



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 565-1900 FAX (707) 565-1103

E-7X

Overcurrent Devices in Closets and Pantries

INTRODUCTION

The California Electrical Code prohibits overcurrent devices in “the vicinity of easily ignitable materials, such as in clothes closets. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide general guidelines in the implementation of this requirement.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Overcurrent devices are not permitted in clothes closets, utility closets, broom closets or other closets, except that they may be permitted in walk-in closets when ALL of the following conditions exist:

1. The closet is a minimum of 70 sq. ft. in area
2. The closet is at least 7 feet in minimum dimension
3. A floor to ceiling partition is arranged so that the minimum working space is maintained in front of the overcurrent device(s).
4. No provisions for shelves or hanging clothes or other storage may be in this minimum working space.
5. A smoke detector is provided in the closet.

Over current devices are permitted in pantries, provided ALL of the following conditions exist:

1. The minimum working space is maintained in front of the overcurrent device(s).
2. No provisions for shelves or hanging articles or other storage may be in this minimum working space.
3. A smoke detector is provided in the pantry.

Requirements relative to overcurrent device location not covered by these guidelines shall be determined by the Building Official.

GLOSSARY

Pantry: A closet associated with a kitchen for the storage of food and/or cooking utensils.

REFERENCES

National Electrical Code Section 240-24(d))

Effective Date: 4/2/2006