

COMMENT ON NFPA NEC COMMITTEE REPORT ON PROPOSALS FOR 1999  
NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

DATE: 9/30/97 NAME: Wm H. King, Jr. TEL. NO: 301-504-0508

ORGANIZATION: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

ADDRESS: 4330 East West Hwy, Bethesda, MD 20814-4408

ORG. REPRESENTED: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Comm. staff

1. SECTION/PARAGRAPH: 422 Part F

2. COMMENT ON PROPOSAL NO: 20-52

3. COMMENT RECOMMENDS              x   new text  
                                            revised text  
                                            deleted text

4. COMMENT: Proposal No. 20-52 should be accepted.

5. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM AND SUBSTANTIATION FOR COMMENT:

The current situation where a few listed appliances intended for use on general purpose branch circuits have been permitted to exceed 80 percent of the branch circuit rating is the apparent result of individual mistakes at the outset of a product listing by a testing laboratory. Such listings clearly violate Article 210-23(a). In the interest of product safety, however, other testing/listing bodies, such as the Canadian Standards Association, report holding the limit to 1650 watts (80% of 15 amperes @ 125 volts x 110%) for portable, intermittent type appliances.

At present, many manufacturers, code experts and enforcing authorities believe that the electrical safety code currently limits appliances to 1500 watts (80 percent of 15 amperes @ 125 volts), and this has helped to avoid an escalation of ratings in many product categories. It would now help if Panel 20 would reconsider this matter with a view toward lining up with Article 210-23(a), and clarifying for appliance manufacturers and other users of the NEC the intended limit for a single appliance load for use on a general lighting 15- and 20-ampere branch circuit.

6. THIS COMMENT IS ORIGINAL MATERIAL.

*I hereby grant NFPA the non-exclusive, royalty-free rights, including non-exclusive, royalty-free rights in copyright, in this comment and I understand that I acquire no rights in any publication of NFPA in which this comment in this or another similar or analogous form is used.*

This proposal represents the views of the writer and not necessarily the official position of the CPSC.

William H. Keogh  
Signature