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FORMAL INTERPRETATION 99-13

DOCUMENT: 2007 / 2002 / 1997 Kentucky Building Code (KBC)

SUBJECT: Electrical outlet boxes
Section 712.3.2 – 2007 KBC
Section 711.3.2 – 2002 KBC
Section 714.1.6.1 – 1997 KBC

QUESTION: Is the intent of the building code to require all electrical outlet boxes located in a wall to be separated by a horizontal distance of not less than 24 inches minimum?

ANSWER: No

COMMENTARY: Exception #2 to Section 712.3.2 (Section 711.3.2 – 2002 KBC Section 714.1.6.1 – 1997 KBC) only requires the 24 inch horizontal separation when electrical outlet boxes are on opposite sides of the wall or partition. The exception goes on to speak to alternate means of protecting the penetration other than the 24 inch horizontal separation. So the 24 inch separation is an alternative and not a rule.

Electrical outlet boxes that penetrate the same membrane of the wall or partition are required to be protected in accordance with section 712.3.1 but are not required to comply with the exceptions to 712.3.2.


George E. Mann
Deputy Commissioner

May 31, 2009
Date

Originated January 1999
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