TABLE 310.21 *Ampacities of Bare or Covered Conductors in Free Air*

Copper Conductors				AAC Aluminum Conductors			
Bare		Covered		Bare		Covered	
AWG or kcmil	Amperes	AWG or kcmil	Amperes	AWG or kcmil	Amperes	AWG or kcmil	Amperes
8	98	8	103	8	76	8	80
6	124	6	130	6	96	6	101
4	155	4	163	4	121	4	127
2	209	2	219	2	163	2	171
1/0	282	1/0	297	1/0	220	1/0	231
2/0	329	2/0	344	2/0	255	2/0	268
3/0	382	3/0	401	3/0	297	3/0	312
4/0	444	4/0	466	4/0	346	4/0	364
250	494	250	519	266.8	403	266.8	423
300	556	300	584	336.4	468	336.4	492
500	773	500	812	397.5	522	397.5	548
750	1000	750	1050	477.0	588	477.0	617
1000	1193	1000	1253	556.5	650	556.5	682
—	—	—	—	636.0	709	636.0	744
—	—	—	—	795.0	819	795.0	860
—	—	—	—	954.0	920	—	—
—	—	—	—	1033.5	968	1033.5	1017
—	—	—	—	1272	1103	1272	1201
—	—	—	—	1590	1267	1590	1381
—	—	—	—	2000	1454	2000	1527

Note: Section 310.21 shall be referenced for conditions of use.

ARTICLE 312

Cabinets, Cutout Boxes, and Meter Socket Enclosures

Part I. General

312.1 Scope. This article covers the installation and construction specifications of cabinets, cutout boxes, and meter socket enclosures. It does not apply to equipment operating at over 1000 volts, except as specifically referenced elsewhere in the *Code*.

Cabinets and cutout boxes are designed with a swinging door(s) to enclose potential transformers, current transformers, switches, overcurrent devices, meters, or control equipment. Cabinets and cutout boxes are required to be of sufficient size to accommodate all devices and conductors without overcrowding or jamming. Additional space is often provided through auxiliary gutters (see Article 366).

See also

Article 100 for definitions of the terms *cabinet* and *cutout box*

The serving electric utility often has equipment specifications or service requirements beyond the *NEC*® for meter sockets, metering cabinets, and metering compartments within switchgear, switchboards, and panelboards. Consulting with the local electric utility on such requirements helps identify suitable equipment for an installation.

Δ **312.2 Damp or Wet Locations.** In damp or wet locations, surface-type enclosures within the scope of this article shall be placed or equipped so as to prevent moisture or water from entering and accumulating within the cabinet or cutout box, and shall be mounted so there is at least 6-mm (¼-in.) airspace between the enclosure and the wall or other supporting surface. Enclosures installed in wet locations shall be weatherproof. For enclosures in wet locations, raceways or cables entering above the level of uninsulated live parts shall use fittings listed for wet locations.

Exception: Nonmetallic enclosures shall be permitted to be installed without the airspace on a concrete, masonry, tile, or similar surface.

Informational Note: See 300.6 for protection against corrosion.

312.3 Position in Wall. In walls of concrete, tile, or other noncombustible material, cabinets shall be installed so that the front edge of the cabinet is not set back of the finished surface more than 6 mm (¼ in.). In walls constructed of wood or other combustible material, cabinets shall be flush with the finished surface or project therefrom.

312.4 Repairing Noncombustible Surfaces. Noncombustible surfaces that are broken or incomplete shall