



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS
BUREAU OF HOUSING INSPECTION

**TECHNICAL
BULLETIN
NO. 5**

SUBJECT: Electrical Facilities in Bathrooms and Toilet Rooms DATE: September 16, 1996

Revised: August 1, 2005

GOVERNING CODE: Regulations for Maintenance of Hotels and Multiple Dwellings

CODE REFERENCE: N.J.A.C. 5:10-13.3(c)

Question 1: What must hotel and multiple dwelling owners do to comply with N.J.A.C. 5:10-13.3(c) as it relates to lighting fixtures, wall switches and receptacle outlets located near bathroom sanitary facilities?

Answer: The exposed portions of all existing lighting fixtures, wall switches and receptacle outlets that are not properly grounded, must be made of a substance not conducive of electricity, such as plastic, secured by plastic screws.

Question 2: Do existing receptacle outlets, located over or within reach of a wash basin have to be upgraded to GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) outlets?

Answer: No, and since the Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Regulations do not require GFCI outlets, building owners should not be instructed to install GFCI receptacles in bathrooms (or in kitchen areas either) in order to abate a violation of N.J.A.C. 5:10-13.3(c). However, the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code requires that GFCI protected receptacles shall be provided where replacements are made and any new receptacles installed that are required to be so protected.

Question 3: Do existing wall switches and receptacles have to be relocated so as to be beyond the reach of a bathtub or shower enclosure?

Answer: No, wall switches and receptacles may remain within reach of a bathtub or shower enclosure, if they are one of the following three types.

1. GFCI protected devices;
2. The switch/receptacle is equipped with an approved weatherproof gasket cover, which completely covers the device; or
3. An approved weatherproof device.

Note: All such devices must be Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. labeled and listed for the use.

Question 4: When is it required to relocate existing electrical fixtures, wall switches and receptacle outlets in bathrooms?

Answer: When these devices are located within the bathtub or shower enclosure and they are not listed for use in such locations, or they are not installed in a manner conforming to the electrical subcode of the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

FAYEZ FANIK, PE
Supervisor of Enforcement, Inspections
Bureau of Housing Inspection