National Electrical Code (NEC):** At each public hearing, DOPL consistently received statements from stakeholders in support of adopting the 2023 NEC in its entirety. These public members emphasized that the NEC is created to protect people and property from electrical hazards and should be adopted in full without any exemptions or amendments.
- **210.52 (C)(2) & (3) Island and Peninsular Countertops & Work Surfaces:** This item was not addressed in the temporary rules. However, DOPL received a significant number of comments with regards to the 2023 NEC restrictions for outlet placement on kitchen islands. With the 2023 NEC, outlets can only be placed on or above countertops which requires installing a pop-up outlet. If no outlet is installed in the countertop, a future receptacle must be provided within the kitchen island. Stakeholders, citing the additional costs and limited availability of the pop-up outlets as well the difficulty of cutting into certain countertop materials, requested reverting back to the 2017 NEC Code for kitchen islands.

- **100.01.05 Continuing Education:** DOPL received feedback that Residential Electricians should also be subject to continuing education requirements. It was also recommended to add “As Approved by DOPL” after “Independent Study” to clarify that any coursework submitted will be reviewed to ensure that it meets the minimum qualifications.
- **200.03 Supervision:** Stakeholders suggested that Residential Electricians should be limited to supervising only within their scope of practice. Additionally, EO Lorenzo noted that multiple stakeholder groups were critical of the Residential Electrician license and were not in support of its implementation.
- **600 Idaho Electrical Code:** With regards to the exemptions and exceptions listed, Stakeholders indicated the current numbering system is confusing. It was suggested that the rules would be easier to follow if they included what is permitted rather than listing what numbers were deleted. Making this change to the rules may increase the length of section 600 but will provide more clarity.
 - Section 210.8(A)(5) Basements: It was suggested that the rules return to the 2017 NEC Code where Ground-Fault Circuit-Interruption (GFCI) are required in unfinished basements.
 - 600.01.b Section 210.8(A): Stakeholders generally agreed with this exception, but noted that Automotive Vacuum Machines, Tire Inflation Machines and Vending Machines must be exempted. There was general consensus that many of the small appliances such as dishwashers and clothes dryers have internal GFCI protection and thus was not necessary to include at the outlets as well.
 - 600.01.c Section 210.8(A)(7): Several stakeholders identified that the exposure to liquids is still possible in areas of a kitchen where a sink is not present.
 - 600.01.h Section 210.8(D)(1) Automotive Vacuum Machines: It appears that this information was erroneously copied from a section on sinks. The recommendation is to delete this exemption in its entirety and refer to the 2017 language.
 - 600.01.i Section 210.8(D): It was noted that (1) Automotive Vacuum Machines, (4) Tire Inflation Machines and (5) Vending Machines were existing requirements in the 2017 Codes and should not have been exempted. The 2023 NEC had moved this list from a different section in previous editions, so it may have appeared to be new, but was not.
 - 600.01.k Section 210.12(B) Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter (AFCI) Protection, Dwelling Units: Most stakeholders supported returning to the 2017 NEC language which requires AFCI installed in bedrooms for 1 and 2 family dwelling units. EO Lorenzo shared that she received a letter from the Idaho Home Builders Association that they are recommending eliminating AFCI requirements entirely due to installation costs and potential nuisance tripping.
 - 600.01.m Section 230.67 Surge Protection: This item is currently listed as an exemption. However, DOPL received feedback that the installation of surge protectors is not a significant cost barrier, and that the life-saving capabilities are substantial. Additionally, it was noted that the cost to retrofit a home with surge protectors is significantly higher than the initial installation cost.

- 600.01.n Section 230.85 Emergency Disconnects: Multiple stakeholders shared that homes with backup generators will continue to power a home after the panel is pulled and thus an emergency disconnect is necessary to protect the lives of first responders and homeowners.
- 600.01.u Section 480.7(B) Battery Emergency Disconnect: DOPL received feedback that in relation to solar installations, an emergency disconnect is not required.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jeff Fitzloff, Idaho Independent Electrical Contractors, asked when the proposed rules will be available to review and how to submit comments. EO Lorenzo replied that the Board will be presented with the draft rules at the next board meeting. The Board will have the opportunity to make changes to those rules and will then vote to go “Proposed”. The proposed rules will be posted in the October 5, 2024 [Idaho Administrative Bulletin](#). There will be a minimum of 21 days after the bulletin is posted where the public can submit comments in writing or in person. Kelly Lamp, Idaho National Electrical Contractors Association, remarked on the cost of solar permits, noting that in the past the cost of the panels were not included in the permit. EO Lorenzo thanked Mr. Lamp for the information and stated that she would look into it. Ken Burgess, Idaho Home Builders Association (IHBA), noted that including the stipulations outlined by the House Business Committee will help ensure the rules are approved. Mr. Burgess added that the IHBA is in support of leaving the placement of kitchen island receptacles to the discretion of the home buyers. Mr. Fitzloff added that the NEC created the code based on data provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission showing numerous injuries and burns caused by countertop cooking appliances.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.