



ADVISORY NOTICE TO INDUSTRY

2020 NEC Section 210.8(F) – GFCI Protection for Outdoor HVAC Equipment

Effective September 1, 2026

The City of Cape Coral Building Division is providing this Advisory Notice to Industry regarding an upcoming change affecting the application of NFPA 70, National Electrical Code (NEC), 2020 Edition, Section 210.8(F).

NEC Section 210.8(F) requires ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) protection for certain outdoor outlets associated with dwellings. The requirement applies to outdoor outlets, other than those specifically excepted by Section 210.8, supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts to ground or less and 50 amperes or less.

NEC Section 210.8(F), Exception No. 2, currently provides an exception from GFCI protection for listed HVAC equipment. However, the NEC specifically provides that this exception expires September 1, 2026.

Effective September 1, 2026, outdoor HVAC equipment subject to NEC Section 210.8(F) will therefore be required to be provided with GFCI protection for personnel, unless otherwise exempted by an applicable provision of the Florida Building Code or NEC.

This requirement may include outdoor HVAC equipment such as:

- Air-conditioning condensing units;
- Heat pumps;
- Mini-split and ductless system outdoor units; and
- Other listed HVAC equipment supplied by qualifying outdoor outlets within the scope of NEC Section 210.8(F).

The requirement applies where the outdoor outlet is supplied by a single-phase branch circuit rated 150 volts to ground or less and 50 amperes or less.

Florida Building Code – Residential

The 2023 Florida Building Code – Residential, Section E3408.1, contains a Florida-specific amendment to NEC Section 210.8(F) that provides an exception for listed and labeled HVAC equipment. Accordingly, installations governed by the Florida Building Code – Residential shall continue to be evaluated in accordance with the applicable Florida-specific provisions.



For installations not governed by the Florida Building Code – Residential, the expiration of NEC Section 210.8(F), Exception No. 2, shall be recognized beginning September 1, 2026.

Industry Advisory

Contractors, design professionals, electrical contractors, HVAC contractors, and permit applicants are encouraged to account for this requirement when designing, permitting, replacing, or installing applicable outdoor HVAC equipment on or after September 1, 2026.

Plans and permit documents should identify the required GFCI protection where applicable, and field installations shall be verified for compliance during inspection.

Regards,

Shane Kittendorf
Building Official