

City of Houston, Texas, Ordinance No. 2013-252

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE VOLUME OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON CONSTRUCTION CODE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF HOUSTON ELECTRICAL CODE PERTAINING TO BUILDING STANDARDS; CONTAINING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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WHEREAS, the City seeks to coordinate with local utility provider's safety and service rules; and

WHEREAS, the City also seeks to remove a prohibition on a wiring method that is allowed by the National Electrical Code; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the findings contained in the preamble of this Ordinance are determined to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as a part of this Ordinance.

Section 2. That Section 103 of the volume of the City of Houston Construction Code known as the City of Houston Electrical Code, adopted by Ordinance No. 2011-0673, ("Electrical Code") is hereby amended by adding, in alphabetical order, a new definition that reads as follows:

"SERVICE CABLE TAP BOX is an enclosure designed with busbars for the purpose of terminating service conductors from the electric utility point of supply and terminating service conductors to individual tenant services."

Section 3. That Section 504 of the Electrical Code is hereby amended by adding a new Section 504.1.1 that reads as follows:

"504.1.1 Available Fault Current Labeling. In lieu of the maximum available fault current marking as required by 110.24, a permanently affixed label shall be applied with the available fault current at the time of installation and calculation. The label shall be 2" x 3" in size and shall be blue lettering on a contrasting background. This label shall also include the date of the calculation."

Section 4. That Section 504.4 of the Electrical Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“504.4 Multi-tenant services. In structures designed for multiple tenants, where additional services are likely, a buss conductor service cable tap box shall be required. The service cable tap box shall be weatherproof and comply with the following:

1. The service cable tap box shall be lockable with provisions to accept the utility locks.
2. Covers shall be fastened with machine screws or bolts. Hinged covers shall not be permitted.
3. Covers shall have two handles for cover removal.
4. Busbars shall be protected from physical damage and held firmly in place.
5. Busbars shall be sized to physically accommodate the maximum number of tenant services anticipated and predrilled.
6. Busbars shall be stepped.
7. The phase arrangement on 3-phase horizontal common power and vertical buses shall be A, B, C from front to back, top to bottom, or left to right, as viewed from the front of the service cable tap box. The B phase shall be that phase having the higher voltage to ground on 3-phase, 4-wire, delta-connected systems. The phases shall be permanently marked.
8. The bottom of the service cable tap box shall be a minimum of 6 inches above finished grade.
9. The service cable tap box shall be in compliance with Utility Service Standards.

Exception: Residential Occupancies”

Section 5. That Section 505 of the Electrical Code is hereby amended by amending in its entirety to read as follows:

“SECTION 505—NONMETALLIC SHEATHED CABLE

505.1 Temporary installations. Nonmetallic sheathed cable shall be permitted for temporary installations in addition to those allowed by Article 334.”

Section 6. That Section 512.1 of the Electrical Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“512.1 The following provisions of the *National Electrical Code, 2011 Edition* are not adopted.

1. Sections 210.12 (A) Exceptions 1 and 2 and Section 210.12 (B) regarding AFCI protection;
2. Section 240.91 (B), regarding protection of conductors;
3. Section 312.5 (c), regarding where cables are secured (exceptions to 312.5 are to remain)
4. Section 406.4 (D) (4) regarding receptacle replacement; and
5. Section 645.25 regarding engineering supervision.”

Section 7. That, if any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance, or the application of same to any person or set of circumstances, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, void or invalid, the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or their application to other persons or sets of circumstances shall not be affected thereby, it being the intent of the City Council in adopting this Ordinance that no portion hereof or provision or regulation contained herein shall become inoperative or fail by reason of any unconstitutionality, voidness or invalidity of any other portion hereof, and all provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable for that purpose.

Section 8. That there exists a public emergency requiring that this Ordinance be passed finally on the date of its introduction as requested in writing by the Mayor; therefore, this Ordinance shall be passed finally on such date and shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirtieth day following the day after its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 27th day of March, 2013.

Annie D. Parker
 Mayor of the City of Houston

Prepared by Legal Dept. [Signature]
 YSC:asw 3/13/13 Assistant City Attorney
 Requested by Daniel W. Krueger, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works & Engineering
 L.D. File No. 0641200086001

AYE	NO	
✓		MAYOR PARKER
••••	••••	COUNCIL MEMBERS
✓		BROWN
✓		DAVIS
✓		COHEN
✓		ADAMS
✓		MARTIN
		ABSENT-CITY BUSINESS HOANG
✓		PENNINGTON
✓		GONZALEZ
✓		RODRIGUEZ
✓		LASTER
✓		GREEN
✓		COSTELLO
		ABSENT DUE TO BEING ILL BURKS
✓		NORIEGA
✓		BRADFORD
✓		CHRISTIE
CAPTION	ADOPTED	