



TO: Electrical Inspection and Customers
FROM: Leon Barba, P.E., Building Official
Planning and Development Review
DATE: December 13, 2010
FILE: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2010-0006

TITLE: Commercial Wiring Methods
CODE EDITION: 2008 National Electric Code (NEC) as amended by COA
SECTION(S): 200.6 (F) Additional Requirements for Certain Mixed Use Buildings. In addition to other applicable requirements of this section, a mixed use building that has no more than four stories of total wood frame multi-family use and is a maximum of five stories in height is subject to the following requirements:
(1) An approved raceway shall be installed up to the sub-panel located inside each apartment unit.
(2) Distribution equipment shall be of the modular metering type, as approved by Austin Energy, and shall be located on each floor of the building in dedicated electrical rooms.
(4) Main disconnects shall be required on the exterior of building. All common area electrical shall be installed in approved raceway system.
(5) A new or altered commercial building shall be wired using an approved raceway system.
Exception: Non-metallic cable may remain in a commercial building if the structure is a remodel only of a wood frame structure that was converted from an existing residential building to commercial use under a change of use permit. The structure must be two stories or less in height and supplied by a 120-240-volt single-phase electrical service.
(6) Marking of wire at each termination point shall be approved for size number 8 AWG and larger.

QUESTION: Is it the intent of code section 200.6 (F) to allow Type NM, NMC NMS cable as an approved wiring method in buildings described in Chapter 3 of the 2009 International Building Code, Occupancy Groups Type A (1 thru 5), Type B, Type E, Type F (1 & 2) Type H, Type I (1 thru 4), Type M, Type R-1, Type R-2, All Assembly Groups, All Business Groups, All Educational Groups, All High Hazard Groups, All Institutional Groups, All Mercantile Groups, All Storage Groups, and All Utility and Miscellaneous Group U no matter the construction type?

No, the wiring methods described above may not be used in these occupancy types except in Type R-2 Apartments and Live Work units only, and in Utility and Miscellaneous Group U for Carports, Private Garages, Sheds and Stables when Type III, IV and V construction is employed. This wiring method may not be used in any building more than 5 stories.

Leon Barba P.E., Building Official
Planning and Development Review Department