Proposed amendment submitted by:

Name: William D. Fraser
Date: 17 May 2021
Company/Organization: Building Code Review Board, NEC Subcommittee
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Applicable code:      Applicable code section:

Current language (including section numbers and include prior adopted amendments):

NEC-20 Language

334.10 Uses Permitted. Type NM and Type NMC cables shall be permitted to be used in the following, except as prohibited in 334.12:

(2) Multi-family dwellings permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction.

(3) Other structures permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction. Cables shall be concealed-installed within walls, floors, or ceilings that provide a thermal barrier of material that has at least a 15-minute finish rating as identified in listings of fire-rated assemblies.

334.12 Uses Not Permitted

(A) Types NM and NMC. Types NM and NMC cables shall not be permitted as follows:
(1) In any dwelling or structure not specifically permitted in 334.10(1), (2), (3), and (5)
(2) Exposed within a dropped or suspended ceiling cavity in other than one- and two-family and multifamily dwellings
(3) As service-entrance cable
(4) In commercial garages having hazardous (classified) locations as defined in 511.3
(5) In theaters and similar locations, except where permitted in 518.4(B)
(6) In motion picture studios
(7) In storage battery rooms
(8) In hoistways or on elevators or escalators
(9) Embedded in poured cement, concrete, or aggregate
(10) In hazardous (classified) locations, except where specifically permitted by other articles in this Code

334.30 Securing and Supporting

(B) Unsupported Cables

(2) Is not more than 1.4 m (4 1/2 ft.) from the last point of cable support to the point of connection to a luminaire or other piece of electrical equipment and the cable and point of connection are within an accessible ceiling in one-, two-, or multifamily dwellings.
Currently Adopted Amendment EL-17-01-17

**334.10 Uses Permitted.** Type NM, Type NMC, and Type NMS cables shall be permitted to be used in the following, except as prohibited in 334.12:

(2) Multi-family dwellings permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction.

(3) Other structures permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction. Except as permitted by 334.10 (6), cables shall be concealed within walls, floors, or ceilings that provide a thermal barrier of material that has at least a 15-minute finish rating as identified in listings of fire-rated assemblies.

*Exception to (2) and (3): For buildings or structures required to be of Type I or Type II construction, Type NM, Type NMC, and Type NMS cables shall be permitted to be used, provided that where so applied in buildings or structures exceeding three stories above grade, circuits run in Type NM, NMC, or NMS cable shall not leave the floor or dwelling unit from which the circuits originate.*

(6) Exposed within
   a. dropped and suspended ceiling cavities
   b. accessible attics and roof spaces
   c. unfinished basements and crawl spaces

Except as permitted by 334.30 (B) (2) for connections to luminaires and equipment, cables shall be installed to closely follow the surface of framing members, running boards, or the equivalent

**334.12 Uses Not Permitted.**

(A) Types NM, NMC, and NMS. Types NM, NMC, and NMS cables shall not be permitted as follows:

(1) In any dwelling or structure not specifically permitted in 334.10(1), (2), (3), and (5)  
(2) Exposed within a dropped or suspended ceiling cavity in other than one- and two-family and multifamily dwellings
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(8) In hoistways or on elevators or escalators
(9) Embedded in poured cement, concrete, or aggregate
(10) In hazardous (classified) locations, except where specifically permitted by other articles in this Code

**334.30(B)(2)** Is not more than 1.4 m (4 1/2 ft.) from the last point of cable support to the point of connection to a luminaire or other piece of electrical equipment and the cable and point of connection are within an accessible ceiling, in one-, two-, or multifamily dwellings.
Proposed code language:

**334.10 Uses Permitted.** Type NM and Type NMC cables shall be permitted to be used in the following, except as prohibited in 334.12:

(2) Multi-family dwellings permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction.

(3) Other structures permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction. **Except as permitted by 334.10 (6), cables shall be concealed within walls, floors, or ceilings that provide a thermal barrier of material that has at least a 15-minute finish rating as identified in listings of fire-rated assemblies.**

**Exception to (2) and (3):** For buildings or structures required to be of Type I or Type II construction, Type NM, Type NMC, and Type NMS cables shall be permitted to be used, provided that where so applied in buildings or structures exceeding three stories above grade, circuits run in Type NM, NMC, or NMS cable shall not leave the floor or dwelling unit from which the circuits originate.

(6) Exposed within

- a. dropped and suspended ceiling cavities
- b. accessible attics and roof spaces
- c. unfinished basements and crawl spaces

**Except as permitted by 334.30 (B) (2) for connections to luminaires and equipment, cables shall be installed to closely follow the surface of framing members, running boards, or the equivalent.**

**334.12 Uses Not Permitted.**

**A) Types NM, NMC, and NMS.** Types NM, NMC, and NMS cables shall not be permitted as follows:

(1) In any dwelling or structure not specifically permitted in 334.10(1), (2), (3), and (5)
(2) Exposed within a dropped or suspended ceiling cavity in other than one- and two-family and multifamily dwellings
(3) As service-entrance cable
(4) In commercial garages having hazardous (classified) locations as defined in 511.3
(5) In theaters and similar locations, except where permitted in 518.4(B)
(6) In motion picture studios
(7) In storage battery rooms
(8) In hoistways or on elevators or escalators
(9) Embedded in poured cement, concrete, or aggregate
(10) In hazardous (classified) locations, except where specifically permitted by other articles in this Code
**334.30(B)(2)** Is not more than 1.4 m (4 1/2 ft.) from the last point of cable support to the point of connection to a luminaire or other piece of electrical equipment and the cable and point of connection are within an accessible ceiling, in one-, two-, or multifamily dwellings.

Reason / Justification:

Carry forward of amendment EL-17-01-17 into the 2020 NEC

Financial Analysis/Fiscal Impact of proposed amendment:

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For Building Code Review Board Use:
Not approved: _______  Approved: _______  Approved with modifications: _______
Scheduled Hearing Date: ____________________________  Exhibit #: __________________
Chair’s Signature: ____________________________  Date: ___________
Printed Name: ____________________________