




CITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Code Memorandum

To: Department of Buildings Plan Examiners and Inspectors

From: Judith Frydland
Commissioner 

Date: February 7, 2017

Re: **Electrical Work – Existing Building Rehabilitation**

The following allowances will be permitted for electrical installations in connection with rehabilitation work in existing buildings of any occupancy, except class B, D, C-1, G, H, I or J:

Service Disconnecting Means May Be Located Outside the Unit Served

In an existing building with more than one dwelling unit or commercial unit and in connection with the replacement of an electrical service up to 800 amps, individual service disconnecting means for each unit may be located in a central location, provided that: (a) the tenant or occupant of each unit has access to the service disconnecting means for the unit; (b) if a key is required to access the location or equipment, every tenant is provided with at least one such key; and (c) each service disconnecting means is clearly marked with a permanent label identifying the unit or space served. The clearances required for such equipment shall be in accordance with Section 18-27-110.22.

Listed Flexible Metal Conduit (FMC), Armored Cable (AC), and Metal-Clad Cable (MC) May Be Permitted For Use In Some Existing Walls, Partitions, and Ceilings

Walls and Partitions. In existing walls or partitions in existing buildings, where other work does not require or include removal of the existing finished surface (e.g., plaster, drywall, furring, paneling), listed Flexible Metallic Conduit (FMC), Armored Cable (AC), and Metal-Clad Cable (MC) may be used in lieu of new metal conduit under the following conditions:

- 1) The maximum length of listed FMC, AC, or MC between junction boxes is 25 feet.
- 2) Use is limited to installation of outlets on branch circuits that carry no more than 150 volts to ground.
- 3) For the addition of outlets to existing branch circuits, the maximum number of outlets is limited to 1440 volt-amps per 20 amp branch circuit.

Hard Surface Ceilings. In existing hard surface (e.g. plaster, drywall) ceilings in existing buildings, where other work does not require or include removal of the existing finished surface, listed FMC, AC, or MC may be used in lieu of new metal conduit under the following conditions:

- 1) The maximum length of listed FMC, AC, or MC between junction boxes is 25 feet, and all junction boxes must be accessible.
- 2) Use is limited to installation of outlets on branch circuits that carry no more than 150 volts to ground.
- 3) For the addition of outlets to existing branch circuits, the maximum number of outlets is limited to 1440 volt-amps per 20 amp branch circuit.

This memorandum does not authorize use of FMC, AC or MC in suspended acoustical tile ceilings. The provisions of this memorandum are in addition to any exceptions provided under Section 13-200-480 and Chapter 18-27, Article 570.