

PROCEDURES FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

New Amendment Provisional | Effective Date: July 25, 2023 | Sunset Date:

Policy Statement: This policy is intended to ensure reasonable and practical safeguarding of people and property per the California Electrical Code, Article 90.1 (CEC) and conformity of electrical equipment to nationally recognized safety standards in harmony with the CEC.

Policy Details:

The installation and use of equipment required or permitted by the CEC shall be acceptable only if approved by the Chief Building Official or designee (CEC Section 110.2). In judging the acceptability of the equipment, the Building Division uses the considerations set forth in CEC Section 110.3. Equipment evaluated by nationally recognized testing laboratories provides a basis for approval by the Building Division (CEC Section 90.7).

Terms used in this policy are defined in Article 100 of the CEC.

Policy Criteria:

I. Listing and Labeling of Electrical Equipment

All electrical equipment shall be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory (NRTL) and labeled with the certification mark of that laboratory. All equipment shall be installed and used in accordance with any instructions included in the listing (CEC Section 110.3(b)).

The listing shall be in accordance with the applicable nationally recognized safety standard for the equipment that is in harmony with the CEC. The safety standard shall be identified within the NRTL's certification directory.

The standard used for listing shall be covered by the scope of either the OSHA recognition per 29 CFR 1910.7 or the ANSI accreditation for the product certification body, and approved by the Chief Building Official.

OSHA link: [OSHA's Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory \(NRTL\) Program | Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)

ANSI link: [Certificate Program Accreditation Overview \(ansi.org\)](#)

Manufacturer's self-certification of any equipment shall not be used as a basis for approval.

Exception 1: Field Modification of Listed and Labeled Electrical Equipment:

The acceptability of field modifications to listed and labeled electrical equipment shall be determined by the Chief Building Official. The Chief Building Official shall consider the effect of the modification on the integrity of the equipment. The Chief Building Official has the authority to require a Field Evaluation in accordance with Exception 2, or a Field Inspection by the nationally recognized testing laboratory that listed the equipment at no cost to the jurisdiction. A documented report shall be provided to the Chief Building Official stating that the modified equipment continues to comply with the listing requirements.

Exception 2: Non-Listed Electrical Equipment:

If installed or relocated equipment is not listed and labeled, the equipment shall either be replaced with listed and labeled equipment, or the Chief Building Official may make an evaluation on the acceptability of the equipment in accordance with CEC Section 110.3(a).

The Chief Building Official has the authority to require a Field Evaluation by a third party field evaluation body (FEB) approved by the Chief Building Official in accordance with NFPA 790 at no cost to the jurisdiction. Accreditation of a FEB by International Accreditation Services (IAS) in accordance with AC 354 (www.iasonline.org) is a method to demonstrate that the FEB meets the criteria of NFPA 790. Field evaluations are only to be performed within the scope of the FEB's accreditation.

The Field Evaluation by the third party shall be performed in accordance with NFPA 791, and a copy of the documented report shall be provided to the Chief Building Official prior to final inspection. When the initial report notes items require further corrections, the FEB shall confirm such corrections have been made and they meet compliance with all the regulations. The final report shall be returned to the Chief Building Official prior to final inspection.

II. Reciprocal Approval of Field Tested Equipment Among Regional Jurisdictions

Equipment evaluated by a third party field evaluation organization that is relocated to another location is subject to the prior approval of the Chief Building Official, provided the installation and use are substantially the same and the field evaluation report is made available. The Chief Building Official has the authority to require a Field Evaluation in accordance with Exception 2.

REFERENCES:

NFPA 790 - Standard for Competency of Third-Party Field Evaluation Bodies
www.nfpa.org/790

NFPA 791 - Recommended Practice and Procedures for Unlabeled Electrical Equipment Evaluation
www.nfpa.org/791

IAS AC354 - Accreditation Criteria for Field Evaluation of Unlisted Electrical Equipment
<https://www.iasonline.org/services/field-evaluation-bodies/>

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Brief description of why this policy is needed: To allow flexibility in the acceptability and installation of unlisted and unlabeled electrical equipment to nationally recognized safety standards.

Policy Approved:



08/02/2023

Roxanna Recinos-Serna, Chief Building Official

Date