

Minor Repair Work for Electrical or Technology Systems

(This bulletin is intended for licensed electrical and technology contractors, not registered employers)

How is the term “minor repair work” defined?

For electrical work, Minnesota Rules 3800.3500, Subp. 10 defines minor repair work as follows: *“Minor repair work” means the adjustment or repair or replacement of worn or defective parts of electrical equipment and replacement of defective receptacle outlets and manual switches for lighting control.*

For technology system work, Minnesota Statute 326B.36, Subd. 2(c) separately defines minor repair work as follows: *For the purposes of this subdivision “minor work” means the adjustment or repair and replacement of worn or defective parts of a technology circuit or system. Minor work may be inspected under this section at the request of the owner of the property or the person doing the work.* (underline added)

In what context is the term “minor repair work” used in statutes and rules?

For electrical work, Minnesota Statute 326B.36, Subd. 1 includes the term minor repair work as follows:

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. (underline added)

For technology systems work, Minnesota Statute 326B.36, Subd. 2(a)(1) states that minor repair work is exempt from inspection.

Just to clarify, is “minor repair work” exempt from permits and inspection for both electrical work and technology systems work?

Yes. Minor repair work is exempt from permits and inspections.

Is “minor repair work” exempt from electrical licensing or registration?

No. All electrical work and technology work, including “minor repair work”, is required to be performed by licensed contractors and their licensed or registered employees
(Unless otherwise specifically exempt in very limited cases as codified in statute)

What are some examples of minor repair work?

- **Electrical Work:**

- Replacement of defective receptacle outlets, light switches or similar devices
- Replacement of a defective component in a luminaire; defective fluorescent ballast, defective LED driver, broken lampholder, defective switch or similar original equipment manufacturer (OEM) components
- Repair or replacement of worn or defective OEM parts in a specific piece of electrical equipment
- Replacement of worn or defective circuit breakers or other OEM component in a panelboard

- **Technology Systems Work:**

- Replacement of worn or defective fire alarm system components (pull stations, strobe lights, horns, etc.)
- Replacement of a worn or defective component in a low-voltage luminaire (defective LED driver, broken lampholder, defective switch or similar OEM components)
- Repair or replacement of worn or defective components for a nurse call system in a critical care area of a health care facility
- Repair or replacement of worn or defective components for a security system in a detention facility

What are some examples that DO NOT qualify as minor repair work?

Electrical or Technology System Work:

- Extension of any electrical wiring, including technology circuit and system wiring, whether existing or new
- Installation of wiring for, or connection of, new equipment or apparatus
- Installation of replacement or new conductors in existing raceways
- Replacement of damaged wiring methods (raceways, cables, flexible connections, etc.)
- Replacement of existing lighting fixtures with new or repaired units
- Installation of temporary wiring of any type or for any purpose
- Replacement of any component or subassembly with an item that is not identical to that being replaced
- Modification of lighting fixtures as part of a lighting retrofit project
- Building automation systems, including power limited systems

Questions? Contact us at dli.electricity@state.mn.us