



**Informal Interpretation Report  
Number 5740**



**Date** June 10, 2008

**Edition** 2004

**Section** 408.36B

**Question:**

Is it the intent of NEC Section 408.36B exception (1) that no individual main protection (main breaker) be needed for a power panel board used as service equipment. This power panel board has three main breaker disconnects and no branch circuits. Comment: The inspector stated a main breaker is needed because he feels it is possible for someone to modify this panel to accept more than six mains if they decide to do so at a later date. When asked to provide a code article or local ammendment, he stated that it was not needed and to refer to 90.4.

**Answer:**

The exception to 408.36(b) does permit multiple disconnecting means (6-handle rule) as permitted by 230.71, instead of one main breaker. The size of the panelboard is not a problem even if additional spaces are available. He needs to provide you with a code article. In addition to the requirements of the this section of the NEC, compliance with the manufacturer's listing and labeling instructions, and the installation instructions provided on the panelboard/enclosure is also required.

On 06/10/2008 at 11:51 AM

**Commentary:**

If we could "what if" all our inspections nothing would ever get passed. The instalation is code compliant untill more than six breakers are installed.

---

**Notice:**

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This

interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.