

## CANADIAN ELECTRICAL CODE

**SUBJECT: Section 30 - Installation of Lighting Equipment**

### **Rule 30-302 Supports**

#### Luminaires on Suspended Ceilings

To confirm that adequate load-bearing characteristics are inherent in the suspended ceiling design to support the additional weight of the lighting fixtures, you should consult the designer or building architect.

Where lighting fixtures form part of an existing ornamental or suspended ceiling, they should be independently supported unless it can be established that the ceiling will suitably support the fixtures and any associated wiring material.

### **Rule 30-308 Circuit Connections**

#### Fluorescent Luminaire Disconnect and Retrofit/Renovation Installations

Retrofit and Renovation installations have consistently required clarification regarding the need for disconnects in existing fluorescent luminaires.

Any existing fluorescent luminaires, rated over 150 V to ground, which are disconnected then reconnected (at the same location or not) are considered as being installed as a new luminaire and therefore require disconnects.

Retrofit jobs whereby fluorescent luminaires, rated over 150 V to ground, having modifications made for energy conservation purposes will also require disconnects (Re-certification as per STANDATA CEC-2 is also required).

Simple ballast replacement for maintenance purposes would not be considered as requiring a disconnect by the literal interpretation of the code rule. However, owners and contractors are encouraged to provide luminaire disconnects in these situations.

### **Rule 30-314 Minimum Height of Low Luminaires**

Following are guidelines for applying Rule 30-314:

- (a) A rigidly mounted ceiling luminaire in a readily accessible location should be no less than 2.1 m above the floor if the lamp is not guarded.
- (b) A rigidly mounted ceiling luminaire should be located so that the bottom of the luminaire is no less than 2 m above the floor.
- (c) Rigidly mounted wall luminaires with outer globes or other enclosures may be located at a lesser height, since the wall provides some protection against people walking directly under or adjacent to them. In no case should the bottom of the luminaire be less than 1.8m

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014.

Issue of this STANDATA is authorized by  
the Provincial Electrical Administrator

*[Original Signed]*

Clarence C. Cormier, P.Eng.

The logo for the Alberta Government, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized script font with a blue square to the right, and the word "Government" in a sans-serif font below it.

above the floor. Where a wall mounted luminaire is installed over a cabinet or vanity it is considered to be protected by location. A luminaire over the vanity in a bathroom should be kept at least 1m from the tub or shower enclosure.

### **Rule 30-320 Lighting Equipment in Damp Locations or Near Grounded Metal**

#### Switches in Bathrooms

Rule 30-320(3) stipulates that switches shall not be located within reach of a person in a shower or bathtub.

To meet the intent of the Rule, switches located a horizontal distance of at least 1m from the inside edge of a bathtub or shower is recommended. Although the rule references only switches controlling lampholders and luminaires, it is also considered to apply to switches controlling heat lamps, exhaust fans and other equipment.

Note: A steam room is considered the equivalent of a shower or bathtub for the purposes of Rule 30-320(3).

### **Rules 30-500 to 30-510 Luminaires in Buildings of Residential Occupancy**

#### Wall Switches

Rules 30-500 to 30-510 prescribe the requirements for wall switches in residential occupancies. For the purpose of these Rules, a wall switch may include any form of wall mounted lighting controls, including wireless, provided that the following conditions are met:

- Wall switches are permanently mounted in a location as per the prescriptive requirements of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I and the Alberta Building Code.
- Electrical equipment is approved in order to satisfy the legislative requirements of the Electrical Code Regulation.