



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8844



Date December 06, 2023

Edition 2021

Section 230.82

Question:

A homeowner added a generator transfer switch next to his electric meter outside. The existing service disconnect is inside. The new transfer switch outside contains the transfer equipment and the required overcurrent device (main breaker). It is listed for use as service equipment, meets the required fault current rating and is a non-separately derived (2 pole) transfer. Is this now required to now be considered the new service disconnect, or would the transfer switch be permitted as a line side connection per NEC 230.82? The questions revolves around separating the equipment grounding conductors and grounded (neutral) conductor at the existing interior panel.

Answer

The electrical code is very specific regarding where the grounded (neutral) conductor may be used for bonding or grounding of equipment. That permission generally ends at the service disconnect. This information is found in article 250 and more specifically 250.24 which requires the connections at the service disconnecting means. The definitions of service and the related items is found in article 100, definitions. Section 250.24 (A)(5) goes further to specifically state a “grounded conductor shall not be connected to normally non-current-carrying metal parts of equipment, to equipment grounding conductor(s), or be reconnected to ground on the load side of the service disconnecting means” to provide further clarification. The fact the transfer switch contains the first disconnecting means and overcurrent, the service ends at that enclosure. Beyond that point, the grounded and grounding conductors are separated.

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.