PURPOSE: This Interpretation of Regulations (IR) clarifies code requirements, based on the California Electrical Code (CEC) and NFPA 20 Section 5.20 (Sections 9.2 and 9.3, 2016 edition) as to what will be acceptable as a “reliable power supply” to an electric fire pump.

GENERAL: The 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016 editions of the California Electrical Code, Article 695, Section 695.3, states, “Power Source(s) for Electric Motor-Driven Fire Pumps shall have a reliable source of power.”

1. INTERPRETATION:

1.1 Reliable Power Supply: Various public utilities commissions oversee electric companies. Municipal boards are authorized to acquire, construct, operate and maintain, and to take all necessary action, in order to provide an adequate, dependable, supply of bulk electric power and energy within its jurisdiction. A fire pump may be permitted to be supplied by a separate service from a reliable municipal provider or a combination of power supply and back-up supply produced on-site or as described in California Electrical Code Article 695.

1.2 Power Supply Will Include: Power source from a reliable municipal electric supply company which has been connected per Article 230 of the California Electrical Code or on-site produced electricity with a back-up power supply installed and connected in accordance with the provisions of Section 695.

1.3 Connection to Power Supply: The connection shall be located and arranged so as to minimize the possibility of damage by fire from within the premises and from exterior hazards. The electrical tap shall be ahead of the main building disconnect, and shall comply with Section 230.82(5) of the California Electrical Code. The service equipment shall comply with the labeling requirements in Section 230.2, and the location requirements in 230.72(B) and NFPA 20:9.2.2.

References:

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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