



Issue Date:	June 20, 2011; Revised August 2013
Code/Section:	2012 PBCC Section 101.2, Exception # 5
Approved by:	Technical Review Team
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References:	2012 PBCC Sections 101.2 and 105.2 Electrical #9, 2011 PEC Section 90.2(B)(4) and Article 100

Issue:

Questions have arisen regarding whether PBCC Section 101.2, Exception # 5 exempts Communications Cell Sites and Communications Pedestals from requiring an electrical permit.

Codes:

PBCC 101.2, Exception #5 states:

"Installations of communications equipment under the exclusive control of communications utilities and located outdoors or in building spaces used exclusively for such installations. Communications wiring run inside a building is regulated by this Code."

PBCC 105.2 Electrical #9, *Electrical work exempt from permit*, states: "Class 2 and Class 3 control and signal circuits not essential for safety to human life."

PEC Section 90.2(B)(4) states:

"Installations of communications equipment under the exclusive control of communications utilities located outdoors or in building spaces used exclusively for such installations."

PEC Article 100 Definitions – Communications Equipment:

"The electronic equipment that performs the telecommunications operations for the transmission of audio, video, and data, and includes power equipment (e.g., dc converters, inverters, and batteries) and technical support equipment (e.g., computers)."

Interpretation:

PBCC Section 101.2 Exception #5 exempts communications equipment from complying with the requirements of the Code if said equipment is under the exclusive control of the communications utility. (Since the Administrative Code does not define communications equipment, we rely on the definition found in PEC Article 100.) Note: the exemption only applies to the "communications equipment." The remainder of the electrical installation must comply with the Code and requires a permit.

In the case of the typical cell site project, a Factory Built Building (FBB) is installed housing communications equipment to serve the cell tower. While the communications equipment is

exempted from requiring a permit, the FBB installation does require a permit. The FBB will also have lighting and power wiring and equipment that was previously installed at the factory. This wiring and equipment will have been inspected by the State of Arizona at the factory and therefore is not required to be inspected by the City of Phoenix Electrical Inspector. However, any wiring and equipment that is installed on site falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Phoenix. This includes any wiring and equipment that was not included in the factory installation. The electrical service equipment and/or any site located distribution equipment and feeders, up to the point of connection to the FBB, (the first electrical panel included with the FBB), and grounding are examples of wiring and equipment installed on site. Additionally, the point of connection to the FBB must be rated for the available fault current specific to the site.

In the case of communications pedestals, the answer will depend on the location of the installation.

If the pedestal is located on premises, a permit will be required for the power service and/or feeder to the pedestal. Note: the communications equipment is exempt, however, the power provided to the communications equipment is not.

If the installation is located in the public way, it is exempt from the requirements of the Code per PBCC 101.2 Exception # 2.