



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 5767**



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Edition 2004

Section 250.52

Question:

Is it the intent of the 2005 NEC article 250 section 250.52 paragraph 3 to allow the following as a concrete encased electrode. A stick of rusty 1/2 inch rebar fashioned in the shape of the letter L with the vertical end protruding from the concrete far enough to attach a grounding clamp; and the horizontal component the minimum length required for rebar lap and tied to the footer steel with tie wire.

Answer

No. It is not within the scope of the NEC to permit or prohibit the installation, configuration, or location of the reinforcing rods used in the structure. It is actually the intent of the NEC to place the Grounding Electrode Conductor (GEC) into the footing and make the connection to the structural steel in the footing.

Commentary:

The NEC identifies when and how reinforcing rods can be used as a grounding electrode. The issue of rebar being brought out of the footing and exposed is a matter left to the building code. The term "structural reinforcing bars" as used in section 250.52(A)(3) includes any material that conforms to Section 1903.5 of the 2004 Florida Building Code. Rebar must also comply with ACI 318.

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.