2020 NEC: SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FOR RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

1. **210.8 (A)** - requires GFCI protection to include the 240 volt receptacles for ranges that are within 6’ from the edge of sinks and for 240 volt receptacles located in laundry rooms for the dryers.

2. **210.8(A)(5)** - requires all receptacles in a basement (either finished or unfinished) to be GFCI protected. This would be for new houses or basement finishes.

3. **210.8(A)(11)** - requires GFCI protection for all indoor wet or damp locations - this is not just for areas with a sink but could be for mud rooms without sink or with outlets outside of the 6’ dimension or even a room where dogs may get washed down. *The significant change book says the AHJ needs to write up a policy on what a damp or wet location actually are.*

4. **210.8(B)(2)** - requires GFCI protection for all areas defined as “kitchen” and areas with a sink and permanent provisions for either food preparation or cooking.

5. **210.8(E)** - GFCI protection is required for all outlets required by Section 210.63 (indoors and outdoors) receptacles required for the expressed purpose of providing maintenance workers with the necessary access to power for the use of portable tools on the described equipment.

6. **210.8(F)** requires GFCI protection for all exterior receptacles for 125 volt through 250 volt - this will now include the AC condensers or heat pumps - and will include these units when hard wired.

7. **210.11(C)(3)** - change to branch circuit requirements for baths.

8. **210.11(C)(4)** - this allows garage receptacles to be installed (other than the minimum ones required for each bay in garage) on a different 15 amp circuit. The receptacles required for each garage bay shall be on separate 20 amp circuit.

9. **210.52(C)** - changed to clarify that outlets installed on counter tops or work surfaces cannot be used to meet the wall spacing requirement.

10. **210.52(C)(1), (C)(2), (C)(3)** - has changed to use the square footage of islands and peninsulas for how many outlets are required.

11. **230.67** - all new dwellings will require a surge protector device

12. **230.85** - now requires that there needs to be an emergency disconnect at a readily accessible outdoor location for dwelling units.

13. **314.27(C)** was changed concerning ceiling boxes for paddle fans -334.30 now says the maximum length of Romex from opening in box to the first staple cannot exceed 18” - there still is the 18” maximum length to the staple.

14. **406.5** - will not allow receptacles to be face up in cabinet under sinks

15. **406.9(C)** - was changed and expanded area where outlets are allowed by bathtubs or showers.

16. **406.12** - was changed to now require tamper resistant outlets in attached and detached garages and accessory buildings along with common areas of multifamily dwelling units.

17. **408.43** - will not allow panelboards to be installed face up

18. **410.2 and 410.16** - added the word clothes to section to clarify that these requirements only apply to a clothes closet.

19. **547.5(G)** - expanded GFCI protection for agriculture buildings.

This list does not include all of the changes in the 2020 NEC.