

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-07-09

May 21, 2009

The following is being offered in response to your email request dated March 2, 2009 in which you seek a formal interpretation. The question would apply to Article 250.50, of the 2005 National Electrical Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code.

Scenario

A structure's foundation has been poured and a steel rebar has not been left available for the electrician to use.

Question:

Does Article 250.50 mandate that concrete-encased electrodes (rebar in footings or foundations) be part of the grounding electrode system when present even if it is covered by concrete when the electrician arrives on site?

Answer:

No, the 2005 State Building Code Supplement amended Article 250.50 and inserted the words "if available" as used in the 2002 edition of the National Electrical Code. If the concrete foundation rebar is covered when the electrician arrived on site, the rebar is considered no longer available for connection. Where none of these grounding electrodes are available, one or more of the grounding electrodes specified in Article 250.52(A)(4) through (A)(7) shall be installed and used.