



The purpose of this guideline is to clarify the requirements for arc-fault protection of dwelling units.

New Construction Requirements

2012 International Residential Code (IRC) Section E3902.12 states, "All branch circuits that supply 120-volt, single-phase, 15 and 20- amp outlets installed in family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sunrooms, rec rooms, closets, hallways and similar rooms or areas shall be protected by a combination type arc-fault circuit interrupter installed to provide protection."

Remodels and Additions

2012 IRC Section E3902.13 states, "...where branch circuit wiring is modified, replaced, or extended in any of the areas specified in Section E3902.12, 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.

The following work does not require AFCI protection at branch circuits.

- Replacement or upgrade of existing electric service or subpanel
- Kitchen, bathroom, laundry room remodels
- Installation, alteration, or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems
- Carport to garage conversions
- Addition of attached garage, storage, or similar non-conditioned space
- Detached accessory structures not habitable