

PLANS REVIEW & INSPECTIONS BULLETIN 2022-2

Issuer: Peter Ahrens – Plans Review & Inspections Director

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Purpose: To clarify City policy for AFCI requirements

Minor repairs and work to 1 and 2 family dwellings and townhouses not over 3 stories are common and need not be overly burdensome. Clarification of minimum requirements is necessary to maintain consistency and provide guidelines for installation and inspection of replacement items.

IRC 3902.17 Arc-fault circuit-interrupter protection for branch circuit extensions or modifications.

Where branch circuit wiring is modified, replaced, or extended in any of the areas specified in Section E3902.16, the branch circuit shall be protected by one of the following:

- 1. A combination-type AFCI located at the origin of the branch circuit.*
- 2. An outlet branch-circuit type AFCI located at the first receptacle outlet of the existing branch circuit. [210.12(B)]*

Exception: *AFCI protection shall not be required where the extension of the existing conductors is not more than 6 feet (1.8 m) in length and does not include any additional outlets or devices.*

Referenced requirements for protection of a circuit when the **wiring** is modified, replaced or extended. AFCI protection of an existing circuit by device or breaker is not required to be added if the only modification to the circuit is replacement of a receptacle outlet(s) without any extension or further modification of the circuit unless otherwise stated on the permit issued.