



Interpretation

Section 21. General requirements

Rule 215C1 **Grounding of circuits, supporting structures, and equipment –
Non-current-carrying parts -- General
(2007 Edition, page 71)**
(15 November 2011) IR564

Question: To be compliant with the NESC, does Rule 215C1 require the grounding of a steel reinforcing truss installed at the base of a wood pole?

Discussion: The steel reinforcing truss is made of ¼” galvanized steel and formed into a “C” shape. The truss is approximately 10’ long and is driven 5 feet into the ground next to the base of the pole and then banded to the wood pole with steel bands. This reinforcement truss restores the ground line bending moment of the pole to make the pole NESC compliant per Section 261.

The text of 215C1 states that “Metal or metal-reinforced supporting structures” need to be grounded. Clarification of the intent of this rule is needed as it pertains to the grounding of the steel truss described above, since a wood pole with a steel reinforcing truss installed fits the description of a “metal-reinforced supporting structure.” The majority of the utilities installing these trusses are not grounding them, but the wording of NESC 215C1 could be interpreted to require grounding of these trusses.

Interpretation

The Interpretations Subcommittee has considered the subject Interpretation Request for Rule 215C1 and has developed a consensus report as follows:

“The question is whether Rule 215C1 requires grounding of a steel reinforcing truss installed at the base of a wood pole. Also noted is that a wood pole/steel truss installation appears to fit the description of a ‘metal-reinforced supporting structure’. The answer to your question is no; the rule was not intended to include steel reinforcing trusses at the base of a pole.”

National Electrical Safety Code and NESC are both registered trademarks and service marks of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. The NESC is available from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA (<http://standards.ieee.org/>)

