

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
919-647-0001**

**Protection Against Physical Damage**

**Code:** 2017 Electrical Code  
**Section:** 300.4

**Date:** June 12, 2018

**Question:**

Who determines when a cable, conductor, or raceway is subject to physical damage?

**Answer:**

The electrical inspector is the person who determines when an installation is subject to physical damage. This includes all sections within the electrical code in general that require protection where physical damage is likely to occur to the installation.

It is impossible for the Engineering Division to determine if an installation is or will be subject to physical damage. The electrical inspector is the most qualified person to make this decision while physically observing the installation and environment or while performing a plan review. Therefore, any concerns with the enforcement of subject to physical damage should be addressed with the inspections department prior to performing the installation.

The Engineering Division asks inspectors and inspections departments to aid installers in solving the dispute prior to the installation. Additionally, if an inspections department has a rule that broadly defines a typical area of installation as subject to physical damage, the Engineering Division asks that inspections department notify electrical installers at the time of permitting the work.

Example of a broad determination for subject to physical damage: Everywhere unconcealed that is outside and below 8 feet.

**Keywords:**

AHJ, Authority Having Jurisdiction

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