



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

E-3X

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Electrical Panelboards in Fire Rated Construction

INTRODUCTION

Whenever possible electrical panelboards should not penetrate a fire rated assembly. Either surface mounting or locating the panel outside of fire resistive construction are the preferred methods of installation.

The California Building Code places severe limitations on penetrations of fire resistive assemblies. For listed fire-resistive assemblies only those electrical boxes that have been tested for use and installed in accordance with the assembly can be approved.

In the one-hour separation between Group R DIV3 and Group U DIV1 occupancy, a modified assembly for a electrical panelboard may be used.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

An electrical panelboard installed in a R3/U occupancy separation must be encased on all four sides and backed with 5/8" Type X wallboard. Fireblocks must be installed at the top and blocking must be sealed with a listed fire caulk rated for the intended use.

REFERENCES

1998 California Building Code Section 302, Chapter 7
1998 California Electrical Code Art. 110; Sections 240-24
Sonoma County Residential Construction Handbook: Section 17; Appendix No. 4

