

### CANADIAN ELECTRICAL CODE

**SUBJECT: Section 26 - Installation of Electrical Equipment**

#### **Rule 26-402 Location of Panelboards**

Concerns were expressed with the requirement for mounting panelboards in dwelling units with no overcurrent device being more than 1.7 m above finished floor level. This could create a situation where the non-metallic-sheathed branch circuit cables may come within the 1.5m from the floor described in Rule 12-518.

The rationale for Rule 26-402 is for panelboards to be located in areas where they will not be subject to damage and be readily accessible. The rationale for Rule 12-518 is to protect cables from mechanical damage when they come within 1.5m of the floor or be installed in a location where there is no potential for damage. Given that panelboards are installed in an area not subject to damage, then the non-metallic-sheathed cable entering the panelboard would meet the intent of Rule 12-518, not requiring additional mechanical protection.

#### **Rule 26-700 Receptacles**

##### Receptacles in Bathrooms – Subrule (11)

In some installations, an area such as a bedroom is not physically separated from the ensuite bathroom by a door.

Receptacles installed in areas that are not separated from a bathroom by a door, should be protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter of the Class A type if they are within 1.5m of a tub or shower.

#### **Rule 26-712 (d) (iv) Receptacles for dwelling units**

Safety Codes Officers have raised concerns about the possibility of damage to non-metallic sheathed cable feeding receptacles in island counters not permanently fixed to the building structure.

Some building contractors are designing island counters so that they may be easily moved to different locations in a kitchen. A movable island counter is not a “**fixed island counter**” and therefore does not require a receptacle as outlined in Rule 26-712 (d) (iv). Island counters are deemed to be “**fixed**” when secured to the structure with nails, screws or other method.

Electrical contractors should consult with the building contractor to determine if the kitchen island counter is movable or fixed, and should only install receptacles in fixed island counters.

**Rule 26-722 Branch Circuits in Dwelling Units**Arc-fault Protection – Paragraph (f)

The 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the CE Code introduced a requirement that an arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) protect receptacles in sleeping facilities of a dwelling unit. In lofts, studios, bachelor suites and similar single occupancy rooms, where the sleeping facilities form part of a single room combined with other living areas, the kitchen receptacles (counter, fridge, stove, microwave, etc.) are not considered part of the “sleeping facility” receptacles requiring arc-fault protection.