



# Code Amendment Proposal Application

Department of Consumer & Business Services

Building Codes Division

1535 Edgewater NW, Salem, Oregon

Mailing address: P.O. Box 14470, Salem, OR 97309-0404

Phone: 503-378-4133, Fax: 503-378-2322

Oregon.gov/bcd

**Read the entire code amendment proposal application before completing this form. Please complete all parts before submitting your proposal and refer to the provided checklist.**

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Mike Stone

Date: November 4, 2022

Representing (if applicable): NEMA (National Electrical Manufacturers Assoc.)

Work phone: (703) 841-3642

Mailing address: PO Box 227

Cell phone: (707) 495-8424

City: Dobbins

State: CA

Zip: 95935

Email address: mike.stone@nema.org

## PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Specialty code: Oregon Electrical Specialty Code

Code section(s): 210.8(A)

Briefly explain the subject of your proposal: Revert to model NEC language that requires GFCI protection for 250-volt receptacle outlets, also remove existing amendment language that only requires GFCI protection for 15- and 20-ampere receptacles.

## INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST

Fill in all the information above and submit this page, signed and dated, with the required supplementary information for Parts I, II, III, and IV described on page 2 of this application. This application may be submitted by mail to the mailing address above, or by email to [BCD.PTSPtech@oregon.gov](mailto:BCD.PTSPtech@oregon.gov).

### Summary checklist for the applicant:

- Part I** Code amendment language is attached in the proper format.
- Part II** Amendment proposal requirements for amending the code have been reviewed.
- Part III** Amendment proposal criteria questions have been answered and are attached.
- Part IV** If applicable, additional ORSC energy efficiency amendment proposal information is attached.

**Note:** One application is required for each code section you are proposing to amend. If this proposal requires changes in other sections of the code for alignment, include those changes as part of this application.

## APPLICANT SIGNATURE

Signature: *Mike Stone NEMA* Date: November 4, 2022

**Copyright notice:** By signing this Code Amendment Proposal Application, I understand and acknowledge that the work contained in this application is original, or if not original, I have the right to copy the work. By signing this work, I understand that any rights I may have in this work, including any form of derivative works and compilations, are assigned to the Department of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division. I also understand that I do not retain or acquire any rights once this work is used in a Department of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division publication.

## Proposal – OESC Section

### 1. Describe the concept and purpose of this proposal.

*Current OESC language is as follows (underline indicates addition to model code language, strikeout indicates deletion of model code language):*

*“Dwelling Units. All 125-volt, single-phase, ~~through 250-volt~~ 15- and 20-ampere receptacles installed in the locations specified in 210.8(A)(1) through (A)(11 10) and ~~supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts or less to ground~~ shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.”*

*Proposed model code language is as follows (new text is underlined):*

*“All 125-volt through 250-volt receptacles installed in the locations specified in 210.8(A)(1) through (A)(11) and supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts or less to ground shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.”*

### 2. What problem in the existing Oregon code or national model code is this proposal solving? How does this amendment address the issue? If you have evidence demonstrating the problem, submit that information.

*Substantiation was provided to the NEC Code Making Panel of several residential electrocution deaths resulting from equipment connected to 250-volt receptacles. Inclusion of the proposed model code language will increase the life safety of the general public.*

## Helpful information

- a) If this proposal corrects any unforeseen or probable outcomes resulting from the application of a code section, explain how.

*N/A*

- b) If this proposal corrects inadequate application by a code section to a method, material or design, explain how.

*N/A*

- c) If this proposal eliminates conflicting, obsolete, or duplicative code provisions or standards between Oregon-adopted codes, statutes or regulations, explain why.

*N/A*

- d) If this proposal is for a fire or life safety matter, or is it otherwise needed to protect the health, safety, welfare, comfort and security of occupants and the public, explain why.

*It is a fire and life safety matter. GFCI devices have been required since the 1971 NEC. They are widely recognized, including by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, as a proven and effective method of protecting personnel from electrocution injury and death.*

*Please see the informational sheet at the end of this proposal. This sheet shows the impact that GFCI protection has made since first introduced into the NEC in the 1970s. This information was compiled by the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) with statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.*

**e) If this proposal is necessary to address unique geographic or climatic conditions within Oregon, explain why.**

*N/A*

**f) If there are alternatives to this proposal that solve the problem, explain why this proposal is the best or a necessary solution.**

*N/A*

**g) If this proposal provides for the use of unique or emerging technologies, or promotes advances in construction methods, devices, materials and techniques, explain how.**

*GFCI protection was first required in the 1971 NEC. This mature technology has been proven to be a reliable and cost-effective way to prevent electrocution deaths.*

**h) If this proposal meets any energy conservation or indoor air quality requirements, explain how.**

*N/A*

**i) If this proposal involves the adoption of an electrical or plumbing building product, note if the appropriate advisory board approved the product.**

*N/A*

**3. Has this been proposed at the national model code level. If so, explain when it was proposed, what happened, and why it was not adopted. Provide all associated national model code hearing information and background.**

*Yes. The proposal IS the model code language.*

### **Implementation and fiscal impact**

**1. Explain how the proposed provisions would be enforced? Are additional inspections or permits required? Describe any necessary equipment, training, tests or special certifications.**

*Installation of GFCI protection is typically verified during the final electrical inspection.*

- 2. What is the fiscal impact of this proposal? Provide a cost benefit analysis and include the resources or methods you used to determine the fiscal impact.**

*Non-GFCI devices that supply 250-volt receptacles range in cost from \$14.00 to \$20.00. GFCI devices that supply 250-volt receptacles range in cost from \$99.00 to \$120.00. This is a cost difference of \$85.00 to \$100.00 per device. These are typical retail prices found online.*

### **Helpful information**

- a) If this proposal adds to the cost of construction, explain how the added cost contributes to the health and safety of occupants, or is necessary to conserve scarce resources.**

*The added cost of GFCI protection contributes to the health and safety of occupancies by protecting against injuries and fatalities from electrical shock caused by ground faults. GFCI protection for outdoor receptacles was first required in the 1971 NEC.*

- b) If there are any other adverse fiscal impacts or cost savings passed on to the general public, the construction industry, local and state governments, and small businesses, an interested person must describe the added or reduced cost of a proposed code amendment, and describe the adverse fiscal impact or cost savings in relation to the current Oregon specialty code.**

*See item (c) below.*

- c) If this proposal will affect the cost of development of a detached single-family dwelling, please indicate the cost. For the purposes of illustrating the change on the cost, please use a 6,000-square-foot parcel and the construction of a 1,200-square-foot detached single-family dwelling on that parcel. The information on the cost must be sufficient to assist the division in preparing a housing cost impact statement.**

*The additional cost of GFCI protection for 250-volt receptacles in a 1,200-square-foot single-family dwelling would depend on the number of 250-volt receptacles installed. As previously stated, the additional cost per receptacle added typically varies from \$85.00 to \$100.00. Two common applications for 250-volt residential receptacles is for range and dryer installations. Assuming a dwelling unit has these two installations then the additional cost would be \$170.00 to 200.00.*

### **Impacted stakeholders and other specialty codes**

- 1. It is important that proposals be shared with stakeholders that will be impacted by them. Was this proposal developed with people or organizations likely to be affected by it? Has it been**

**reviewed or shared with people or organizations likely to be affected by it? If so, who, and if not, why not?**

*This proposal was developed by NEMA members and staff. It aligns with the model NEC and has been reviewed by the respective Code Making Panel members and stakeholders during NEC development processes since the 1999 edition.*

**2. Does this proposal impact other specialty codes or statewide programs?**

*N/A*

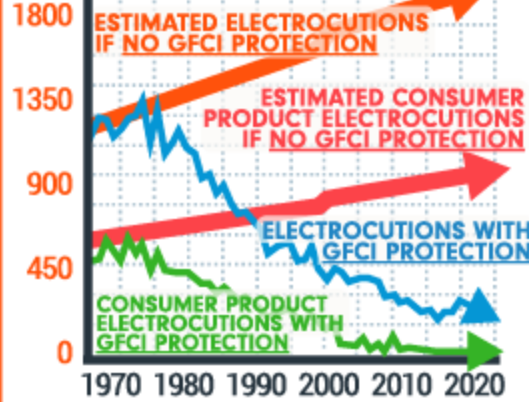
# GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (GFCI) PREVENT AGAINST ELECTROCUTION

What if GFCIs did not exist?



**Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI)** were first introduced in the bathrooms of homes as required by the **1975 edition of the National Electrical Code**. Prior to 1975, only outdoor receptacles and receptacles near swimming pools required GFCI protection. Since then, **GFCI requirements grew** as in-home electricity use and the amount of potential contact with water and electricity in homes increased.

## DEATHS



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

In the ten years between 1971 and 1980, there was an estimated average of **1,101 electrocutions** in the United States, including **491 consumer product electrocutions** every year. As GFCI requirements expanded, the number of electrocutions **dropped significantly**. Between 2011 and 2022, there was an estimated average of **246 electrocutions** a year, including **41 consumer product electrocutions**.

## REQUIRED GFCI LOCATIONS

- 1971** Outdoor Receptacles
- 1975** Bathrooms
- 1978** Garages
- 1981** Spas and Hot Tubs
- 1987** Residential Kitchens
- 1987** Unfinished Basements
- 1990** Crawlspace
- 1993** All Sinks
- 2005** Laundry / Utility Rooms
- 2017** Commercial Kitchens
- 2020** Outdoor Hardwired Outlets

## GFCI FACTS

**80%**  
↓

80% drop in electrocutions since the introduction of GFCI protection in bathrooms in 1975

**93%**  
↓

93% drop in consumer product electrocutions between 1975 and 2020

**1978**

The median American home was built in 1978, GFCIs are now required in **six additional locations** in homes

## WHAT IF GFCI PROTECTION WAS NOT REQUIRED?

**603%**  
↑

There would be an estimated\* **603% increase** in electrocutions

**1118%**  
↑

There would be an estimated\* **1,118% increase** in consumer product electrocutions

According to the **U.S. Energy Information Administration**, residential U.S. energy usage has increased from 0.7 trillion kilowatt-hours in 1978 to 1.5 trillion kilowatt-hours in 2020, an **increase of 114%**

\* Methodology: Average electrocution rate prior to GFCI protection (0.54 deaths per 100,000 population) x yearly population of USA. Consumer product electrocution rate prior to GFCI protection was 0.25 deaths per 100,000

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