



**STATE OF ARKANSAS
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**10421 WEST MARKHAM • LITTLE ROCK, AR 72205-2190
Phone: 501-682-4549 Fax: 501-682-1765 TRS: 800-285-1131**

July 8, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

We are seeking your assistance on a critical issue concerning required grounding electrodes for new construction sites utilizing poured concrete footers. This could also apply to remodel jobs where an electrical upgrade is part of the project. As you may or may not be aware, on June 1, 2008, the Board of Electrical Examiners adopted the 2008 National Electrical Code as the statewide standard for electrical installations. Unless exempted, this code governs all electrical construction installations in the state.

A significant violation we are finding consistently pertains to NEC Article 250.52(A)(3), "Concrete-Encased Electrodes." This requirement involves utilization of the rebar in the footing as a grounding electrode. (Having 2 ground rods no longer meets the intent of this Article). This is where your assistance is requested, many times a builder will not contact an electrician until the concrete footers are poured and the structure is already framed up. Because of the code requirement, the electrician has no option but to break into the footing to make the attachment and then pour concrete back. It is our opinion this weakens the footer unnecessarily, thus we are seeking a different approach.

We are asking the builders do one of two things: First, properly install a concrete-encased electrode for the electrician; this can be accomplished by turning up a piece of rebar, tied to the footer rebar, into a wall cavity where the connection can be accessible for inspection. Second, the contractor can contact his/her electrician to install a connection before the concrete footing is poured.

Additionally we wish to call your attention to Rule 010.13-013 (B)(2) of the Board of Electrical Examiners which requires a sign at all job sites that do not have a permit issued by a city or county building code enforcement authority. This sign must show the license number of the master electrician, the company name and the telephone number where the master can be reached. The sign must be a minimum of 12 inches by 12 inches with lettering height 1.5 inches minimum in contrasting colors to the sign color. Please help us by insisting that your electrical subcontractor is aware of this requirement.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact our office at the telephone number listed above

Sincerely,

Charles Covington
Chief Electrical Inspector
Arkansas Department of Labor