Canadian Standards Association
Mississauga, Ontario
To the Part I Committee

Subject No. 3018 Chair: M.D. Gardener Date: April 1, 2003

Title: Number of Conductors, Table 23

Submitted by: Gilbert Montminy of Direction de la Normalisation, Regie du Batiment du Quebec, 800 Place d'Youville, 15e etage, Quebec, QC, G1R 5S3, Tel: (418) 643-1913, Fax: (418) 646-9280 on February 8, 2001.

Proposal: Amend Table 23 as follows:

1) Change the A5" for a A6" in the 8th row of the Table (as shown in the attached) and add an asterisk (for note reference)

2) Add a Note at the end of the Table (as shown in the attached) to read as follows:

* Notwithstanding the usable Space requirement of Table 22.

Reasons for Request: To get the possibility to install more than ½ depth boxes in the in the same branch circuit. Actually, when the installer wants to put a "3 x 2 x ½ " box on the external wall, inside the house, the Code does not allow him to add another identical box in the same branch circuit (go from the first box to the second box with # 14 AWG wire). There is a broader use of that kind of boxes now to keep the complete insulation integrity. According to the existent Rule (12-3036), assume a branch circuit wired with # 14 AWG that wants to go from one to other boxes in the same room, Table 23 gives the possibility of 5 units. If I have a device (for instance: a receptacle), I cannot enter the box and extend that branch circuit to the next receptacle.

Supporting Information: This will still be consistent with Subrule 12-3036(2) and the complete Rule and solve the problem for that specific case.

Chair's Comments: There are some receptacles and switches that are 1 in. thick. If these devices are mounted in a 1½in . deep box as mentioned in the proposal, then this would allow 4 conductors in a ½ in. area between the back of the device and the back of the box. This could be a tight fit. However, I would like to hear from the Subcommittee member if they agree with the proposal or not.

Subcommittee Deliberations: There were eleven replies from the Subcommittee members where five members were in favour and six members not in favour of the proposal.

The main objection to the proposal was the amount of space left for the conductors. Depending on the size of the device installed in the smaller box could have an impact on the amount of space left for the conductors. The less space for the conductors could increase the chances the conductors may be damaged.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Since there is no consensus on the proposal, the recommendation is to reject the proposal and close the subject.