Informal Interpretation Report
Number 8501

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Edition 2017

Section NEC Article. 250.92, Services

Question:

Three questions are contained in the attached pdf along with background information. Here are the questions.
Question #1
Is a service installation using standard locknuts and plastic bushings on 2” offset nipples connecting the meter enclosure to the service disconnect not sufficient for bonding under the requirements of 250.92?
Question #2
Are the 2” offset nipples installed to connect the meter enclosure to the service disconnect required to be bonded according to the requirements of Article 250.92?
Question #3
Are the bonding requirements for the service equipment including the first disconnecting means more stringent than the requirements for bonding after the first service disconnecting mean?

Answer:

#1. No. Read 250.92 (B) the last sentence which states "Standard locknuts or bushings shall not be the only means for the bonding required by this section but shall be permitted to be installed to make a mechanical connection of the raceway(s)."
#2. If this is a service raceway, meaning it is before the means of overcurrent on the premises, yes.
#3. Yes

On 01/25/2021 at 12:17 PM

Commentary:

The electrical code considers the service conductors, those that are are ahead of the first means of overcurrent protection as unprotected conductors. As such, the only way to shut those conductors off is, typically, by tripping the overcurrent on the transformer. That is why we have 2 tables in the electrical code. The bonding of raceways and equipment to the grounded conductor at the service is governed by table 250.102 (C)(1). This sizes conductors for the minimum grounded conductor brought to the service amongst other requirements. Table 250.122 is the table for sizing the equipment grounding conductor. This is different because this conductor only has to trip the defined overcurrent protective device (OCPD). Standard locknuts may be acceptable where there is an overcurrent device ahead of the items that may become energized. See section 250.97 for systems operating

at over 250 volts.

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.