

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-01-11

January 31, 2011

The following is being offered in response to your fax request dated January 14, 2011 in which you seek a formal interpretation. These questions would apply to Article 100 and Article 230.70(A)(2), of the 2005 National Electrical Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code.

Scenario:

"The building in question is a small existing bank building undergoing renovations. The electrical panel with main disconnect was flipped 180 degrees in order to accommodate a new countertop which takes away working clearance".

Question #1:

"Is it the intent of the definition of a bathroom in the NEC to include a basin, plus a toilet, plus a tub or shower?"

Answer #1:

The electrical portion of the 2005 State Building Code defines a bathroom as "an area including a basin with one or more of the following: a toilet, a tub or a shower". The intent of this bathroom definition is to include a basin with at least one of the other types of plumbing fixtures listed.

Question #2:

"If the answer to #1 is yes (all three elements are required to be a bathroom) then would a room with only a toilet and a basin be considered a toilet room and not a bathroom?"

Answer #2

The code states that a room has to first have a basin along with one or more of the following: a toilet, a tub or a shower. A room with a basin and a toilet is a bathroom.

Question #3:

"If the answer to #2 is that the room is a toilet room and does not fit the definition of a bathroom, could the service disconnecting means in Section 230.70(2) be allowed to be in the toilet room, assuming the necessary working space is available?"

Answer #3:

The code defines a room with a basin and a toilet as a bathroom. Article 230.70(A)(2) states that service disconnecting means shall not be installed in bathrooms.