

*Working with Oregonians  
to ensure safe building  
construction while  
supporting a positive  
business climate.*

**No: 08-03  
Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter**

---

**Code Section:** 210.12**Code Edition:** 2008 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code**Date:** Re-issued April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**Subject:** Requirements for Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter Protection**Question:** **How are Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters to be used in a remodel situation or with dedicated receptacles and smoke detectors?****Are the electrical outlets associated with plumbing fixtures installed in a corner of a bedroom required to be protected by an AFCI device?****Answer:** **Minor additions or modifications of existing bedrooms where electrical wiring is not exposed by the removal of wall and ceiling finishes shall not require the installation of AFCI breakers. AFCI receptacles, when available, shall be used. Dedicated outlets in a bedroom are required to have AFCI protection unless dedicated to smoke detectors, nurse call, fire alarm, or medical equipment. Replacement or upgrading of the service or panelboard shall not require that existing circuit breakers for dwelling bedrooms be replaced with AFCI devices. Lighting and exhaust fans associated with a bathroom area not separated from the bedroom by walls shall be permitted to be connected to the load side of the GFCI receptacle serving the basin, (required by 210.52(D)), as long as there are no other bathrooms on the circuit per 210.11(C)(3) Exception.****Analysis:** The 2008 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code has amended the 2008 NEC language to require AFCI protection for electrical outlets in bedrooms. This applies to lighting outlets as well as receptacles. Smoke detectors, nurse call, fire alarm, and medical equipment are exempted from this requirement.

2008 NEC model code language implies that electrical apparatus protected by a GFCI device may not need additional protection by an AFCI device. This interpretation addresses the issue by assuring that all electrical outlets in a combination bedroom/bathroom are adequately protected by an appropriate, code required technology.

**Contact:** Dennis Clements, Electrical Program Chief, State of Oregon  
www.dennis.l.clements@state.or.us  
(503) 378-4459