



Canadian Standards Association
Mississauga, Ontario
To the Part I Committee

Subject No. 3220

Chair: R. Leduc

Date: March 31, 2005

Title: Receptacles for Two Basins, Appendix B Note to Rule 26-710(f)

Submitted by: A.Z. Tsisserev of The City of Vancouver on December 14, 2004.

Proposal: Add Appendix B Note on Rule 26-710(f) to read as follows:

Appendix B Note on Rule 26-710(f):

"It is intended by this Rule that a receptacle should be installed at each side of the vanity counter containing two separate washbasins (e.g., ensuite bathroom in a bedroom)".

Reasons for Request: To clarify the intent of this Rule to the code users.

Presently, there is inconsistency across the country in applying the requirement of this Rule. The proposed Note will assist the users in uniform application of this requirement. The wording of Appendix b note are also consistent with the relevant wording used in Appendix B note on rule 26-700(11).

Chair's Comments: Please respond to the survey question on the SDOW (standards development online workspace).

Subcommittee Deliberations (1st Round)

9 of a total possible 13 (12 excluding the Chair) members responded to the online survey, 3 agreeing and 6 disagreeing with the proposal.

Although there seemed to be a general agreement that the intent to prevent cords from crossing over a washbasin is valid, there was concern that the proposed Appendix B note might imply that only one approach to accomplish this is available (e.g., a receptacle installed in between two washbasins meeting the 1m requirement for both).

Chair's Comments (for a 2nd round)

Perhaps we only need to modify the proposed appendix B note by stating the intent more clearly. I propose:

In applying Rule 10-710(f) where there are 2 (or more) washbasins, one or more receptacles should be strategically installed so as to minimize the likelihood of having appliance cords run over the washbasins.

Rationale: This proposed Appendix B note does not suggest where or how the washbasin receptacles should be installed but rather addresses the real intent to prevent cords over washbasins.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the Chair's Comments on the SDOW.

Subcommittee Deliberations (2nd Round)

9 of 13 members responded, 6 in favour of the Chair's proposal and 3 opposed. Comments ranged as follows:

1. Looks like we are trying to make a Rule in the Appendix.
2. There are many situations where cords can cross over a sink including kitchens but there is no demonstrated evidence that this poses a safety risk, especially where the appliance is protected by a GFCI. No matter where the receptacles are placed will not prevent cords from crossing over the sink.
3. Number and location of washroom receptacles... as long as we have one within 1 m of the washbasin, what's the problem. How far into design do we need to go?

Chair's Comments (3rd Round)

I feel that the 6 to 3 vote does not adequately give consensus. The opposing comments provide compelling arguments to support the thought that this is not a safety issue... it may be more of an issue of interpretation. Since this subject does not deal specifically with a mandatory issue in the body of the Code, and the arguments for introducing this Appendix B note are not overly persuasive, I suggest that the SC recommend that the subject be rejected and closed.

Subcommittee Deliberations (3rd Round)

7 members responded to the proposal to close the subject. 3 agreed to close the subject and 4 disagreed. Those disagreeing offered the following comments:

- BC inspectors have difficulty enforcing the Rule in situations where we have 2 washbasins. They're mandating a second receptacle.
- Round 2 proposal for an Appendix Note provides good advice to the user

Chair's Comments (final)

It appears that the consensus is to not reach consensus. In reviewing the associated Rule, it states: "At least one receptacle shall be installed within 1 m of the washbasin located in each bathroom or washroom". It is very clear that a minimum of 1 receptacle is required within 1 m of the washbasin.

- If there are 2 washbasins and 1 receptacle is located within 1 m of each basin, then the installation meets the Rule.
- If the receptacle is greater than 1 m from one of the washbasins, then a 2nd receptacle is needed to comply with the Rule.

In reviewing the original proposal and the Chair's modified proposal in the 2nd round, I see some intent statements being made without proper scrutiny and without any clear consensus from the members. In the 1st one, we clearly had disagreement with the notion that just because we have 2 washbasins we should have 2 receptacles. In the 2nd one, we had disagreement with the notion that we intend to minimize cords from crossing over sinks.

As a result, the Chair concludes that the wording in the Rule is quite clear and prescriptive with little room for misinterpretation... the intent is that we need a receptacle within 1 m of a washbasin regardless of how many washbasins there are. The Chair proposes a:

Subcommittee Recommendation

To close the subject.