
BULLETIN 2009-007-EL

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**REQUIREMENTS OF RULES 26-710(f); 26-712(b); 26-712(d)
OF THE CANADIAN ELECTRICAL CODE, Part I**

The intent of this bulletin is to clarify the requirements of Rules 26-710(f); 26-712(b) and 26-712(d) of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I (CEC).

BACKGROUND

The CEC contains the following minimum safe requirements:

1. Rule 26-710(f) applies to receptacles for all residential occupancies (including dwelling units and single dwellings) that at least one receptacle shall be installed in each bathroom and washroom with a wash basin(s) and shall be located within 1 m of any one wash basin.
2. Rule 26-712(b) applies to receptacles for dwelling units (including single dwellings) that at least one duplex receptacle shall be provided in each area, such as a balcony or porch, that is not classified as a finished room or area in accordance with Item (a) of Rule 26-712.
3. Rule 26-712(d) applies to receptacles for dwelling units (including single dwellings) that in the dwelling units there shall be installed in each kitchen
 - a) a sufficient number of receptacles (5-15R split or 5-20R) along the wall at counter work surfaces (excluding sinks, built-in equipment, and isolated work surfaces less than 300 mm long at the wall line) so that no point along the wall line is more than 900 mm from a receptacle measured horizontally along the wall line.
 - b) at least one receptacle (5-15R split or 5-20R) installed at each permanently fixed island counter space with a continuous long dimension of 600 mm or greater and a short dimension of 300 mm or greater.
 - c) at least one receptacle (5-15R split or 5-20R) installed at each peninsular counter space with a continuous long dimension of 600 mm or greater and a short dimension of 300 mm or greater.

The foregoing prescriptive requirements intent to protect persons and property against electric shock and fire hazards that could arise with the cord-connected appliances used in conjunction with the receptacles installed in accordance with these rules.

REQUIREMENTS

- A. Where a bathroom / washroom contains a vanity counter with a single wash basin, a duplex receptacle installed in conformance with Rule 26-710(f) would be sufficient for the purpose of this rule as any cord-connected appliance is supplied by a manufacturer built attachment plug at the end of a cord that is typically 1.5 m - 1.8 m long. Where a vanity counter contains more than one wash basin, the receptacle installed under provision of this rule may not be sufficient if any one of the multiple wash basins is located at more than 1.8 m from the receptacle. In this case, in order to meet the safety intent of this rule without the use of extension cords, the second receptacle must be installed. The distance between the most remote wash basin located on a common vanity counter and the receptacle must be measured horizontally along the floor line of the wall spaces in front of or adjacent to the wash basin.
- B. It is intended by Rule 26-712(b) to require at least one duplex receptacle on each open or enclosed porch or balcony that is accessible from inside the dwelling unit, such porch or balcony is constructed to accommodate the occupants of the dwelling unit and such receptacle is installed to allow use of a plug and cord-connected electrical equipment on that porch or balcony by the occupants of the dwelling unit. It is not intended by this requirement to install a receptacle on a balcony, a deck or a porch with a depth of less than 1 m or with a usable area of less than 1.86 sq. m (20 sq. ft.).
- C. Whether an island is structurally attached to the kitchen floor or not, it is a part of the kitchen cabinetry, where an island is installed and located in a specific part of the kitchen, the island is considered to be a permanently fixed island for the purpose of Rule 26-712(d)(iv). The intent of this rule is to require a receptacle (15 A split or 20 A T-slot) for usable counter space of the islands. Where the counter surface of islands is separated and occupied by the permanently installed objects such as electric appliances, sinks, drying racks, etc., the usable counter space for use of cord-connected appliances could be reduced. If the remaining area of usable counter space is less than a long dimension of 600 mm and a short dimension of 300 mm, then a receptacle is not required. It is also intended by this rule that where practicable the receptacles shall be installed on a backsplash above the counter work surface. Where such installation is not practicable (no backsplashes, dividers, etc.), at least one receptacle is required to be located below a countertop or at the counter space. It is not intended by these requirements to install a receptacle below a countertop where the countertop extends more than 150 mm beyond its support base. It is important to note that receptacles shall not be mounted facing upward in the kitchen counters or counter work surfaces in conformance with Rule 26-710(c). It is also important to note that where an island is not structurally attached to the kitchen floor, in addition to the wiring method must meet the requirements of Section 12 for the receptacles installation, the wiring installation must be guarded so that adequate provision is made for protection of the wiring from mechanical or other injury in conformance CEC Rule 2-200.

- D. The requirement of Rule 26-712(d)(v) is intended to mandate at least one receptacle (15 A split or 20 A T-slot) to be installed at each peninsular counter space, provided that the space has a long dimension of 600 mm or greater and a short dimension of 300 mm or greater (excluding sinks, built-in equipment, etc.; and isolated work surfaces less than 300 mm long). Where practicable, the receptacles shall be installed on a backsplash above the counter work surface. Where such installation is not practicable (no backsplashes, dividers, etc.), at least one receptacle is required to be located below the countertop or at the counter space. It is not intended by these requirements to install a receptacle below a countertop where the countertop extends more than 150 mm beyond its support base. Receptacles shall not be mounted facing upward in the kitchen counters or counter work surfaces in conformance with Rule 26-710(c). Where a standalone counter work surface is attached to a wall in parallel, a sufficient number of receptacles must be installed in conformance with Rule 26-712(d)(iii). Where a standalone counter work surface is attached to a wall in perpendicular, at least one receptacle must be installed at each peninsular counter space in conformance with Rule 26-712(d)(v), a receptacle may be installed on the wall space adjacent to the peninsular counter work surface for the purpose of this rule.
- E. The requirements of Rule 26-712(d)(iii) requires a sufficient number of receptacles (5-15R split or 5-20R) along the wall at counter work surfaces, this rule has been originally developed that the receptacles to be located along the wall behind the kitchen counter work surfaces. It is intended by this rule that receptacles shall be located along the wall behind the counter work surfaces and along the wall at the counter work surface where the wall space does not exist.
- F. The requirements of Rule 26-712(d)(iv) and (v) is intended to require the use of duplex receptacles of CSA configuration 5-15R or 5-20R. Installation of a single 15 A or 20 A receptacle may lead to the unwarranted use of extension cords / power bars in order to accommodate portable cord-connected appliances used in a kitchen; and this may lead to a reduction of safety. Thus, for the purpose of Rule 26-712(d), installation of the single 15 A or 20 A receptacles is not permitted.

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