

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-16-12

June 28, 2012

The following is in response to your request for formal interpretation dated June 25, 2012.

Scenario:

“An electrician installs a new first point of disconnect (in this case an automatic transfer switch or a manual transfer switch) ahead of what was the first point of disconnect (200 amp main service panel). After the new first point of disconnect, the electrician treats the old main service panel as a sub panel and converts this to a four wire separating the grounds and neutrals. The existing service had a grounding conductor going to one ground rod and no bond on the cold water pipe or an undersized bond on the cold water pipe.”

Question:

“Based on the information above, is the electrician responsible to bring grounding and bonding of the service up to today’s code? In other words, would the electrician be responsible to add an additional ground rod at a minimum of 6 feet apart using a minimum of a #6 copper grounding conductor and bond the cold water pipe with a #4 copper or could the electrician leave the existing single ground rod and the cold water pipe with no bond or undersized bond?”

Answer:

Based on the fact that a new transfer switch has been installed ahead of the existing service disconnect, the grounding and bonding would have to comply with the 2005 National Electrical Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code.