

DRAFT

WHEREAS The Maricopa Association of Governments Building Codes Committee (heretofore referred to as the “Committee”) approved the amendments to the 2002 edition of the National Electrical Code (heretofore referred to as the “NEC”) with the intent to promote and present a uniform set of electrical codes and amendments for jurisdictions within Maricopa County AND;

WHEREAS Sections 312.5 and 314.17 of the 2002 NEC (E3807.7 and E3806.1.1 of the 2003 International Residential Code), that addresses cables and conductors entering cabinets, cutout boxes and meter socket enclosures, requires the closure of openings through which cables enter a cabinet, cutout box or meter socket enclosures, and further requires that nonmetallic cables be permitted to only enter the top of a surface mounted enclosure if not secured to the cabinet, cutout box or meter socket enclosure and that the nonmetallic cable be protected at points of entry into a cabinet, cutout box, or meter socket enclosure from damage and abrasion, AND;

WHEREAS electricians in Maricopa County and elsewhere in the state and nation have been installing the above referenced meter socket enclosures commonly referred to as “all-in-ones” for decades in tens of thousands of homes in a manner consistent with the methods described in Exhibit “A” with no documented record of fires or life safety hazards attributable to this practice AND;

WHEREAS the Association of Governments Building Codes Committee resolved to enforce these provisions of the Code as written and adopted unless a viable and approved alternative method was presented and approved prior to December 1, 2005 **unless a viable and approved alternative method complying with NEC Section 90-4 and the International Residential Code Section R104.11 was presented** AND;

WHEREAS the Maricopa Association of Governments Building Codes Committee, the MAG/RPR Building Inspectors/Plan Review Forum, the Arizona Building Officials Code Development and Review Committee, the Southern Arizona Chapter of the International Code Council, and the Grand Canyon Chapter of the International Code Council have all worked together to develop an alternate method to validate the practice as meeting the intent of the Code AND;

WHEREAS the alternate method as described in Exhibit “A” was approved by the Development Advisory Board Technical Subcommittee of the City of Phoenix and addresses the major areas of concern as identified by the previously referenced organizations

BE IT SO RESOLVED by the Committee that the alternate method described in Exhibit “A” meets the intent of the NEC and is acceptable to the Committee for use in MAG jurisdictions and that the method of enforcement, whether by adopted ordinance or written policy, be the decision of the local jurisdiction.

Exhibit A

Reference the 2002 National Electrical Code and replace the first paragraph with the following (The remainder of Section 312.5 to remain the same)

312.5 Cabinets, Cutout Boxes, and Meter Socket Enclosures. Conductors entering enclosures within the scope of this article shall be protected from abrasion and shall comply with 312.5(A) through (C).

Exception: For one- and two-family dwellings, cables with entirely non metallic sheaths shall be permitted to enter the back of a surface-mounted enclosure through one or more nonflexible raceways not more than 75 mm (3 in.) in diameter, and not less than 75 mm (3 in.) and not more than 600 mm (24 in.) in length, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- a. Each cable is fastened within 200 mm (8 in.), measured along the sheath of the outer end of the raceway.
- b. The raceway extends directly into an enclosed wall space.
- c. A fitting is provided on each end of the raceway to protect the cable(s) from abrasion.
- d. The raceway is sealed or plugged using approved means so as to prevent access to the enclosure through the raceway.
- e. The cable sheath is continuous through the raceway and extends into the enclosure beyond the fitting not less than 50 mm (2 in.).
- f. The raceway, if greater than 305 mm (12 in.) is fastened at its outer end in accordance with the applicable article.
- g. The raceway shall be permitted to be filled to 60 percent of its total cross sectional area, and 310.15(B)(2)(a) adjustment factors need not apply to this condition.