

National Electrical Safety Code Committee, Accredited Standards Committee C2

National Electrical Safety Code®

Interpretation

Section 26. Strength Requirements

Rule 261D2a(2), Grades B and C Construction (3 September 2002) IR530

I am requesting an interpretation with regard to NESC Rule 261D2a(2). NESC Rule 261D2a(2) states that the permitted stress level of solid sawn wood crossarms shall be determined by multiplying their ultimate stress by the strength factors in Table 261-1A or Table 261-1B.

When referring to Table 261-1A, what is the applicable category for solid sawn wood crossarms? If the category “Wood and Reinforced-Concrete Structures” is used, then the strength factor for Grade C is 0.85. However, if “Support Hardware” is used then the Grade C strength factor is 1.0.

I was unable to find any definitions in the NESC for “Support Hardware” or “Structures” that would clarify the proper category for crossarms. Please advise.

Interpretation

The Interpretations Subcommittee has considered the subject Interpretation Request and has developed a consensus report as follows:

“Row 2 of Table 261-1A (2002 Edition), ‘Wood and Reinforced-Concrete Structures,’ should be used to determine strength factors for solid sawn wood crossarms.”