

National Electrical Safety Code Committee, Accredited Standards Committee C2

National Electrical Safety Code®

Interpretation

Section 234.

Clearance of Wires, Conductors, Cables, and Equipment from Buildings, Bridges, Rail Cars, Swimming Pools, and Other Installations

Rule 234C3d(2), Exception 2 Clearances of Wires, Conductors, Cables, and Rigid Live Parts from Buildings, Signs, Billboards, Chimneys, Radio and Television Antennas, Tanks, and Other Installations Except Bridges—Supply Conductors Attached to Buildings or Other Installations (2002 Edition, page 100) IR541

Rule 234C3d(2) states that service drop conductors, including drip loops, shall not be readily accessible, and they shall have a clearance of not less than 3 ft in any direction from windows, doors, porches, fire escapes, or similar locations. Exception 2 to that Rule states that those provisions do not apply to windows that are not designed to open.

In most sliding glass windows, only one side opens and the other side is fixed. In such a case, does the fixed portion of the window comply with Exception 2, and only the openable portion need to comply with Rule 234C3d(2), or does the entire window require the 3 ft clearance?

Interpretation

The Interpretations Subcommittee has considered the subject Interpretation Request for Rule 234C3d(2), Exception 2 and has developed a consensus report as follows:

“Exception 2 of Rule 234C3d(2) applies to both windows and portions of windows that are not designed to open. Note that such windows or portions thereof must be permanently fixed—so that they cannot be opened—in order to qualify for the exception. Consequently, the fixed portion of the sliding glass window in the above example qualifies for the exception.

Note that Rule 234C3d(2) still requires that service drop conductors, including drip loops, be not readily accessible and have not less than 900 mm (3 ft) clearance in any direction from doors, porches, fire escapes, or similar locations, as well as from the opening portions of windows.”

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