

# QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR ELECTRICAL COUNTER PLAN CHECK AND REGULAR PLAN CHECK

## I QUALIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS

This information bulletin describes the criteria by which electrical plan submittals are qualified for counter plan check or regular plan check. Plans must be complete, clear, and must include all pertinent information showing compliance with the Los Angeles Electrical Code.

On the initial submittal, plans must contain the designer information. The designer may be an engineer (other than a mechanical engineer), contractor, or an architect. All plans should be signed and stamped by a California registered engineer (other than a mechanical engineer) or architect bearing the registration number, expiration date, and date of signature. Plans for installations, other than a health care facility, that are designed-and-built by a California licensed contractor must bear the contractor's signature.

If you need additional information or clarification regarding project qualification for Counter or Regular Plan Check, please contact the electrical plan check supervisor at the following offices:

Metro Office  
201 N Figueroa St.  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Van Nuys Office  
6262 Van Nuys Blvd.  
Room 251

For telephone inquiries within the City of Los Angeles call 311; telephone inquiries originating outside of Los Angeles City, please call (213) 473-3231.

## DEFINITION

For the purpose of this Information Bulletin the word "installation(s)" or "installed" means a new or an existing relocated equipment and wiring.

## II GENERAL PLAN CHECK REQUIREMENT

Pursuant to Section 93.0206 of the Los Angeles Electrical Code, electrical installations that require plan check are categorized as follows:

1. In General:
  - a. A new building or an addition to an existing building (including any first time tenants in either case), where the computed area in either case exceeds 30,000 square feet (2787 m<sup>2</sup>). The computed area shall be the sum of the areas on each floor bounded by the outside surfaces of the exterior walls and shall include floor areas beneath building projections which extend more than 6 feet (1829mm).
  - b. Any installation where the total installed load exceeds 400 Amps.
  - c. Installation of an equipment rated 600 amperes or more.
  - d. High voltage installations (over 600 volts).

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2. Special Occupancies:
    - a. Theaters or motion picture theaters.
    - b. Places of assembly per Article 518 of the California Electrical Code (C.E.C.).
    - c. All health care facilities within the scope of Article 517 of the C.E.C.
    - d. Installations in an environment which is classified as a hazardous location due to presence of combustible or flammable materials as described in Chapter 5 of the C.E.C.
  3. Special Equipment:
    - a. Luminaires (lighting fixtures) weighing over 300 pounds.
    - b. Complicated electrical system or installations as determined by the Department such as:
      - i. Container Cranes.
      - ii. Electric Vehicle Charging Systems (excluding a single charging station).
      - iii. Electrified Truck Parking Spaces.
      - iv. Industrial/Manufacturing Process Systems.
      - v. Integrated Electrical Systems.
      - vi. Solar photovoltaic systems (excluding single family or duplex dwellings as described in Section V, item 15 of Information Bulletin P/GI 2014-003 "Express Permits").
      - vii. Fuel Cell Systems.
      - viii. Wind Electric Systems.
      - ix. Electric Fire Pump installations.
  4. Special Conditions:
    - a. Installation of exit signs, egress, or security lighting.
    - b. Installation of Emergency Power Systems or Legally Required Standby Power Systems.
    - c. Installation of Fire Alarm Systems.  
Exceptions:
      - i. Addition of strobe power supplies fed from a separate branch circuit and their associated devices connected to any existing fire control unit or panel.
      - ii. Installation of special extinguishing systems, central station monitoring system, dialers, and their associated devices.
      - iii. Addition of any fire warning device connected to an existing programmable fire warning system.
    - d. Gas Detection Systems.
    - e. Complicated electrical system or installations as determined by the Department such as:
      - i. DC systems.
      - ii. 400 Cycle Systems.
      - iii. Interconnected Electric Power Production Systems,
      - iv. Installations with available fault current of 22,000 amperes symmetrical or more.
      - v. General lighting and other building code required electrical installations, etc.
  5. Installation of electrical devices, equipment and lighting systems (such as means of egress illumination, security and interior general lighting, parking lot lighting, garage lighting, and exterior lighting) including signs, subject to the California Energy Code, Title 24, Part 6.

### III QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR COUNTER PLAN CHECK

A counter plan check offers applicants the convenience and expedience of the same day plan check review and permit issuance without an appointment. Most construction projects as well as small tenant improvements or alterations may be checked over-the-counter.

The following is a list of various types of projects which may qualify as a Counter Plan Check. If further clarification is needed regarding this project description list, please contact the electrical plan check supervisor.

- General wiring 600 volts or less solidly grounded system within a commercial, educational, mercantile, storage (non hazardous) and residential occupancy (including single family dwellings) with no more than 49 occupants.
- General wiring less than 600 volts with new load of not more than 200 amperes.
- Required fire alarm system with not more than 150 devices.
- Emergency, legally required standby, security, means of egress lighting and exit sign systems with not more than 200 occupants.
- Title 24, Part 6, State energy compliance other than tailored method for all occupancies (as defined by the standard) for a building, space or area less than 30,000 square feet.
- Title 24, Part 6, State energy compliance tailored method for all occupancies (as defined by the standard) for a building, space or area less than 10,000 square feet.
- Title 24, Part 6, State energy compliance for all interior or exterior lighted signs.
- Interior general lighting installations as required by Section 1205 of Building Code for a building, space or area less than 30,000 square feet.
- Solar photovoltaic standard plans for single family and duplex dwellings with maximum 10 KW single phase systems utilizing Department of Building and Safety Standard Plan.
- Solar photovoltaic system smaller than or equal to 5 KW, except for single family and duplex dwellings as described above.

In addition, installations in the following occupancies may also qualify as a Counter Plan Check:

#### Institutional (I):

- All 600 volts or less solidly grounded system wiring work within health care centers, clinics, nurseries, nursing homes, sanitariums or outpatient hospitals and similar places having an occupant load of no more than 6.

#### Industrial or Factory (F):

- All 600 volts or less solidly grounded system wiring work with no more than 200 amperes of new load or 600 amperes disconnect with a total motor load not exceeding 80 horsepower within factories or industrial facilities such as motion pictures and television filming and videotaping, furniture, dry cleaning and dyeing, clothing, laundries, food processing, musical instruments, optical goods, plastic products, printing and publishing or any other similar locations which are not considered as a classified hazardous area by the Los Angeles Electrical Code or Fire Department.

#### Hazardous (H):

- All 600 volts or less solidly grounded system wiring work within commercial garages, motor fuel dispensing stations, repair and storage buildings.

Assembly (A):

- General wiring 600 volts or less solidly grounded system within any place of assembly as defined in Article 518 of the NEC, having an occupant load not more than 100.

**IV QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR REGULAR PLAN CHECK**

Regular plan check jobs require detailed review and are usually done in the backroom office. These jobs typically take more than 1 hour to review, are usually complex in nature, and usually needs code and engineering research. They usually contain numerous equipment and installation specifications, calculations, details, and they require engineering research and analysis to verify code compliance. It is recommended that applicant call the plan check supervisor for preliminary review, workload information and plan check assignment for complicated projects.

The following is a list of various types of projects which may qualify as a Regular Plan Check. If further clarification is needed regarding this project description list, please contact the electrical plan check supervisor.

- General wiring within a commercial, educational, mercantile, storage (non hazardous) and residential occupancy (including single family dwellings) with more than 80 branch circuits.
- General wiring less than 600 volts with a new load of more than 200 amperes or a new service over 400 amperes.
- Required fire alarm system with more than 150 devices.
- Emergency, legally required standby, security, means of egress lighting and exit sign systems with more than 200 occupants.
- Title 24, Part 6, State energy compliance for all occupancies (as defined by the standard) for a building, space or area of 30,000 square feet or more.
- Title 24, Part 6, State energy compliance tailored method for all occupancies (as defined by the standard) for a building, space or area of 10,000 square feet or more.
- Interior general lighting installations as required by Section 1205 of Building Code for a building space or area of 30,000 square feet or more.
- Over 600 volts wiring.
- Container Cranes.
- Solar photovoltaic system larger than 5 KW.

In addition, installations in the following occupancies may also qualify as Regular Plan Check:

Institutional (I):

- All 600 volts or less wiring work within health care centers, clinics, nurseries, nursing homes, sanitariums or outpatient hospitals and similar places having an occupant load of more than 6.

Industrial or Factory (F):

- All wiring system with new load of 400 amperes or 600 amperes disconnecting means with total motor load exceeding 80 horsepower.
- General wiring with a service rated more than 600 amperes.

Hazardous (H):

- All wiring work except as permitted for counter plan check (regardless of voltage or current).

Assembly (A):

- General wiring within any assembly occupancy with occupant load of over 100 as defined in Article 518 of NEC.

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