



the **Code Corner**

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Significant Changes Concerning GFCI Protection are Upcoming in the 2020 NEC®

Once the Oklahoma Legislature adopts the 2020 National Electrical Code® for statewide use, there will be significant changes to Section 210.8 (A) & (B) concerning Class A GFCI receptacle protection. For dwellings, GFCI protection requirements for receptacles in locations listed in 210.8(A) (1) through (11) now include all single-phase receptacles rated 150 volts to ground or less. Previous editions only required GFCI protection of 125-volt single-phase receptacles in these locations. The addition of dwelling unit 250-volt single-phase GFCI-protected receptacles in the 2020 Code® includes garages and accessory buildings, finished or unfinished basements, receptacles within 6' of a sink (including the kitchen sink), laundry areas, and indoor damp or wet locations. 210.8(F) also requires 125- and 250-volt single-phase outdoor outlets to be GFCI protected, which would include the outlet for the central air conditioner if the circuit is rated 50 amperes or less.

For other-than-dwellings, 2020 Code® changes to 210.8(B) would now require 125- and 250-volt receptacles rated 50 amperes or less, as well as 208-volt three-phase receptacles rated 100 amperes or less to be GFCI protected in additional locations such as food preparation areas, indoor damp or wet locations, accessory buildings,, laundry areas, unfinished basements, and receptacles within 6' of the outside edge of a bathtub or shower stall. The term "accessory building" is undefined, and requires the Code® user to determine what type of structure is considered an accessory building for commercial uses.

In addition, 422.5(A)(7) now requires all dishwashers rated 150 volts to ground or less and 60 amperes or less, single- or three-phase to be protected by a Class A GFCI, whether cord-and-plug connected or permanently wired.