

Routt County Regional Building Department

136 SIXTH STREET * PO BOX 773840 * STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO 80477 * (970) 870-5566 * FAX (970) 879-3992

NO. 1

MAY 1998

INFORMATION BULLETIN

FOR: *ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS*

RE: *WIRING WITHIN GARAGES*

Effective immediately, we have interpreted the definition of garage from Article 100 of the 1996 N.E.C. to include private garages. Therefore, electrical equipment and wiring within 18 inches of the floor shall be installed utilizing wiring methods for Class 1, Division 2, hazardous locations. This would include any storage area on the same level, or below, that directly communicates with the garage. Directly communicating means there is no occupancy separation, such as that which is installed between a house and a garage.

This interpretation affirms that all wiring and equipment within the hazardous location must comply with Article 501 of the N.E.C., and that all wiring and equipment above the location must comply with Chapters 1 through 4 of the N.E.C.

We would also like to re-alert you to the U.B.C. requirement for a fire resistive membrane (drywall), on the garage side only, between an R-3 dwelling and an attached U garage. This membrane can only have penetrations of electrical boxes that are 16 square inches, or less, in area, unless alternative fire-resistive protection is provided for the penetration. Standard recessed cans will not be allowed without alternative protection. We will still allow a circuit breaker panel to be installed in the wall between a house and a garage.

Cruger Van Schaack
Electrical Inspector

Mark W. Marchus, C.B.O.
Building Official