

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 5, 2009 (update of August 29, 2007 memo)

TO: North Carolina Approved Third Party Agencies

FROM: Alan D. Greene, P.E.
Chief Building Code Consultant

SUBJECT: Section 210-52(E), National Electrical Code, 2008 Edition

The above referenced section of NEC requires, for 1 and 2 family dwellings, at least one receptacle outlet at the front and back of the dwelling which is “accessible at grade level” and not more than 6’-6” above grade. The 2008 NEC also requires, for each unit of a multifamily dwelling located at grade level with individual exterior entrance/egress, at least one receptacle outlet accessible from grade level and not more than 6’-6” above grade.

The North Carolina interpretation of “accessible at grade level” is that a person must be able to *stand at grade level* and reach the receptacle. Please note that merely locating a receptacle on the front or rear exterior wall not more than 6’-6” above grade will not necessarily meet this criteria (i.e., the presence of a porch or deck may prevent someone from being able to stand at grade level and access the receptacle).

Please incorporate this information in current and future plan reviews.

