

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-03-10

June 30, 2010

The following is offered in response to your correspondence in which you seek a formal interpretation. The question would apply to Article 210.70(A)(3) of the 2005 National Electrical Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code.

### Scenario:

"I am looking for further clarification on question #2 in Code Interpretation No. I-51-00. My question is, a switch is needed at the entry to an attic, basement, or under floor storage area per article 210.70(A)(3). If the entry to these spaces had stairs to enter whether a pull down or fixed in place and only one means of entry or exit, what would be the switching requirements?"

### Question:

Would a switch be required at the entry to an attic, basement or under floor storage area per Article 210.70(A)(3) of the 2005 NEC, if the entry to these spaces had stairs to enter whether a pull down or fixed in place and only one means of entry or exit?

### Answer:

The 2005 National Electrical Code Section 210.70(A)(3) requires at least one lighting outlet containing a switch (pull chain type of light fixture) or controlled by a wall switch (toggle switch) be installed at the usual point of entry to these spaces. This specific code requirement pertains to areas that do not have permanent stairways of six steps or more.

If the attic has a permanent interior stairway, the attic would be considered a separate level and the requirements of Section 210.70(A)(2)(c) would be applicable.

Section 210.70(A)(2)(c) states in part: *"Where one or more lighting outlet(s) are interior stairways, there shall be a wall switch at each floor level, to control the lighting outlet(s) where the stairway between floor levels has six risers or more."*