



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7957**



Date May 11, 2017

Edition 2014

Section NEC 250.24 and 250.142 along with FEBC 808, 701.2 and 702.4

Question:

Can new branch circuits be extended from an existing three wire fed panel with no separate neutral and grounds?

Answer

The extensions would be allowed per the existing building code. The extension can not tell whether the ground and neutral are tied together at the service or the panel. GFCI and Arc fault breakers will still work if the panel will accept them. If it won't then a new subpanel would need to be installed that would still have a 3 wire feed. What happens in real life if someone needs to add a receptacle is they will do it on their own or have a friend do it in a manner that may not be code compliant or safe when they find out the cost of a panel replacement with new 4 wire feeder and most often a new service.

Commentary:

None

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.