

590.3 Time Constraints.

(A) During the Period of Construction. Temporary electric power and lighting installations shall be permitted during the period of construction, remodeling, maintenance, repair, or demolition of buildings, structures, equipment, or similar activities.

(B) 90 Days. Temporary electric power and lighting installations shall be permitted for a period not to exceed 90 days for holiday decorative lighting and similar purposes.

The 90-day time limit applies only to temporary electrical installations associated with holiday displays. Other installations are not bound by this time limit, and, in fact, some construction projects extend over multiple years in which temporary power is necessary for the duration of the project.

(C) Emergencies and Tests. Temporary electric power and lighting installations shall be permitted during emergencies and for tests, experiments, and developmental work.

(D) Removal. Temporary wiring shall be removed immediately upon completion of construction or purpose for which the wiring was installed.

Because temporary wiring installations might not meet all the requirements for a permanent installation due to the modifications permitted by Article 590, all temporary wiring must not only be disconnected but must also be removed from the building, structure, or other location of installation.

See also

590.4(B) and (C) for the permission to use nonmetallic jacketed cables and flexible cords for temporary branch circuits and feeders

590.4 General.

(A) Services. Services shall be installed in conformance with Parts I through VIII of Article 230, as applicable.

(B) Feeders. Overcurrent protection shall be provided in accordance with 240.4, 240.5, 245.26, 445.12, and 445.13. Conductors shall be permitted within cable assemblies or within multiconductor cords or cables of a type identified in Table 400.4 for hard usage or extra-hard usage. For the purpose of this section, the following wiring methods shall be permitted:

- (1) Type NM, Type NMC, and Type SE cables shall be permitted to be used in any dwelling, building, or structure without any height limitation or limitation by building construction type and without concealment within walls, floors, or ceilings.
- (2) Type SE cable shall be permitted to be installed in a raceway in an underground installation.

Exception: Single insulated conductors shall be permitted where installed for the purpose(s) specified in 590.3(C) and accessible only to qualified persons.

(C) Branch Circuits. All branch circuits shall originate in an approved power outlet, switchgear, switchboard or panelboard, motor control center, or fused switch enclosure. Conductors shall be permitted within cable assemblies or within multiconductor cord or cable of a type identified in Table 400.4 for hard usage or extra-hard usage. Conductors shall be protected from overcurrent as provided in 240.4, 240.5, and 245.26. For the purposes of this section, the following wiring methods shall be permitted:

- (1) Type NM, Type NMC, and Type SE cables shall be permitted to be used in any dwelling, building, or structure without any height limitation or limitation by building construction type and without concealment within walls, floors, or ceilings.
- (2) Type SE cable shall be permitted to be installed in a raceway in an underground installation.

Types NM, NMC, and SE cable may be used in any building or structure regardless of building height and construction type.

Temporary feeders and branch circuits are permitted to be cable assemblies, multiconductor cords, or single-conductor cords. Cords must be identified for hard or extra-hard usage according to Table 400.4. Individual conductors, as described in Table 310.4(1), are not permitted as open conductors but can be part of a cable assembly or used in a raceway system. Open or individual conductor feeders are permitted only during emergencies or tests by the exception to 590.4(B).

The basic requirement is that temporary wiring be located and installed so that it will not be physically damaged. Note that hard-usage or extra-hard-usage extension cords are permitted to be laid on the floor.

Exception: Branch circuits installed for the purposes specified in 590.3(B) or 590.3(C) shall be permitted to be run as single insulated conductors. Where the wiring is installed in accordance with 590.3(B), the voltage to ground shall not exceed 150 volts, the wiring shall not be subject to physical damage, and the conductors shall be supported on insulators at intervals of not more than 3.0 m (10 ft); or, for festoon lighting, the conductors shall be so arranged that excessive strain is not transmitted to the lampholders.

(D) Receptacles.

(1) All Receptacles. All receptacles shall be of the grounding type. Unless installed in a continuous metal raceway that qualifies as an equipment grounding conductor in accordance with 250.118 or a continuous metal-covered cable that qualifies as an equipment grounding conductor in accordance with 250.118, all branch circuits shall include a separate equipment grounding conductor, and all receptacles shall be electrically connected to the equipment grounding conductor(s). Receptacles on construction sites shall not be installed on any branch circuit that supplies temporary lighting.

Conductors for lighting and receptacle loads are required to be separate so that the activation of an overcurrent device or GFCI