



Culpeper County Building Department

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January 30, 2024

To: Industry

Subject: Dwelling Unit Island and Peninsula Receptacles

Code Reference: 2018 Virginia Residential Code (VRC)
2017 National Electrical Code (NEC)

To whom it may concern:

This is in response to a request for a modification of the VRC Section E3901.4.2 or NEC 210.52(C)(2), *Island countertop spaces*, which states that at least one receptacle outlet shall be installed at each island countertop space with a long dimension of 24 inches or greater and a short dimension of 12 inches or greater, as well as VRC Section E3901.4.3 or NEC 210.52(C)(3), *Peninsular countertop space*, which states that **not** less than one receptacle outlet shall be installed at each peninsular countertop long dimension space having a long dimension of 24 inches or greater and a short dimension of 12 inches or greater.

This request is to utilize requirements contained the 2023 NEC, specifically Section 210.52(C)(2), *Island and Peninsular Countertops and Work Surfaces*, which states that receptacle outlets, if installed to serve an island or peninsular countertop or work surface, shall be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(3). If a receptacle outlet is not provided to serve an island or peninsular countertop or work surface, provisions shall be provided at the island or peninsula for future addition of a receptacle outlet to serve the island or peninsular countertop or work surface.

2023 NEC Section 210.52(C)(3), *Receptacle Outlet Location*, reads as follows:

Receptacle outlets shall be located in one or more of the following:

1. On or above, but not more than 20 inches above, a countertop or work surface
2. In a countertop using receptacle outlet assemblies listed for use in countertops
3. In a work surface using receptacle outlet assemblies listed for use in work surfaces or listed for use in countertops

The requirement for receptacles serving the countertop or work surface of an island or peninsula is made optional by this change; however, if the receptacles are not installed at the time the cabinets and countertops are initially placed, the section requires provisions for a future outlet to be provided. The provision must include a wiring method (conduit, raceway or cable) to be extended to the island or peninsula and terminated into an accessible junction box with cover.

In the same section, all receptacle outlets in the kitchen serving the countertop surface will no longer be allowed below the countertop or work surface. The receptacles, or outlet assemblies, located on the top of the countertop or work surface must be listed for the use.

After due consideration, this request is approved based on the language contained in a future addition of the NEC. This approval is applicable anywhere island and peninsular countertop and work surfaces are installed.

Please have this letter available for inspectors at the job site.

Should you have any questions or need more information on this matter, please contact Richard Grace at 540-727-3405 or at rgrace@culpepercounty.gov.

Thank you,

DocuSigned by:
Robert P. Orr 1/30/2024 | 9:17 AM EST
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Robert P. Orr, CBO
Building Official
Culpeper County