



FESHCom
Electrical Safety Subcommittee

ESS Determination D2014-02 05-May-2014

Receptacles for Break Rooms and Non-Commercial Kitchens

There are many locations where areas have been prepared for use as break rooms, lunch rooms, or kitchens for the benefit of employees, contractors, and visitors working nearby. While some of these locations were designed during construction to serve as break rooms, lunch rooms, or kitchens, others have been allocated to or have evolved into this purpose from space designed for other uses. This has resulted in areas being used for food and beverage preparation that may not have adequate electrical capacity and safety provisions for these tasks.

For the purposes of this determination, a “kitchen” shall be defined as an area for which the primary function is presently food or beverage preparation, or where more than two electric appliances for food or beverage storage or preparation are located in close proximity. Areas for food or beverage storage which are adjacent to the preparation area shall be considered part of the kitchen. The requirement found in the National Electrical Code definition of kitchen that a sink must be present is intentionally omitted.

Kitchens as defined here shall meet or exceed the following requirements:

- Countertops, either permanently installed or created by installation or arrangement of cabinets, desks, shelving, or other furniture shall have permanently-installed receptacle outlets for small appliance loads as required in NEC Article 210.52(C). These receptacles shall have GFCI protection.
- Any receptacles that serve loads that hold or process water, including but not limited to coffeemakers, electric kettles, microwave ovens, bottled water dispensers, and refrigerators connected to water lines shall have GFCI protection.
- Receptacles intended for full-size refrigerators that are obstructed by the refrigerator do not require GFCI protection. These receptacles shall not serve any other load.
- Existing receptacle circuits may be extended to provide these required receptacles as long as the circuits are not overloaded according to the calculations specified in NEC Article 220.14.

This determination applies only to existing construction and does not add to, modify, or remove any of the requirements for new construction performed under fixed-price contracts.