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## TITLE: PROPER SUPPORT OF FIXTURES IN CEILING ASSEMBLIES

DATE: 09/16/2015

POLICY: The 2011/2014 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEC) ARTICLE 410.36 and ARTICLE 300.11

ARTICLE 410.36 (B) Suspended Ceilings. Framing members of suspended ceiling systems used to support luminaires shall be securely fastened to each other and shall be securely attached to the building structure at appropriate intervals. Luminaries shall be securely fastened to the ceiling framing member by mechanical means such as bolts, screws, or rivets. Listed clips identified for use with the type of ceiling framing member(s) and luminaire(s) shall also be permitted. (Note: one or the other).

ARTICLE 300.11 (A) Securing and Supporting. Raceways, cables assemblies, boxes, cabinets, and fittings, shall be securely fastened in place. Support wires that do not provide secure support shall not be permitted as the sole support. Support wires and associated fittings that provide secure support and that are installed in addition to the ceiling grid support wires shall be permitted as the sole support. Where independent support wires are used, they shall be secured at both ends. Cables and raceways shall not be supported by the ceiling grids.

ARTICLE 300.11 (1) Fire Rated Assemblies. Wiring located within the cavity of a fire-rated floor-ceiling or roof-ceiling assembly shall not be secured to or supported by the ceiling assembly, including the ceiling support wires. An independent means of secure support shall be permitted to be attached to the assembly. Where independent support wires are used, they shall be distinguishable by color, tagging, or other effective means from those that are part of the fire-rated design. EXCEPTION: The ceiling support system shall be permitted to support wiring and equipment that have been tested as part of the fire-rated assembly.

ARTICLE 300.11 (2) Non-Fire-Rated Assemblies. Wiring located within the cavity of a non-fire-rated floor-ceiling or roof-ceiling assembly shall not be secured to or supported by, the ceiling assembly, including the ceiling support wires. An independent means of secure support shall be provided and shall be permitted to be attached to the assembly. (NEW TO THE 2011 NEC CODE) Where independent support wires are used, they shall be distinguished by color, tagging, or other effective means. EXCEPTION: The ceiling support system shall be permitted to support branch-circuit wiring and associated equipment where installed in accordance with the ceiling system manufacturer's instructions.

NOTE 1: Fixture Support in a Ceiling Assembly will be inspected per the County Approved Engineering Design Professional Drawing(s) or notes on site (If specifies fixture support) and if not See NOTE 2.

NOTE 2: Fixture support and slack wire(s) needed in addition to NEC Article 410.36 (B). Fixtures Less than 10 lbs. in weight require (1) #12 slack support wires or approved cables. Fixtures more than 10-55 lbs. in weight require (2) #12 opposite corner slack support wires or approved cables. Fixtures over 56 lbs. will be independently supported on ALL FOUR CORNERS with #12 support wires or approved cables. Lightweight fixtures or speciality fixtures such as: Low Profile/Low Voltage LED, Fiberoptic and etc. may be inspected with onsite Approved Manufacture Specifications.

NOTE 3: USG Testing Report approved by ICC-ES Evaluation Report ESR-1222