

February 14, 1985

MEMO: Are GFCI Recepticals required in the bathroom receptical within patient rooms in Nursing Homes

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ARTICLE 517

1036
St Perry
St

DEFINITIONS- WET LOCATION, HEALTH CARE FACILITIES 517.2

A patient care area that is normally subject to wet conditions, including standing water on the floor, or routine dousing or drenching of the work area. Routine housekeeping procedures and incidental spillage of liquids do not define a wet location.

(NOTE) I do not consider a bathroom with no shower or tub, an area where water is going to be standing on the floor, or get a routine dousing or drenching of the work area. The definition of ROUTINE in Websters Dictionary, is something that happens all the time.

The NEC spells out in Article 210.8 that Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters are required in Dwelling Units.

Nursing Homes are not considered as Dwelling Units, but as I-2 Institutional Buildings.

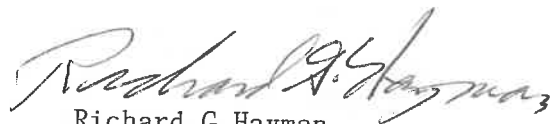
Section 210-8 deals with Residential Dwelling units, Hotels and Motels, Garages and outside recepticals that are required to have GFCI protection.

Section 90-4. This Code is intended to be suitable for mandatory application by governmental bodies exercising legal jurisdiction over electrical instalations and for use by insurance inspectors. The authority having jurisdiction of enforcement of the Code will have the responsibility for making interpretations of the rules, for deciding upon the approval of equiptment and materials, and for granting the special permission contemplated in a number of the rules.

In this case we have to bodies having authority, one the City has authority to review and approve the drawings and interpret the Codes. Two the State Health Department does a final inspection for licensing. If the City inspector should make a ruling, the State Health Inspector can reverse that ruling.

The State Health Department should issue the requirements for Nursing Homes. This would stop the conflict between the two Departments.

At the time the rough in electrical was started, I questioned why GFCI's were not installed. I was told they were not required. I then called Norm Howes my backup electrical inspector and George Pennington Chief Electrical Inspector for the City of Dayton. Both informed me that the building fell under Institutional and GFCI's were not required. I informed the Electrician on the job. At the time and to this day I believe they should be required. I feel the NEC should be ammended to reflect more clearly this requirement.


Richard G Hayman

Building Commissioner
&
Electrical Inspector
City of Napoleon