

Board of Electricity
c/o Department of Labor and Industry
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FINAL INTERPRETATION

Subject: Existing Branch-Circuit Supplying a Rebuilt Garage
References: 2020 NEC, section 210.11(C)(4)
Submitted by: Tim Kunkel, Tim Kunkel Electric LLC
Approved by: Board of Electricity, by Chair Duane Hendricks
Date Received: March 9, 2023
Issue Date: April 11, 2023

Question: How does the Department enforce the requirements of 210.11(C)(4), when a rebuilt garage is supplied from an existing branch circuit?

Answer: The Board agrees with the Department's position that allows **existing branch circuits** to be used when supplying a rebuilt garage. However, the existing branch circuit may be used only if the calculated or connected load of the garage is within the ampacity of the existing supply conductors. The existing branch circuit conductors supplying the garage, along with the newly installed branch circuits installed in accordance with section 210.11(C)(4), may terminate in a snap switch used for the disconnecting means as permitted by sections 225.31, 225.32, and 225.36, without additional overcurrent protection and a grounding electrode system. Except in very limited situations, the National Electrical Code does not apply retroactively to existing electrical installations. The Department will continue to enforce only new electrical installations, which is consistent with Minnesota Statutes §326B.36, subdivision 1:

Minnesota Statutes §326B.36 subdivision 1. Required inspection.

*Except where any political subdivision has by ordinance provided for electrical inspection similar to that herein provided, **every new electrical installation** in any construction, remodeling, replacement, or repair, except minor repair work as the same is defined by rule, shall be inspected by the commissioner for compliance with accepted standards of construction for safety to life and property.*

Commentary: The Board considered this Request for Interpretation and made a determination regarding the Final Interpretation at the April 11, 2023, regular Board meeting. All persons present who wished to speak on the topic were given a full and fair opportunity to do so. As required by Minnesota Statutes §326B.127, subdivision 5, the Board may consider this Final Interpretation for adoption as part of the Minnesota Electrical Code.

Date: April 11, 2023


Duane Hendricks, Chair
Chair, MN Board of Electricity