



Interpretation

Section 21. General requirements

Rule 215C5b Grounding of circuits, supporting structures, and equipment—Non-current-carrying parts (2007 Edition, page 72) (20 January 2009) IR551

This Rule states: “Insulators shall be so placed that, in case any guy or span-wire contacts, or is contacted by, an energized conductor or part, the voltage will not be transferred to other facilities on the structure(s).”

- a) Does this Rule require insulation between distribution primary voltage conductors and secondary voltage supply conductors?
- b) Does this Rule require insulation between distribution primary voltage conductors and the system neutral supply conductor?
- c) Does this Rule require insulation between the distribution system neutral supply conductor and communication conductors?

Discussion: Some have interpreted that this Rule requires insulation between all these levels of conductors. Others have interpreted that insulation is not required in any of these applications. This is not clear in the current Code language; an interpretation of this Rule for these applications is requested.

Interpretation

The Interpretations Subcommittee has considered the subject Interpretation Request for Rule 215C5b and has developed a consensus report as follows:

“We regret that the NESC Interpretations Subcommittee cannot achieve consensus on this Interpretation Request and that, therefore, an interpretation cannot be rendered.

Because of this Interpretation Request, during the NESC Subcommittee 4 meeting this September 2008, a working group was formed to look at this Rule to revise it. The working group has submitted its report with proposed changes. Currently the change proposal is being voted on by SC4 to be considered for the NESC Preprint.”