

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-9-04

April 13, 2004

The following is offered in response to your March 22, 2004 letter to me in which you seek a formal interpretation of the provisions of Article 210-52 (d) of the 1999 National Electrical Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question: A two basin vanity in a single-family residence has two open front cabinets above the counter top, one on each side of the basin locations. A receptacle is installed on the side wall inside each of these open front cabinets, within 36 inches of the edge of the nearest basin. The receptacles are mounted in a structural wall with no exposed wiring or boxes. Do these receptacles meet the requirements of Article 210-52 (d)?

Answer: Yes, provided that the fronts of the cabinets remain open and that no permanent appliances are installed blocking access to the receptacles. The requirement of this article is prescriptive in that the outlets must be wall mounted and must be within 36 inches of the outside edge of each basin. The installation you describe meets these requirements. Article 210-52 (c) (5), although it pertains to kitchen counter outlets, indicates that the intent of the code is that required countertop outlets not be blocked by permanently installed appliances or dedicated appliance spaces, such as appliance "garages" with doors.