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PETER J. OSTROSKY
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

To: All Licensed Electricians
Board of State Examiners of Electricians

From: Peter J. Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal

Date: February 13, 2023

Re: **Massachusetts Electrical Code (527 CMR 12.00) Rule 11 Reporting**

Effective January 26, 2023, an emergency amendment was made to the existing Massachusetts Electrical Code (527 CMR. 12.00), which is based on the 2020 *National Electrical Code*, as published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as NFPA 70.

This emergency amendment includes the following rule regarding Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protection:

Rule 11. Electrical installations that appear incompatible with GFCI protection as covered in 210.8 Exception of this Code, regardless of the code requirements in effect at the time when the permit as described in Rule 8 was issued, or when the installation was completed, shall be inspected by a qualified person. The inspection shall review all field elements of the branch circuit equipment grounding return path, and the quality of any field-accessible cord connections if applicable. **The inspection shall be documented, subject to audit by the Inspector of Wires, and inspected by him or her as deemed necessary. Installations of listed equipment that, under normal operating conditions, are found to be incompatible with GFCI protective devices as made available by the manufacturer of the circuit protection currently installed shall be excused from providing GFCI protection. If not connected to an individual branch circuit, incompatible equipment shall be directly wired or connected to a single receptacle, and the circuit shall be arranged so required GFCI protection is retained for the remaining outlets. The inspection documentation required by this rule shall constitute the notice required in Rule 8 and no additional notice shall be required for corrections applied accordingly. The location and the date of this determination shall be forwarded to the Department of Fire Services for inclusion in a central registry of such allowances.** The report shall also include the appliance manufacturer and model, together with the identity of the GFCI protective device. This rule shall expire on January 1, 2026.

Please be advised that the documentation requirements of Rule 11 must be completed using the online form at https://massgov.formstack.com/forms/gfci_unwanted_tripping_report.

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