

## Notice

### **Effective January 1, 2003 GFCI Protection will be Required for Kitchen Counter Receptacles**

The 2002 edition of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code includes an Ontario amendment to Rule 26-700, which requires Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protection for Kitchen Counter receptacles effective January 1, 2003. The new Subrule (26-700(12) states that effective January 2003:

*(12) Receptacles located in kitchens and installed within 1 m of a kitchen sink along the wall behind counter work surfaces shall be protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter of the Class A type.*

*Appendix B note: Distance of 1 m is measured from edge of kitchen sink.*

The following guidelines shall be used for consistent interpretation and application of this new subrule effective January 1, 2003.

1. This rule applies to all receptacle installations located within 1 m of a kitchen sink along the wall behind counter work surfaces where the plans or application for inspection is received on or after January 1, 2003
2. This rule applies to all kitchens.
  - 2.1. Kitchen is defined as “a place (as a room) with cooking facilities”
  - 2.2. A cooking facility is defined as a range or stove (electric or gas supply) for cooking. Hot plates, microwaves, etc are not defined as a cooking facility for application of this rule.
3. In dwelling units, Rules 26-712(d) and 26-722(b) require that kitchen counter receptacles be split receptacles connected to multi-wire 15 amp branch circuits. Rule 26-726 permits the installation of 5-20 RA (T-slot) receptacles connected to single 20 amp branch circuits as an alternative to split receptacles and circuits. In both cases adjacent receptacles shall not be connected to the same branch circuit.

Receptacles that are located on either side of a kitchen sink shall not be considered as adjacent for the application of this requirement and can be connected to the same branch circuit when applying this new rule.

If you have any questions regarding this directive, please contact your local Technical Advisor (whose name and number is listed in your bulletins).

  
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