



Informal Interpretation Report Number 9139



Date August 21, 2025

Edition 2023

Section 440.14

Question:

Do AC disconnects need to meet the access and clearance requirements of NEC 110.26(A) and 440.14, based on the 2020 NEC (NFPA 70)?

Answer

Based on the 2020 edition of NFPA 70, The National Electrical Code, the code making panel has attempted to make clear the air conditioning disconnect, along with most electrical equipment, requires proper clearance for potential testing and service.

Commentary:

Over the years, this has been a contentious issue and very open to interpretation. Available fault currents have also increased in recent years making the importance of clear and unobstructed access more necessary for safety of the workers. The wording in the code now clearly indicates proper working space is required about these disconnects for safety as well as ready access to shut the power to the electrical equipment/appliance off quickly when necessary.

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.