



Department of Development Services Administration Division

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Ronald L. Lynn, Director/Building Official • Dean Friedli, Assistant Director



October 1, 2009

LETTER TO INDUSTRY

**Re: (1) Electrical Work Exempt from Permit
(2) Light Fixture Maintenance/Repair
(3) Light Fixture Change-outs
(4) Light Fixture Alterations**

(1) The electrical work described in 22.02.200 (A) through (S) of the 2008 Clark County Building Administrative Code does not require a permit (see the link below).

(2) A like-for-like or like-for-equivalent (magnetic for equivalent electronic) change out of a faulty ballast would be considered a repair/ maintenance function under item (C) and therefore not require a permit.

(3) Light fixture change-outs in locations other than those mentioned in (Q) require a permit.

(4) Inspectors are trained to confirm that an installation complies with its listing. In addition to requiring a permit, field modification of the electrical configuration of a light fixture invalidates its listing until proven otherwise.

a) The modification of an existing light fixture to accommodate a light element configured differently than the original or that operates on a different principle from the original is a process that not only requires a permit but also careful investigation into the limits of the original listing.

b) A warning label on each altered fixture is required.

c) Modifications can invalidate the fixture listing and render the light fixture a potential shock and/or fire hazard.

Example #1: Changing out a T8 or T10 bulb in a standard 2 x 4 fluorescent light fixture for a T5 bulb with integral ballast requires a field modification of the 2 x 4 fixture to bypass, remove or disable the T8/T10 ballast. Bypassing the ballast and bringing line power to the tube socket pins is a field modification to the listed fixture. The warning label is to alert future maintenance personnel that the altered fixture is configured to accept integral ballast bulbs only and that the tube pins are energized with line voltage (120 or 277 volts).

Example #2: Replacing a metal halide bulb with a fluorescent bulb with integral ballast also requires the disabling of the ballast and bringing line voltage to the socket. In this case, it is likely that the socket is listed for HID (high intensity discharge) type light elements only which a fluorescent light is not. The metal halide fixture assembly would therefore not be listed for this type of lighting exchange.

In both cases, **a permit is required** and **the listing data must be evaluated** to determine whether the alteration is still within conformance of the product listing. It is common for utility companies to offer rebates to promote the exchange of older inefficient lighting with newer generation high efficiency light elements but validating installation compliance to the National Electrical Code (NEC) and local ordinances remains with Clark County Development Services.

2008 Admin Code http://dsnet.co.clark.nv.us/dsweb/building_services/codes/08AdminCode.pdf

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ron Bohne at (702) 455-8996 or Dennis Hunt at (702) 455-8079.

Sincerely,



RONALD L. LYNN
Director/Building Official

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