



BUILDINGS BULLETIN 2020-001

Technical

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Purpose: This bulletin clarifies that the installation of firestops does not require a New York City licensed electrician.

Related Code/Zoning Section(s): AC 27-3004 BC 713
EC 300.21

Subject(s): Penetration firestop, electrical work, licensed electrician, through-penetration firestop, membrane penetration firestop

I. Background

Section 300.21 of the 2011 New York City Electrical Code requires the installation of firestopping in openings around electrical penetrations into or through fire-resistant-rated walls, partitions, floors, or ceilings, using approved methods, in order to maintain the fire resistance rating. Section 702.1 of the New York City Building Code defines firestopping as “a through-penetration firestop or a membrane penetration firestop.” This bulletin clarifies that persons other than New York City licensed electricians may install firestops.

II. Clarification

Section 27-3004 of the New York City Administrative Code defines electrical work as “[t]he installation, alteration, maintenance, or repair of electric wires and wiring apparatus and other appliances used or to be used for the transmission of electricity for electric light, heat, power, signaling, communication, alarm or data transmission.”

Therefore, the installation of required firestops around electrical penetrations, which Section 300.21 of the 2011 NYC Electrical Code required in order to limit the spread of fire or products of combustion, does not constitute “electrical work.” Non-electrical work does not require a New York City licensed electrician. This is consistent with the manner in which other licensed trades install required firestops in relation to their work. If firestopping work is required to occur in locations where access is restricted to authorized persons or qualified persons, as defined in the New York City Electrical Code, such firestopping work must be performed by such authorized or qualified persons. Through-penetrations and membrane penetrations of rated assemblies shall be protected in accordance with Section 713 of the New York City Building Code.