
GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTER

Disciplines: Fire and Life Safety

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Division of the State Architect (DSA) documents referenced within this publication are available on the [DSA Forms](#) or [DSA Publications](#) webpages.

PURPOSE

This Interpretation of Regulations (IR) clarifies code requirements based on recognized standards for Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for school campuses.

GENERAL

The California Electrical Code (CEC) Section 210.8 *Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection (GFCI) for Personnel* requires that personnel be protected from electrical shock via the Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter device. In keeping with the intent of this section, GFCI protection shall be required in all public school construction (K –12 and community colleges) in locations as required by recognized standards, regardless of type of occupancy and as noted below.

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 Locations

All 125-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles, installed in the locations specified in (1), (2), (3) and (4) below, shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for the protection of personnel:

- (1) Bathrooms
- (2) Rooftops

Exception: Receptacles that are not readily accessible and are supplied from a dedicated branch circuit for electric snow-melting or deicing equipment shall be permitted to be installed in accordance with the applicable provisions of CEC Article 426.

- (3) Kitchens
- (4) Regardless of the occupancy, within six feet of sinks or any other water sources, and other locations with proximity or exposure to water intrusion or weather conditions.

These areas include but are not limited to:

- Classrooms.
- Teacher work rooms.
- Auto, metal or print shops.
- Science labs.
- Teacher lounges.
- Janitor's closets.
- Art and pottery shops/classes.
- Laundry areas.
- Home economics classrooms.
- Infant care areas/classrooms.
- Any area where similar hazards exist.

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1.2 Mounting

Receptacle mounting height requirements shall comply with the CEC and CBC Sections 11B-205 and 11B-308.1.2.

1.3 Receptacles shall never be mounted in a face up position on the surface of counter tops or other areas where exposure to water or weather is likely, unless specifically listed for the application (see CEC 406.5(G) and 406.9(B)).

1.4 For exterior locations see CEC Section 406.9 (2022 CEC).

2. MODIFICATIONS

Receptacles and receptacle face plates shall not be altered in any manner that would void the UL Listing. Use of broken, altered or modified receptacles, face plates or other materials associated with the receptacles is strictly prohibited.

References:

2022 Title 24, California Code of Regulations (CCR)

Part 1, California Administrative Code

Part 2, California Building Code, inclusive of Sections 11B-205 and 11B-308.1.2

Part 3, California Electrical Code (CEC), Sections 210.8 (B), 406.4 (D), and 406.9

This IR is intended for use by DSA staff and by design professionals to promote statewide consistency for review and approval of plans and specifications as well as construction oversight of projects within the jurisdiction of DSA, which includes State of California public schools (K–12), community colleges and state-owned or state-leased essential services buildings. This IR indicates an acceptable method for achieving compliance with applicable codes and regulations, although other methods proposed by design professionals may be considered by DSA.

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