

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW NEC MEETING ROOM REQUIREMENTS



For the first time, the National Fire Protection Association is stepping into meeting rooms to establish National Electrical Code (NEC) requirements for receptacle outlets — and that’s generating a lot of questions from specifying engineers, architects and building owners.

As Compliance Manager for Wiremold products at Legrand, North America, **Mike Diamantoplos** has the expertise to provide comprehensive answers.

Here is what you need to know about the new NEC provision on meeting rooms.

WHAT HAPPENED?

The 2017 version of the NEC includes a section, **210.71**, requiring the installation of receptacle outlets in meeting rooms in commercial spaces.

Previously, the NEC only covered receptacles in dwelling units.

WHY WAS THIS SECTION ADDED TO THE NEC?

The primary reason was to try to prevent potential hazards created by cords being strewn across floors in meeting rooms. Additionally, while many meeting rooms have receptacles, they previously were not mandatory. The new code ensures meeting rooms will have them.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE?

As of spring 2017, Massachusetts was the only state to have adopted the 2017 NEC. States are continuously reviewing the NEC code changes and evaluating whether to adopt them but this process can take several years. It is important for designers and building owners to check the NEC adoption maps frequently from design to completion to ensure that their finished projects are in compliance with 210.71.

To see where the **2017 National Electric Code** is in effect visit:
www.nfpa.org/nec/nec-adoption-and-use/nec-adoption-maps

HERE ARE THE KEY POINTS:

- The code only applies to meeting rooms that are 1,000 square feet or less. That means auditoriums are not subject to 210.71.
- If the room can be divided by a movable partition, the receptacle provision applies to the smallest room of the partitioned area. For example, if an 1,800-square-foot meeting room can be separated into two 900-square-foot areas, both of those rooms are subject to this section.
- Spacing of wall receptacle outlets is determined using NEC 210.52 (A)(1) through (4), which covers dwelling units. Refer to that section for details, but in short, it requires that no point measured horizontally along the floor line in any wall space be more than 6 feet from a receptacle outlet.
- For floor receptacles, one receptacle is required for every 215 square feet of floor space in meeting rooms that are at least 12 feet wide. Receptacles must be within 6 feet of a fixed wall.
- Receptacle locations can be determined by building owners or the designer.
- Receptacles must be non-locking and 125-volt, 15- and 20-ampere types.



WHAT ARE SOME SOLUTIONS?

Floor boxes and poke-thru devices are already popular with designers who want connections in the middle of rooms or under furniture rather than having people plug into walls behind them — if cords can even reach a wall. People designing and responsible for meeting rooms will also find these to be great solutions to comply with section 210.71.

The benefits of floor boxes and poke-thru devices include the following:

- They provide flexibility with their ability to be installed where they best serve a specific application.
- They blend into a room because they can be installed in a floor and come in a variety of finishes.
- They are easy to install.
- They can deliver power, data and audiovisual connections.

Legrand has a diverse line of poke-thru devices designed for polished concrete, carpet, wood, terrazzo and tile floor surfaces. Other features include multiple gangs, UL Listed and UL Fire Classified, and recessed devices that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Legrand floor boxes also can be installed in several types of floor surfaces and in on-grade and above-grade applications, and are UL Listed and Fire Classified. Some Legrand floor boxes have up to 10 gangs of capacity, plug load control of up to 30 feet, built-in cable management and other features.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
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