



Canadian Standards Association
Mississauga, Ontario
To the Part I Committee

Subject No. 3069

Chair: R. Leduc

Date: November 25, 2002

Title: Provision for Additional Circuits, Rule 26-404

Submitted by: Dunc Dunsire of 432 Beverly St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 1T8,
Tel: (204) 775-3704 on July 17, 2002.

Proposal:

1. New rule 26-404 See Appendix B

"Where spaces are available in a recessed panelboard for additional circuits, access shall be provided in the building construction to permit the installation of these circuits to the panelboard.

2. Appendix B note to 26-404

It is the intent of this rule to have provision such as removable wall panels or spare raceways or other suitable means installed to avoid damage to the building construction when adding circuits in a recessed panelboard where additional circuit space is provided.

Reasons for Request: This subject was discussed at the 107th CEC Part 1 meeting under subject 3014 to have a similar rule in section 70 of the code. This was rejected for a number of reasons, one being made by the writer that this covers more installations than mobile homes and in fact is a major issue in industrial installations with concrete block walls. By placing the rule in 26-404 the rule covers all installations. There may be some argument for apartment suites, but these are added to from time. I talked to a contractor and he expressed frustration in attempting to add circuits due to the building construction. The same contractor also applauded this proposal which although not a major safety issue, certainly will go a long way to ease the addition of circuits where required in a safe, economic and aesthetically acceptable manner.

As a consumer this is a boon in self wire to ensure the work is done in a safe manner and if contacted out, done at reasonable cost.

The Appendix B note is simply to clarify the intent without making a long and complicated rule.

Chair's Comments: The Subcommittee members should be aware that a similar topic (see subject 3014 attached) was presented to the Part I Committee at their June meeting in Victoria but was defeated. It was in regard to access to panels in mobile homes. Some of the concerns presented were:

- Why just relocatable structures? The same principle should apply to any installation
- This is a design requirement and should not be in the Code
- ambiguous wording which may present difficulties in enforcement

Subcommittee Deliberations (1st round):

Of 13 members, 10 responded with 4 agreeing with the submission and 6 disagreeing. Of those agreeing, 2 had comments as follows:

1. The submitter wanted to ensure that the S/C recognized that this proposal and the one under Subject 3014 were in fact different and that they should not equate them as being similar.
2. The other member agreeing found the wording “ambiguous” and proposed the following: “Access shall be provided in the building construction to permit the installation of additional circuits in recessed panelboards.”

The comments from those members disagreeing with the proposal had similar comments:

- Not be considered a safety issue – it is a design issue
- Access should be addressed by the Building Code
- Perhaps a simple addition to the Appendix B not on Rule 8-108 would be appropriate
- Adds cost without justification

Chair’s Comments:

The submitter appears to contradict himself in the comments he is making. In the proposal under “Reason for Request”, he clearly refers to the proposal in subject 3014 to being similar to this one.

The other comment from the member agreeing with the proposal suggests that there be provisions for access via the building construction. This then should be addressed in the Building Code as suggested in one of the disagreeing comments.

I cannot see the comments in agreement being persuasive enough to revise the proposal in such a way that would cause the members in disagreement to change there opinions. As a result, I declare the Subcommittee does not have consensus to accept this proposal.

Subcommittee Recommendation:

Reject the proposal and close the subject.