C) Countertops and Work Surfaces.

In kitchens, pantries, breakfast rooms, dining rooms, and similar areas of dwelling units, receptacle outlets for countertop and work surfaces that are 300 mm (12 in.) or wider shall be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(1) through (C)(3) and shall not be considered as the receptacle outlets required by 210.52(A).

For the purposes of this section, where using multioutlet assemblies, each 300 mm (12 in.) of multioutlet assembly containing two or more receptacles installed in individual or continuous lengths shall be considered to be one receptacle outlet.

(1) Wall Spaces.
Receptacle outlets shall be installed so that no point along the wall line is more than 600 mm (24 in.) measured horizontally from a receptacle outlet in that space.

Exception: Receptacle outlets shall not be required directly behind a range, counter-mounted cooking unit, or sink in the installation described in Figure 210.52(C)(1).

(2) Island and Peninsular Countertops and Work Surfaces.
Receptacle outlets shall be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(2)(a) and (C)(2)(b).

(a) At least one receptacle outlet shall be provided for the first 0.84 m² (9 ft²), or fraction thereof, of the countertop or work surface. A receptacle outlet shall be provided for every additional 1.7 m² (18 ft²), or fraction thereof, of the countertop or work surface.

(b) At least one receptacle outlet shall be located within 600 mm (2 ft) of the outer end of a peninsular countertop or work surface. Additional required receptacle outlets shall be permitted to be located as determined by the installer, designer, or building owner. The location of the receptacle outlets shall be in accordance with 210.52(C)(3).

A peninsular countertop shall be measured from the connected perpendicular wall.

(3) Receptacle Outlet Location.
Receptacle outlets shall be located in one or more of the following:

(1) On or above countertop or work surfaces: On or above, but not more than 500 mm (20 in.) above, the countertop or work surface.

(2) In countertop or work surfaces: Receptacle outlet assemblies listed for use in countertops or work surfaces shall be permitted to be installed in countertops or work surfaces.
(3) Below countertop or works surfaces: Not more than 300 mm (12 in.) below the countertop or work surface. Receptacles installed below a countertop or work surface shall not be located where the countertop or work surface extends more than 150 mm (6 in.) beyond its support base.

Receptacle outlets rendered not readily accessible by appliances fastened in place, appliance garages, sinks, or rangetops as covered in 210.52(C)(1), Exception, or appliances occupying assigned spaces shall not be considered as these required outlets.

Informational Note No. 1: See 406.5(E) and 406.5(G) for installation of receptacles in countertops and 406.5(F) and 406.5(G) for installation of receptacles in work surfaces. See 380.10 for installation of multioutlet assemblies.


Check one: ___ Delete without substitution: ___ Add new section to read as follows:

___ Delete section and substitute the following:

X Revise section to read as follows:

Show line through material to be deleted. Underline material to be added.

Proposed code language:

(C) Countertops and Work Surfaces. In kitchens, pantries, breakfast rooms, dining rooms, and similar areas of dwelling units, receptacle outlets for countertop and work surfaces that are 300 mm (12 in.) or wider shall be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(1), through (C)(3) and shall not be considered as the receptacle outlets required by 210.52(A).

For the purposes of this section, receptacles installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(1)(a) or (C)(1)(b) shall be considered as one receptacle outlet.

(a) where using multi-outlet assemblies: Each 300 mm (12 in.) of a multi-outlet assembly containing two or more receptacles installed in individual or continuous lengths shall be considered to be one receptacle outlet.

(b) Each two receptacles installed in the same device box.

(4) Wall Spaces. Receptacle outlets shall be located so there is no point along the wall line is more than 600 mm (24 in.) measured horizontally from a receptacle outlet in that space.

Exception: Receptacle outlets shall not be required directly behind a range, counter-mounted cooking unit, or sink in the installation described in Figure 210.52(C)(1).

(23) Island and Peninsula Countertops and Work Surfaces: Receptacle outlets shall be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(23)(a) and (C)(23)(b).

(a) Locations With Countertop or Work Surface Wall Spaces.

(1) At least one receptacle outlet shall be installed where the location is also provided with countertop or work surfaces totaling more than 1.2 linear meters (4 linear feet).

(b) Locations Without Countertop or Work Surface Wall Spaces, Receptacle outlets shall be installed in accordance with (1) or (2). Receptacle outlets shall be permitted to be located as determined by the installer, designer, or building owner.
(a1) At least one receptacle outlet shall be provided for the first 0.84 m² (9 ft²), or fraction thereof, of the countertop or work surface. A receptacle outlet shall be provided for every additional 1.7 m² (18 ft²), or fraction thereof, of the countertop or work surface.

(b2) At least one receptacle outlet shall be located within 600 mm (2 ft) of the outer end of a peninsular countertop or work surface. Additional required receptacle outlets shall be permitted to be located as determined by the installer, designer, or building owner. The location of the receptacle outlets shall be in accordance with 210.52(C)(3). A peninsular countertop is measured from the connected perpendicular wall.

(3-4) Receptacle Outlet Location. Receptacle outlets shall be located in one or more of the following:

(1) **On or Above Countertop or Work Surfaces:** On or above, but not more than 500 mm (20 in), above the countertop or work surfaces.

(2) **In Countertop or Work Surfaces:** Receptacle outlets assemblies listed for use in countertop or work surfaces shall be permitted in countertop or work surfaces.

(3) **Below countertop or work surfaces:** Not more than 300 mm (12 in) below the countertop or work surface. Receptacles installed below a countertop or work surface shall not be located where the countertop or work surface extends more than 150 mm (6 in.) beyond its support base.

Receptacle outlets rendered not readily accessible by appliances fastened in place, appliance garages, sinks, or rangetops as covered in 210.52(C)(1), Exception, or appliances occupying assigned space shall not be considered as these required outlets.

Informational Note No. 1: See 406.5(E) and 406.5(G) for installation of receptacles in countertops and 406.5(F) and 405.5(G) for installations of receptacles in work surfaces. See 380.10 for installations of multioutlet assemblies.


Reason / Justification:
The proposed changes are intended to reorganize the section for clarity and usability and to separate installations of island and peninsula receptacle outlets where there are also wall space countertops totaling more than four linear feet from locations where there are no wall space countertop or work surfaces or where there is less than four linear feet of wall space countertop or work surfaces.

A new 210.52(C)(1)(b) has been added to address applications where the required number of receptacles on an island or peninsula are installed in one multi-gang device box. Technically, the new 210.52(C)(1)(b) is needed as per the definition of a “receptacle outlet,” multiple receptacles installed in one device box is only considered as one receptacle outlet. With the new text, each two receptacles (typically, but not mandated to be, a duplex receptacle) will be considered as one receptacle outlet. Subsection 210.52(C)(1)(a), regarding multi-outlet strips, was added to the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) to address a similar situation where multiple receptacles would have otherwise, technically, been considered as one receptacle outlet.

Other than renumbering, the wall space language remains as it is in the 2020 NEC.

The requirements for islands and peninsulas have been revised to recognize applications where there are also countertops and work surfaces that have at least two wall space receptacle outlets. By mandating that all countertop or worksurface wall spaces 12” or wider must have a receptacle outlet(s) and there is more than four linear feet of countertop or work surface, whether contiguous or separate, there will be a minimum of two wall space receptacle outlets.
The changes made for the 2020 NEC regarding islands and peninsulas had merit where there were no countertops or work surfaces that were served by wall space receptacle outlets in addition to the island receptacle outlet(s) (open concept kitchens) and therefore should remain. The substantiation that drove the 2020 changes was related to locations where there were no countertop or work surface wall space receptacle outlets available, one receptacle outlet on an island was simply not enough. However, there was no substantiation provided, nor discussion during the Panel’s deliberations, the longstanding practice of providing a single receptacle outlet on an island or peninsula was not sufficient when there were also wall space receptacle outlets available. The new 210.52(C)(3)(a) restores that longstanding practice and provides relief from having to install multiple receptacle outlets when one receptacle outlet can safely and practically serve the island or peninsula. With these changes there is no prohibition to installing multiple receptacle outlets on an island or peninsula if desired.

Text requiring the receptacle outlets to be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(3), now 210.52(C)(4), was removed from 210.52(C)(3)(b)(2) as it was redundant. The opening paragraph of 210.52(C) already provides the required receptacle outlets are to be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(4).

The revisions proposed in this amendment were also submitted to Code Making Panel 2 at the 2023 NEC First Draft meeting and were accepted. Although this is a positive fact, it should not be the deciding factor. The deciding factors are the proposed revisions reduce confusion by adding clarity, a longstanding safe and adequate installation practice is restored and costs to consumers will be reduced.

Financial Analysis/Fiscal Impact of proposed amendment:
The proposed changes will not increase any costs to consumers of electricity or installers in the State of New Hampshire. If fact, they will most likely reduce the cost of electrical installations by safely reducing the number of receptacles that must be installed.

For Building Code Review Board Use:
Not approved: ______ Approved: ________ Approved with modifications: ______
Scheduled Hearing Date: __________________________ Exhibit #: EL-20-07-21
Chair’s Signature: __________________________ Date: __________
Printed Name: __________________________

NH BCRB Proposed Code Amendment Form updated 2020