As authorized by Section 6-9-40 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976 as amended, the South Carolina Building Codes Council has approved the following modification to the 2005 edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC). The approved modification under Section 6-9-40 is mandatory for all local jurisdictions and must be incorporated into the National Electrical Code.

Modification Number: NEC 2005 01.

Article: 210.12(B) Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection.

Modification: An additional exception was added to omit arc-fault protection in bedrooms for circuits serving smoke detectors only.

The modified section will now read: (c) A circuit serving no outlets within the bedroom except the smoke detector shall not be protected by an arc-fault protector.

Reason: A smoke detector is a static load most unlikely to create a fault that would lead to arcing, except in reacting to smoke or fire. The current state of the art of arc fault detectors has not proven to be reliable. It is not prudent to entrust the operation of something as crucial to life safety as smoke detectors to circuits with arc fault protection.

Proponent: City of Rock Hill Electric Advisory Board

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.