DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Electrical Requirements for Moved Buildings or Structures

Except for energy code compliance, buildings or structures that are moved into or within a jurisdiction are treated as new buildings per Minnesota Rules Chapter 1300.0220, Subp. 4.

The existing wiring in a moved building is not automatically required to be removed and replaced with new wiring. If the existing wiring is in good condition and there is no evidence of damage, disrepair or overloaded circuitry, the existing wiring may be acceptable.

A moved building must comply with the current National Electrical Code (NEC) to the extent practicable with respect to the following, including but not limited to:

- Minimum 100-ampere service
- Electrical service grounding and bonding
- Electrical service grounding electrode system
- Ground-fault circuit-interrupter [GFCI] protection where required
- Arc-fault circuit-interrupter (AFCI) protection where required
- Minimum quantity and amperage of branch circuits
- Minimum quantity of receptacle outlets and lighting outlets indoors and outdoors
- Existing receptacle outlets that are not supplied with an equipment grounding conductor (2-prong receptacle outlets) shall be replaced with grounding type receptacle outlets that are grounded via an equipment grounding conductor or
- Existing receptacle outlets that are not supplied with an equipment grounding conductor shall be replaced with GFCI receptacle outlets where permitted by the NEC
- GFCI receptacles cannot be used as replacements for 2-prong receptacle outlets where equipment is specifically required to be grounded by the NEC
- Tamper-resistant receptacles (TR)
- Weather-resistant receptacles (WR)
- Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors

This is not an inclusive list; other requirements apply depending on conditions in the field

A significant concern with older wiring is the temperature rating of the insulation on the conductors; older branch circuit wiring most likely has a lower temperature rating of 75°C or 60°C (°C = degrees centigrade).

New luminaires (light fixtures) are generally required to be connected to 90C branch circuit supply wiring. The supply conductor insulation temperature rating requirements for new luminaires is often marked on the carton, in the installation instructions, and on the luminaire itself. The wiring at the lighting outlet needs to be replaced with 90°C supply wiring if required by the fixture manufacturer.

The department strongly recommends that all parties involved in a moved building project meet with the electrical inspector and building inspector if applicable at the beginning of the project so that everyone has a clear understanding of what is required or allowed.

It's unlikely that a moved building can meet every code requirement. Installations that can be readily accomplished in a new building - such as the exact spacing or location of receptacle outlets - may not be practicable in an older building. Some issues may require the electrical inspector to make a judgement call in the field.

Unless special permission has otherwise been granted by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), all critical fire and life safety issues related to the electrical system must be in compliance