



## MEMORANDUM

TO: All Development Services Customers

FROM: Beth Culver, AIA, CBO, PMP  
Building Official, Assistant Director, Development Services Department

DATE: 05/20/2021

SUBJECT: National Electric Code Article 210.8(F) GFCI Protection of Outdoor Outlets

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### Summary:

On Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation held an emergency meeting in response to an imminent threat to public health and safety. It has been found that compliance with Section 210.8(F) of the 2020 National Electric Code (NEC) can interfere with the proper functioning of certain types of air conditioning and heating systems. With summer heat approaching in Texas, failed or malfunctioning air-conditioning systems can pose a danger to public health and safety.

To help alleviate this threat, the Commission voted to amend rules in the Electricians and Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors programs to delay the effective date of Section 210.8(F) of the 2020 NEC until January 1, 2023. The amendments are effective May 20, 2021 and expire in 120 days, unless renewed by the Commission. TDLR has begun working on non-emergency rulemaking to implement this change on a permanent basis.

### Code Requirement:

**210.8(F) Outdoor Outlets.** All outdoor outlets for dwellings, other than those covered in 210.8(A)(3), Exception to (3), that are supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts to ground or less, 50 amperes or less, shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.

*Exception: Ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection shall not be required on lighting outlets other than those covered in 210.8(C).*

### Outcome:

DSD will temporarily suspend enforcement of section 210.8(F) of the City of Austin Electrical Code for all active and new electrical permits until September 30, 2021. DSD will continue to monitor TDLR's rules making process during this time and determine if an extension is necessary.