

# CHAPTER 38

## POWER AND LIGHTING DISTRIBUTION

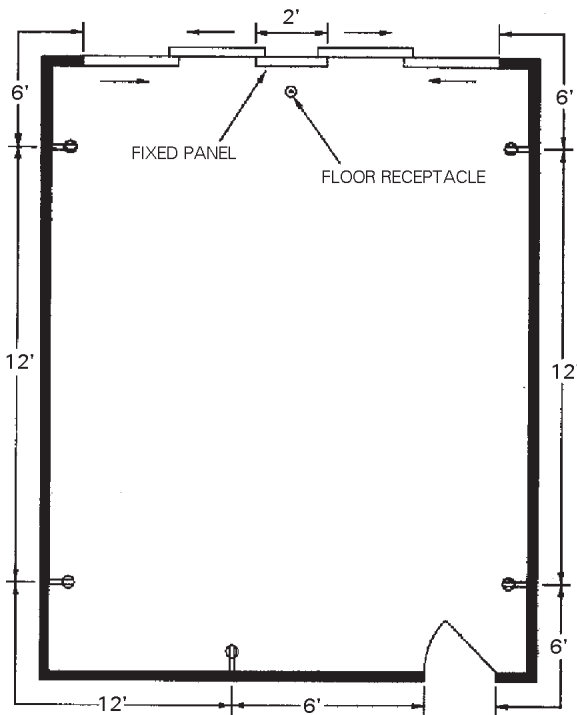
### SECTION E3801 RECEPTACLE OUTLETS

**E3801.1 General.** Outlets for receptacles rated at 125 volts, 15- and 20-amperes shall be provided in accordance with Sections E3801.2 through E3801.11. Receptacle outlets required by this section shall be in addition to any receptacle that is part of a luminaire or appliance, that is located within cabinets or cupboards, or that is located over 5.5 feet (1676 mm) above the floor.

Permanently installed electric baseboard heaters equipped with factory-installed receptacle outlets, or outlets provided as a separate assembly by the baseboard manufacturer shall be permitted as the required outlet or outlets for the wall space utilized by such permanently installed heaters. Such receptacle outlets shall not be connected to the heater circuits.

**E3801.2 General purpose receptacle distribution.** In every kitchen, family room, dining room, living room, parlor, library, den, sun room, bedroom, recreation room, or similar room or area of dwelling units, receptacle outlets shall be installed in accordance with the general provisions specified in Sections E3801.2.1 through E3801.2.3 (see Figure E3801.2).

**E3801.2.1 Spacing.** Receptacles shall be installed so that no point measured horizontally along the floor line in any wall space is more than 6 feet (1829 mm), from a receptacle outlet.



For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

**FIGURE E3801.2**  
**GENERAL USE RECEPTACLE DISTRIBUTION**

**E3801.2.2 Wall space.** As used in this section, a wall space shall include the following:

1. Any space that is 2 feet (610 mm) or more in width, (including space measured around corners), and that is unbroken along the floor line by doorways, fireplaces, and similar openings.
2. The space occupied by fixed panels in exterior walls, excluding sliding panels.
3. The space created by fixed room dividers such as railings and freestanding bar-type counters.

**E3801.2.3 Floor receptacles.** Receptacle outlets in floors shall not be counted as part of the required number of receptacle outlets except where located within 18 inches (457 mm) of the wall.

**E3801.3 Small appliance receptacles.** In the kitchen, pantry, breakfast room, dining room, or similar area of a dwelling unit, the two or more 20-ampere small-appliance branch circuits required by Section E3603.2, shall serve all wall and floor receptacle outlets covered by Sections E3801.2 and E3801.4 and those receptacle outlets provided for refrigeration appliances.

#### Exceptions:

1. In addition to the required receptacles specified by Sections E3801.1 and E3801.2, switched receptacles supplied from a general-purpose branch circuit as defined in Section E3803.2, Exception 1 shall be permitted.
2. The receptacle outlet for refrigeration appliances shall be permitted to be supplied from an individual branch circuit rated at 15 amperes or greater.

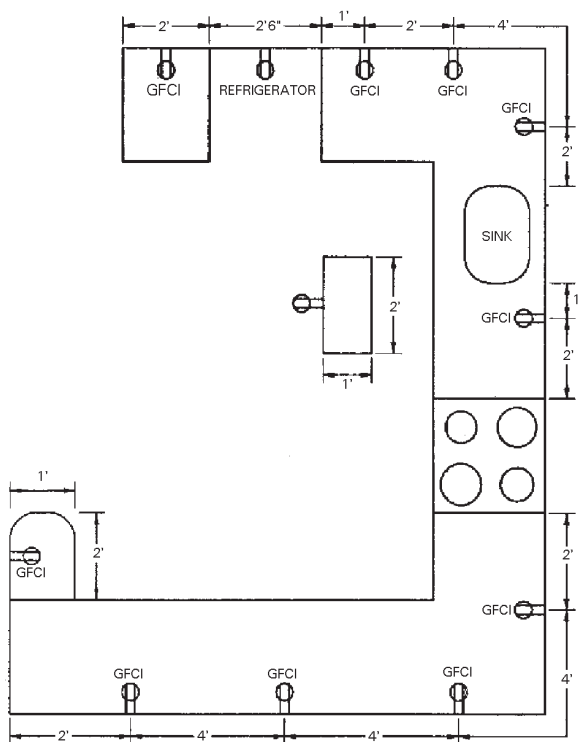
**E3801.3.1 Other outlets prohibited.** The two or more small-appliance branch circuits specified in Section E3801.3 shall serve no other outlets.

#### Exceptions:

1. A receptacle installed solely for the electrical supply to and support of an electric clock in any of the rooms specified in Section E3801.3.
2. Receptacles installed to provide power for supplemental equipment and lighting on gas-fired ranges, ovens, and counter-mounted cooking units.

**E3801.3.2 Limitations.** Receptacles installed in a kitchen to serve countertop surfaces shall be supplied by not less than two small-appliance branch circuits, either or both of which shall also be permitted to supply receptacle outlets in the same kitchen and in other rooms specified in Section E3801.3. Additional small-appliance branch circuits shall be permitted to supply receptacle outlets in the kitchen and other rooms specified in Section E3801.3. A small-appliance branch circuit shall not serve more than one kitchen.

**E3801.4 Countertop receptacles.** In kitchens and dining rooms of dwelling units, receptacle outlets for counter spaces shall be installed in accordance with Sections E3801.4.1 through E3801.4.5 (see Figure E3801.4).



For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

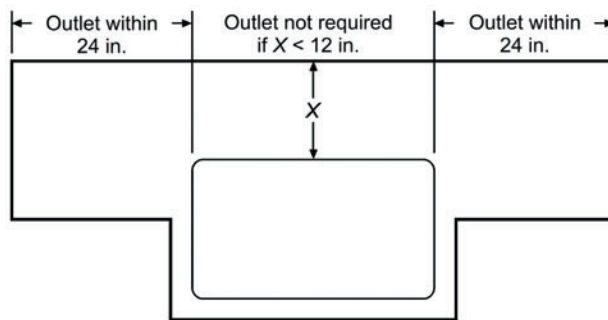
**FIGURE E3801.4  
COUNTERTOP RECEPTACLES**

**E3801.4.1 Wall counter space.** A receptacle outlet shall be installed at each wall counter space 12 inches (305 mm) or wider. Receptacle outlets shall be installed so that no point along the wall line is more than 24 inches (610 mm), measured horizontally from a receptacle outlet in that space.

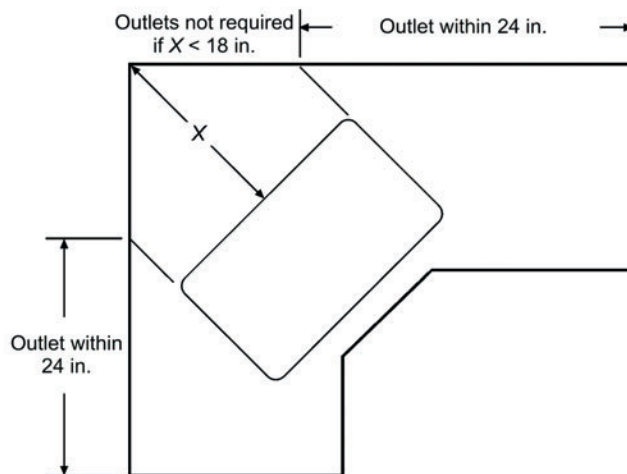
**Exception:** Receptacle outlets shall not be required on a wall directly behind a range or sink in the installation described in Figure E3801.4.1.

**E3801.4.2 Island counter spaces.** At least one receptacle outlet shall be installed at each island counter space with a long dimension of 24 inches (610 mm) or greater and a short dimension of 12 inches (305 mm) or greater. Where a rangetop or sink is installed in an island counter and the width of the counter behind the rangetop or sink is less than 12 inches (300 mm), the rangetop or sink has divided the island into two separate countertop spaces as defined in Section E3801.4.4.

**E3801.4.3 Peninsular counter space.** At least one receptacle outlet shall be installed at each peninsular counter space with a long dimension of 24 inches (610 mm) or greater and a short dimension of 12 inches (305 mm) or greater. A peninsular countertop is measured from the connecting edge.



**Sink or range extending from face of counter**



**Sink or range mounted in corner**

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

**FIGURE E3801.4.1  
DETERMINATION OF AREA BEHIND SINK OR RANGE**

**E3801.4.4 Separate spaces.** Countertop spaces separated by range tops, refrigerators, or sinks shall be considered as separate countertop spaces in applying the requirements of Sections E3801.4.1, E3801.4.2 and E3801.4.3.

**E3801.4.5 Receptacle outlet location.** Receptacle outlets shall be located not more than 20 inches (508 mm) above the countertop. Receptacle outlets shall not be installed in a face-up position in the work surfaces or countertops. Receptacle outlets rendered not readily accessible by appliances fastened in place, appliance garages, sinks or rangetops as addressed in the exception to Section E3801.4.1, or appliances occupying dedicated space shall not be considered as these required outlets.

**Exception:** Receptacle outlets shall be permitted to be mounted not more than 12 inches (305 mm) below the countertop in construction designed for the physically impaired and for island and peninsular countertops where the countertop is flat across its entire surface and there are no means to mount a receptacle within 20 inches (457 mm) above the countertop, such as in an overhead cabinet. Receptacles mounted below the countertop in accordance with this exception shall not be located where the countertop extends more than 6 inches (152 mm) beyond its support base.

**E3801.5 Appliance outlets.** Appliance receptacle outlets installed for specific appliances, such as laundry equipment, shall be installed within 6 feet (1829 mm) of the intended location of the appliance.

**E3801.6 Bathroom.** At least one wall receptacle outlet shall be installed in bathrooms and such outlet shall be located within 36 inches (914 mm) of the outside edge of each lavatory basin. The receptacle outlet shall be located on a wall that is adjacent to the lavatory basin location.

Receptacle outlets shall not be installed in a face-up position in the work surfaces or countertops in a bathroom basin location.

**Exception:** The receptacle shall not be required to be mounted on the wall or partition where it is installed on the side or face of the basin cabinet not more than 12 inches (300 mm) below the countertop.

**E3801.7 Outdoor outlets.** At least one receptacle outlet accessible at grade level and not more than 6 feet, 6 inches (1981 mm) above grade, shall be installed outdoors at the front and back of each dwelling unit having direct access to grade.

**E3801.8 Laundry areas.** At least one receptacle outlet shall be installed to serve laundry appliances.

**E3801.9 Basements and garages.** At least one receptacle outlet, in addition to any provided for laundry equipment, shall be installed in each basement and in each attached garage, and in each detached garage that is provided with electrical power. Where a portion of the basement is finished into one or more habitable room(s), each separate unfinished portion shall have a receptacle outlet installed in accordance with this section.

**E3801.10 Hallways.** Hallways of 10 feet (3048 mm) or more in length shall have at least one receptacle outlet. The hall length shall be considered the length measured along the centerline of the hall without passing through a doorway.

**E3801.11 HVAC outlet.** A 125-volt, single-phase, 15- or 20-ampere-rated receptacle outlet shall be installed at an accessible location for the servicing of heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment. The receptacle shall be located on the same level and within 25 feet (7620 mm) of the heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment. The receptacle outlet shall not be connected to the load side of the HVAC equipment disconnecting means.

**Exception:** A receptacle outlet shall not be required for the servicing of evaporative coolers.

## SECTION E3802 GROUND-FAULT AND ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION

**E3802.1 Bathroom receptacles.** All 125-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles installed in bathrooms shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.

**E3802.2 Garage and accessory building receptacles.** All 125-volt, single-phase, 15- or 20-ampere receptacles installed in garages and grade-level portions of unfinished accessory buildings used for storage or work areas shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel (see Section E3802.11).

### Exceptions:

1. Receptacles that are not readily accessible.
2. A single receptacle or a duplex receptacle for two appliances located within dedicated space for each appliance that in normal use is not easily moved from one place to another, and that is cord-and-plug-connected.

**E3802.3 Outdoor receptacles.** All 125-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles installed outdoors shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.

**Exception:** Receptacles as covered in Section E4001.7.

**E3802.4 Crawl space receptacles.** Where a crawl space is at or below grade level, all 125-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles installed in such spaces shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.

**E3802.5 Unfinished basement receptacles.** All 125-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles installed in unfinished basements shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel. For purposes of this section, unfinished basements are defined as portions or areas of the basement not intended as habitable rooms and limited to storage areas, work areas, and the like (see Section E3802.11).

### Exceptions:

1. Receptacles that are not readily accessible.
2. A single receptacle or duplex receptacle for two appliances located within dedicated space for each appliance that in normal use is not easily moved from one place to another, and that is cord-and-plug-connected.
3. A receptacle supplying only a permanently installed fire alarm or burglar alarm system.

**E3802.6 Kitchen receptacles.** All 125-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles that serve countertop surfaces shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.

**E3802.7 Laundry, utility, and bar sink receptacles.** All 125-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles that are located within 6 feet (1829 mm) of the outside edge of a laundry, utility or wet bar sink shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel. Receptacle outlets shall not be installed in a face-up position in the work surfaces or countertops.

**E3802.8 Boathouse receptacles.** All 125-volt, single-phase, 15- or 20-ampere receptacles installed in boathouses used for storage or work areas shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.

**E3802.9 Boat hoists.** Ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel shall be provided for outlets that supply boat hoists supplied by 125-volt, 15- and 20-ampere branch circuits.

**E3802.10 Electrically heated floors.** Ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel shall be provided for electrically heated floors in bathrooms, and in hydromassage bathtub, spa and hot tub locations.

**E3802.11 Exempt receptacles.** Receptacles installed under exceptions to Sections E3802.2 and E3802.5 shall not be considered as meeting the requirements of Section E3801.9.

**E3802.12 Arc-fault protection of bedroom outlets.** All branch circuits that supply 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and

20-ampere outlets installed in bedrooms shall be protected by a combination type or branch/feeder type arc-fault circuit interrupter installed to provide protection of the entire branch circuit. Effective January 1, 2008, such arc-fault circuit interrupter devices shall be combination type.

**Exception:** The location of the arc-fault circuit interrupter shall be permitted to be at other than the origination of the branch circuit provided that:

1. The arc-fault circuit interrupter is installed within 6 feet (1.8 m) of the branch circuit overcurrent device as measured along the branch circuit conductors and
2. The circuit conductors between the branch circuit overcurrent device and the arc-fault circuit interrupter are installed in a metal raceway or a cable with a metallic sheath.

### SECTION E3803 LIGHTING OUTLETS

**E3803.1 General.** Lighting outlets shall be provided in accordance with Sections E3803.2 through E3803.4.

**E3803.2 Habitable rooms.** At least one wall switch-controlled lighting outlet shall be installed in every habitable room and bathroom.

**Exceptions:**

1. In other than kitchens and bathrooms, one or more receptacles controlled by a wall switch shall be considered equivalent to the required lighting outlet.
2. Lighting outlets shall be permitted to be controlled by occupancy sensors that are in addition to wall switches, or that are located at a customary wall switch location and equipped with a manual override that will allow the sensor to function as a wall switch.

**E3803.3 Additional locations.** At least one wall-switch-controlled lighting outlet shall be installed in hallways, stairways, attached garages, and detached garages with electric power. At least one wall-switch-controlled lighting outlet shall be installed to provide illumination on the exterior side of each outdoor egress door having grade level access, including outdoor egress doors for attached garages and detached garages with electric power. A vehicle door in a garage shall not be considered as an outdoor egress door. Where one or more lighting outlets are installed for interior stairways, there shall be a wall switch at each floor level and landing level that includes an entryway to control the lighting outlets where the stairway between floor levels has six or more risers.

**Exception:** In hallways, stairways, and at outdoor egress doors, remote, central, or automatic control of lighting shall be permitted.

**E3803.4 Storage or equipment spaces.** In attics, under-floor spaces, utility rooms and basements, at least one lighting outlet shall be installed where these spaces are used for storage or contain equipment requiring servicing. Such lighting outlet shall be controlled by a wall switch or shall have an integral switch. At least one point of control shall be at the usual point

of entry to these spaces. The lighting outlet shall be provided at or near the equipment requiring servicing.

### SECTION E3804 GENERAL INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

**E3804.1 Electrical continuity of metal raceways and enclosures.** Metal raceways, cable armor and other metal enclosures for conductors shall be mechanically joined together into a continuous electric conductor and shall be connected to all boxes, fittings and cabinets so as to provide effective electrical continuity. Raceways and cable assemblies shall be mechanically secured to boxes, fittings cabinets and other enclosures.

**Exception:** Short sections of raceway used to provide cable assemblies with support or protection against physical damage.

**E3804.2 Mechanical continuity—raceways and cables.** Metal or nonmetallic raceways, cable armors and cable sheaths shall be continuous between cabinets, boxes, fittings or other enclosures or outlets.

**Exception:** Short sections of raceway used to provide cable assemblies with support or protection against physical damage.

**E3804.3 Securing and supporting.** Raceways, cable assemblies, boxes, cabinets and fittings shall be securely fastened in place.

**E3804.3.1 Prohibited means of support.** Cable wiring methods shall not be used as a means of support for other cables, raceways and nonelectrical equipment.

**E3804.4 Raceways as means of support.** Raceways shall be used as a means of support for other raceways, cables or nonelectric equipment only under the following conditions:

1. Where the raceway or means of support is identified for the purpose; or
2. Where the raceway contains power supply conductors for electrically controlled equipment and is used to support Class 2 circuit conductors or cables that are solely for the purpose of connection to the control circuits of the equipment served by such raceway; or
3. Where the raceway is used to support boxes or conduit bodies in accordance with Sections E3806.8.4 and E3806.8.5.

**E3804.5 Raceway installations.** Raceways shall be installed complete between outlet, junction or splicing points prior to the installation of conductors.

**Exception:** Short sections of raceways used to contain conductors or cable assemblies for protection from physical damage shall not be required to be installed complete between outlet, junction, or splicing points.

**E3804.6 Conduit and tubing fill.** The maximum number of conductors installed in conduit or tubing shall be in accordance with Tables E3804.6(1) through E3804.6(10).

**E3804.7 Air handling—stud cavity and joist spaces.** Where wiring methods having a nonmetallic covering pass through stud cavities and joist spaces used for air handling, such wiring shall pass through such spaces perpendicular to the long dimension of the spaces.

**TABLE E3804.6(1)**  
**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS IN ELECTRICAL METALLIC TUBING (EMT)<sup>a</sup>**

TYPE LETTERS	CONDUCTOR SIZE AWG/kcmil	TRADE SIZES (inches)					
		1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	2
RHW, RHW-2	14	4	7	11	20	27	46
	12	3	6	9	17	23	38
	10	2	5	8	13	18	30
	8	1	2	4	7	9	16
	6	1	1	3	5	8	13
	4	1	1	2	4	6	10
	3	1	1	1	4	5	9
	2	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1	0	1	1	1	3	5
	1/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	2/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	TW	14	8	15	25	43	58
12		6	11	19	33	45	74
10		5	8	14	24	33	55
8		2	5	8	13	18	30
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , THHW, THW, THW-2	14	6	10	16	28	39	64
	12	4	8	13	23	31	51
	10	3	6	10	18	24	40
	8	1	4	6	10	14	24
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , TW, THW, THHW, THW-2	6	1	3	4	8	11	18
	4	1	1	3	6	8	13
	3	1	1	3	5	7	12
	2	1	1	2	4	6	10
	1	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	2/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	3/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
THHN, THWN, THWN-2	14	12	22	35	61	84	138
	12	9	16	26	45	61	101
	10	5	10	16	28	38	63
	8	3	6	9	16	22	36
	6	2	4	7	12	16	26
	4	1	2	4	7	10	16
	3	1	1	3	6	8	13
	2	1	1	3	5	7	11
	1	1	1	1	4	5	8
	1/0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
XHHW, XHHW-2	14	8	15	25	43	58	96
	12	6	11	19	33	45	74
	10	5	8	14	24	33	55
	8	2	5	8	13	18	30
	6	1	3	6	10	14	22
	4	1	2	4	7	10	16
	3	1	1	3	6	8	14
	2	1	1	3	5	7	11
	1	1	1	1	4	5	8
	1/0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Types RHW, and RHW-2 without outer covering.

**POWER AND LIGHTING DISTRIBUTION**

**TABLE E3804.6(2)  
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS IN ELECTRICAL NONMETALLIC TUBING (ENT)<sup>a</sup>**

TYPE LETTERS	CONDUCTOR SIZE AWG/kcmil	TRADE SIZES (inches)					
		1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	2
RHW, RHW-2	14	3	6	10	19	26	43
	12	2	5	9	16	22	36
	10	1	4	7	13	17	29
	8	1	1	3	6	9	15
	6	1	1	3	5	7	12
	4	1	1	2	4	6	9
	3	1	1	1	3	5	8
	2	0	1	1	3	4	7
	1	0	1	1	1	3	5
	1/0	0	0	1	1	2	4
	2/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	2
TW	14	7	13	22	40	55	92
	12	5	10	17	31	42	71
	10	4	7	13	23	32	52
	8	1	4	7	13	17	29
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , THHW, THW, THW-2	14	4	8	15	27	37	61
	12	3	7	12	21	29	49
	10	3	5	9	17	23	38
	8	1	3	5	10	14	23
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , TW, THW, THHW, THW-2	6	1	2	4	7	10	17
	4	1	1	3	5	8	13
	3	1	1	2	5	7	11
	2	1	1	2	4	6	9
	1	0	1	1	3	4	6
	1/0	0	1	1	2	3	5
	2/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	3/0	0	0	1	1	2	4
4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3	
THHN, THWN, THWN-2	14	10	18	32	58	80	132
	12	7	13	23	42	58	96
	10	4	8	15	26	36	60
	8	2	5	8	15	21	35
	6	1	3	6	11	15	25
	4	1	1	4	7	9	15
	3	1	1	3	5	8	13
	2	1	1	2	5	6	11
	1	1	1	1	3	5	8
	1/0	0	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	5
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	4
4/0	0	0	1	1	2	4	
XHHW, XHHW-2	14	7	13	22	40	55	92
	12	5	10	17	31	42	71
	10	4	7	13	23	32	52
	8	1	4	7	13	17	29
	6	1	3	5	9	13	21
	4	1	1	4	7	9	15
	3	1	1	3	6	8	13
	2	1	1	2	5	6	11
	1	1	1	1	3	5	8
	1/0	0	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	0	1	1	2	4

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Types RHW, and RHW-2 without outer covering.

**TABLE E3804.6(3)**  
**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS IN FLEXIBLE METALLIC CONDUIT (FMC)<sup>a</sup>**

TYPE LETTERS	CONDUCTOR SIZE AWG/kcmil	TRADE SIZES (inches)					
		1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	2
RHW, RHW-2	14	4	7	11	17	25	44
	12	3	6	9	14	21	37
	10	3	5	7	11	17	30
	8	1	2	4	6	9	15
	6	1	1	3	5	7	12
	4	1	1	2	4	5	10
	3	1	1	1	3	5	7
	2	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1	0	1	1	1	2	5
	1/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	2/0	0	1	1	1	1	3
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	TW	14	9	15	23	36	53
12		7	11	18	28	41	72
10		5	8	13	21	30	54
8		3	5	7	11	17	30
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , THHW, THW, THW-2	14	6	10	15	24	35	62
	12	5	8	12	19	28	50
	10	4	6	10	15	22	39
	8	1	4	6	9	13	23
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , TW, THW, THHW, THW-2	6	1	3	4	7	10	18
	4	1	1	3	5	7	13
	3	1	1	3	4	6	11
	2	1	1	2	4	5	10
	1	1	1	1	2	4	7
	1/0	0	1	1	1	3	6
	2/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	3/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
4/0	0	0	1	1	1	2	
THHN, THWN, THWN-2	14	13	22	33	52	76	134
	12	9	16	24	38	56	98
	10	6	10	15	24	35	62
	8	3	6	9	14	20	35
	6	2	4	6	10	14	25
	4	1	2	4	6	9	16
	3	1	1	3	5	7	13
	2	1	1	3	4	6	11
	1	1	1	1	3	4	8
	1/0	1	1	1	2	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	1	3	6
	3/0	0	1	1	1	2	5
4/0	0	1	1	1	1	4	
XHHW, XHHW-2	14	9	15	23	36	53	94
	12	7	11	18	28	41	72
	10	5	8	13	21	30	54
	8	3	5	7	11	17	30
	6	1	3	5	8	12	22
	4	1	2	4	6	9	16
	3	1	1	3	5	7	13
	2	1	1	3	4	6	11
	1	1	1	1	3	5	8
	1/0	1	1	1	2	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Types RHW, and RHW-2 without outer covering.

**POWER AND LIGHTING DISTRIBUTION**

**TABLE E3804.6(4)  
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS IN INTERMEDIATE METALLIC CONDUIT (IMC)<sup>a</sup>**

TYPE LETTERS	CONDUCTOR SIZE AWG/kcmil	TRADE SIZES (inches)					
		1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	2
RHW, RHW-2	14	4	8	13	22	30	49
	12	4	6	11	18	25	41
	10	3	5	8	15	20	33
	8	1	3	4	8	10	17
	6	1	1	3	6	8	14
	4	1	1	3	5	6	11
	3	1	1	2	4	6	9
	2	1	1	1	3	5	8
	1	0	1	1	2	3	5
	1/0	0	1	1	1	3	4
	2/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
TW	14	10	17	27	47	64	104
	12	7	13	21	36	49	80
	10	5	9	15	27	36	59
	8	3	5	8	15	20	33
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , THHW, THW, THW-2	14	6	11	18	31	42	69
	12	5	9	14	25	34	56
	10	4	7	11	19	26	43
	8	2	4	7	12	16	26
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , TW, THW, THHW, THW-2	6	1	3	5	9	12	20
	4	1	2	4	6	9	15
	3	1	1	3	6	8	13
	2	1	1	3	5	6	11
	1	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1/0	1	1	1	3	4	6
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	5
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	4
4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4	
THHN, THWN, THWN-2	14	14	24	39	68	91	149
	12	10	17	29	49	67	109
	10	6	11	18	31	42	68
	8	3	6	10	18	24	39
	6	2	4	7	13	17	28
	4	1	3	4	8	10	17
	3	1	2	4	6	9	15
	2	1	1	3	5	7	12
	1	1	1	2	4	5	9
	1/0	1	1	1	3	4	8
	2/0	1	1	1	3	4	6
	3/0	0	1	1	2	3	5
	4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
XHHW, XHHW-2	14	10	17	27	47	64	104
	12	7	13	21	36	49	80
	10	5	9	15	27	36	59
	8	3	5	8	15	20	33
	6	1	4	6	11	15	24
	4	1	3	4	8	11	18
	3	1	2	4	7	9	15
	2	1	1	3	5	7	12
	1	1	1	2	4	5	9
	1/0	1	1	1	3	5	8
	2/0	1	1	1	3	4	6
	3/0	0	1	1	2	3	5
	4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Types RHW, and RHW-2 without outer covering.



**TABLE E3804.6(5)**  
**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS IN LIQUID-TIGHT FLEXIBLE NONMETALLIC CONDUIT (FNMC-B)<sup>a</sup>**

TYPE LETTERS	CONDUCTOR SIZE AWG/kcmil	TRADE SIZES (inches)						
		3/8	1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	2
RHW, RHW-2	14	2	4	7	12	21	27	44
	12	1	3	6	10	17	22	36
	10	1	3	5	8	14	18	29
	8	1	1	2	4	7	9	15
	6	1	1	1	3	6	7	12
	4	0	1	1	2	4	6	9
	3	0	1	1	1	4	5	8
	2	0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1	0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	1/0	0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	2/0	0	0	1	1	1	1	3
	3/0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	4/0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
	TW	14	5	9	15	25	44	57
12		4	7	12	19	33	43	71
10		3	5	9	14	25	32	53
8		1	3	5	8	14	18	29
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RGW-2 <sup>a</sup> , THHW, THW, THW-2	14	3	6	10	16	29	38	62
	12	3	5	8	13	23	30	50
	10	1	3	6	10	18	23	39
	8	1	1	4	6	11	14	23
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , TW, THW, THHW, THW-2	6	1	1	3	5	8	11	18
	4	1	1	1	3	6	8	13
	3	1	1	1	3	5	7	11
	2	0	1	1	2	4	6	9
	1	0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1/0	0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	2/0	0	0	1	1	2	3	5
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	4/0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
THHN, THWN, THWN-2	14	8	13	22	36	63	81	133
	12	5	9	16	26	46	59	97
	10	3	6	10	16	29	37	61
	8	1	3	6	9	16	21	35
	6	1	2	4	7	12	15	25
	4	1	1	2	4	7	9	15
	3	1	1	1	3	6	8	13
	2	1	1	1	3	5	7	11
	1	0	1	1	1	4	5	8
	1/0	0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	2	4
XHHW, XHHW-2	14	5	9	15	25	44	57	93
	12	4	7	12	19	33	43	71
	10	3	5	9	14	25	32	53
	8	1	3	5	8	14	18	29
	6	1	1	3	6	10	13	22
	4	1	1	2	4	7	9	16
	3	1	1	1	3	6	8	13
	2	1	1	1	3	5	7	11
	1	0	1	1	1	4	5	8
	1/0	0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	2	4

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Types RHW, and RHW-2 without outer covering.

**POWER AND LIGHTING DISTRIBUTION**

**TABLE E3804.6(6)  
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS IN LIQUID-TIGHT FLEXIBLE NONMETALLIC CONDUIT (FNMC-A)<sup>a</sup>**

TYPE LETTERS	CONDUCTOR SIZE AWG/kcmil	TRADE SIZES (inches)						
		3/8	1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	2
RHW, RHW-2	14	2	4	7	11	20	27	45
	12	1	3	6	9	17	23	38
	10	1	3	5	8	13	18	30
	8	1	1	2	4	7	9	16
	6	1	1	1	3	5	7	13
	4	0	1	1	2	4	6	10
	3	0	1	1	1	4	5	8
	2	0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1	0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	1/0	0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	2/0	0	0	1	1	1	1	4
	3/0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	4/0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
TW	14	5	9	15	24	43	58	96
	12	4	7	12	19	33	44	74
	10	3	5	9	14	24	33	55
	8	1	3	5	8	13	18	30
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , THHW, THW, THW-2	14	3	6	10	16	28	38	64
	12	3	4	8	13	23	31	51
	10	1	3	6	10	18	24	40
	8	1	1	4	6	10	14	24
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , TW, THW, THHW, THW-2	6	1	1	3	4	8	11	18
	4	1	1	1	3	6	8	13
	3	1	1	1	3	5	7	11
	2	0	1	1	2	4	6	10
	1	0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1/0	0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	2/0	0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	2	4
4/0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	
THHN, THWN, THWN-2	14	8	13	22	35	62	83	137
	12	5	9	16	25	45	60	100
	10	3	6	10	16	28	38	63
	8	1	3	6	9	16	22	36
	6	1	2	4	6	12	16	26
	4	1	1	2	4	7	9	16
	3	1	1	1	3	6	8	13
	2	1	1	1	3	5	7	11
	1	0	1	1	1	4	5	8
	1/0	0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	0	1	1	2	3	6
3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3	5	
4/0	0	0	1	1	1	2	4	
XHHW, XHHW-2	14	5	9	15	24	43	58	96
	12	4	7	12	19	33	44	74
	10	3	5	9	14	24	33	55
	8	1	3	5	8	13	18	30
	6	1	1	3	5	10	13	22
	4	1	1	2	4	7	10	16
	3	1	1	1	3	6	8	14
	2	1	1	1	3	5	7	11
	1	0	1	1	1	4	5	8
	1/0	0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	2	4

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Types RHW, and RHW-2 without outer covering.

**TABLE E3804.6(7)**  
**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS IN LIQUID-TIGHT FLEXIBLE METAL CONDUIT (LFMC)<sup>a</sup>**

TYPE LETTERS	CONDUCTOR SIZE AWG/kcmil	TRADE SIZES (inches)					
		1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	2
RHW, RHW-2	14	4	7	12	21	27	44
	12	3	6	10	17	22	36
	10	3	5	8	14	18	29
	8	1	2	4	7	9	15
	6	1	1	3	6	7	12
	4	1	1	2	4	6	9
	3	1	1	1	4	5	8
	2	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1	0	1	1	1	3	5
	1/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	2/0	0	1	1	1	1	3
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	2
TW	14	9	15	25	44	57	93
	12	7	12	19	33	43	71
	10	5	9	14	25	32	53
	8	3	5	8	14	18	29
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , THHW, THW, THW-2	14	6	10	16	29	38	62
	12	5	8	13	23	30	50
	10	3	6	10	18	23	39
	8	1	4	6	11	14	23
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , TW, THW, THHW, THW-2	6	1	3	5	8	11	18
	4	1	1	3	6	8	13
	3	1	1	3	5	7	11
	2	1	1	2	4	6	9
	1	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	5
	3/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
THHN, THWN, THWN-2	14	13	22	36	63	81	133
	12	9	16	26	46	59	97
	10	6	10	16	29	37	61
	8	3	6	9	16	21	35
	6	2	4	7	12	15	25
	4	1	2	4	7	9	15
	3	1	1	3	6	8	13
	2	1	1	3	5	7	11
	1	1	1	1	4	5	8
	1/0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
XHHW, XHHW-2	14	9	15	25	44	57	93
	12	7	12	19	33	43	71
	10	5	9	14	25	32	53
	8	3	5	8	14	18	29
	6	1	3	6	10	13	22
	4	1	2	4	7	9	16
	3	1	1	3	6	8	13
	2	1	1	3	5	7	11
	1	1	1	1	4	5	8
	1/0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Types RHW, and RHW-2 without outer covering.

**POWER AND LIGHTING DISTRIBUTION**

**TABLE E3804.6(8)  
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS IN RIGID METAL CONDUIT (RMC)<sup>a</sup>**

TYPE LETTERS	CONDUCTOR SIZE AWG/kcmil	TRADE SIZES (inches)					
		1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	2
RHW, RHW-2	14	4	7	12	21	28	46
	12	3	6	10	17	23	38
	10	3	5	8	14	19	31
	8	1	2	4	7	10	16
	6	1	1	3	6	8	13
	4	1	1	2	4	6	10
	3	1	1	2	4	5	9
	2	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1	0	1	1	1	3	5
	1/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	2/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
TW	14	9	15	25	44	59	98
	12	7	12	19	33	45	75
	10	5	9	14	25	34	56
	8	3	5	8	14	19	31
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , THHW, THW, THW-2	14	6	10	17	29	39	65
	12	5	8	13	23	32	52
	10	3	6	10	18	25	41
	8	1	4	6	11	15	24
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , TW, THW, THHW, THW-2	6	1	3	5	8	11	18
	4	1	1	3	6	8	14
	3	1	1	3	5	7	12
	2	1	1	2	4	6	10
	1	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	5
	3/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
THHN, THWN, THWN-2	14	13	22	36	63	85	140
	12	9	16	26	46	62	102
	10	6	10	17	29	39	64
	8	3	6	9	16	22	37
	6	2	4	7	12	16	27
	4	1	2	4	7	10	16
	3	1	1	3	6	8	14
	2	1	1	3	5	7	11
	1	1	1	1	4	5	8
	1/0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
XHHW, XHHW-2	14	9	15	25	44	59	98
	12	7	12	19	33	45	75
	10	5	9	14	25	34	56
	8	3	5	8	14	19	31
	6	1	3	6	10	14	23
	4	1	2	4	7	10	16
	3	1	1	3	6	8	14
	2	1	1	3	5	7	12
	1	1	1	1	4	5	9
	1/0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Types RHW, and RHW-2 without outer covering.

**TABLE E3804.6(9)**  
**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS IN RIGID PVC CONDUIT, SCHEDULE 80 (PVC-80)<sup>a</sup>**

TYPE LETTERS	CONDUCTOR SIZE AWG/kcmil	TRADE SIZES (inches)					
		1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	2
RHW, RHW-2	14	3	5	9	17	23	39
	12	2	4	7	14	19	32
	10	1	3	6	11	15	26
	8	1	1	3	6	8	13
	6	1	1	2	4	6	11
	4	1	1	1	3	5	8
	3	0	1	1	3	4	7
	2	0	1	1	3	4	6
	1	0	1	1	1	2	4
	1/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	2/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	4/0	0	0	0	1	1	2
	TW	14	6	11	20	35	49
12		5	9	15	27	38	63
10		3	6	11	20	28	47
8		1	3	6	11	15	26
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , THHW, THW, THW-2	14	4	8	13	23	32	55
	12	3	6	10	19	26	44
	10	2	5	8	15	20	34
	8	1	3	5	9	12	20
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , TW, THW, THHW, THW-2	6	1	1	3	7	9	16
	4	1	1	3	5	7	12
	3	1	1	2	4	6	10
	2	1	1	1	3	5	8
	1	0	1	1	2	3	6
	1/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	2/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3	
THHN, THWN, THWN-2	14	9	17	28	51	70	118
	12	6	12	20	37	51	86
	10	4	7	13	23	32	54
	8	2	4	7	13	18	31
	6	1	3	5	9	13	22
	4	1	1	3	6	8	14
	3	1	1	3	5	7	12
	2	1	1	2	4	6	10
	1	0	1	1	3	4	7
	1/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	2/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	3/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3	
XHHW, XHHW-2	14	6	11	20	35	49	82
	12	5	9	15	27	38	63
	10	3	6	11	20	28	47
	8	1	3	6	11	15	26
	6	1	2	4	8	11	19
	4	1	1	3	6	8	14
	3	1	1	3	5	7	12
	2	1	1	2	4	6	10
	1	0	1	1	3	4	7
	1/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	2/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	3/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Types RHW, and RHW-2 without outer covering.

**POWER AND LIGHTING DISTRIBUTION**

**TABLE E3804.6(10)  
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS IN RIGID PVC CONDUIT SCHEDULE 40 (PVC-40)<sup>a</sup>**

TYPE LETTERS	CONDUCTOR SIZE AWG/kcmil	TRADE SIZES (inches)					
		1/2	3/4	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	2
RHW, RHW-2	14	4	7	11	20	27	45
	12	3	5	9	16	22	37
	10	2	4	7	13	18	30
	8	1	2	4	7	9	15
	6	1	1	3	5	7	12
	4	1	1	2	4	6	10
	3	1	1	1	4	5	8
	2	1	1	1	3	4	7
	1	0	1	1	1	3	5
	1/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
	2/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	3/0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	4/0	0	0	1	1	1	2
TW	14	8	14	24	42	57	94
	12	6	11	18	32	44	72
	10	4	8	13	24	32	54
	8	2	4	7	13	18	30
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , THHW, THW, THW-2	14	5	9	16	28	38	63
	12	4	8	12	22	30	50
	10	3	6	10	17	24	39
	8	1	3	6	10	14	23
RHW <sup>a</sup> , RHW-2 <sup>a</sup> , TW, THW, THHW, THW-2	6	1	2	4	8	11	18
	4	1	1	3	6	8	13
	3	1	1	3	5	7	11
	2	1	1	2	4	6	10
	1	0	1	1	3	4	7
	1/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	2/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	3/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
4/0	0	0	1	1	1	3	
THHN, THWN, THWN-2	14	11	21	34	60	82	135
	12	8	15	25	43	59	99
	10	5	9	15	27	37	62
	8	3	5	9	16	21	36
	6	1	4	6	11	15	26
	4	1	2	4	7	9	16
	3	1	1	3	6	8	13
	2	1	1	3	5	7	11
	1	1	1	1	3	5	8
	1/0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4
XHHW, XHHW-2	14	8	14	24	42	57	94
	12	6	11	18	32	44	72
	10	4	8	13	24	32	54
	8	2	4	7	13	18	30
	6	1	3	5	10	13	22
	4	1	2	4	7	9	16
	3	1	1	3	6	8	13
	2	1	1	3	5	7	11
	1	1	1	1	3	5	8
	1/0	1	1	1	3	4	7
	2/0	0	1	1	2	3	6
	3/0	0	1	1	1	3	5
	4/0	0	1	1	1	2	4

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Types RHW, and RHW-2 without outer covering.

## SECTION E3805 BOXES, CONDUIT BODIES AND FITTINGS

**E3805.1 Box, conduit body or fitting—where required.** A box or conduit body shall be installed at each conductor splice point, outlet, switch point, junction point and pull point except as otherwise permitted in Sections E3805.1.1 through E3805.1.7.

Fittings and connectors shall be used only with the specific wiring methods for which they are designed and listed.

**E3805.1.1 Equipment.** An integral junction box or wiring compartment that is part of listed equipment shall be permitted to serve as a box or conduit body.

**E3805.1.2 Protection.** A box or conduit body shall not be required where cables enter or exit from conduit or tubing that is used to provide cable support or protection against physical damage. A fitting shall be provided on the end(s) of the conduit or tubing to protect the cable from abrasion.

**E3805.1.3 Integral enclosure.** A wiring device with integral enclosure identified for the use, having brackets that securely fasten the device to walls or ceilings of conventional on-site frame construction, for use with nonmetallic-sheathed cable, shall be permitted in lieu of a box or conduit body.

**E3805.1.4 Fitting.** A fitting identified for the use shall be permitted in lieu of a box or conduit body where such fitting is accessible after installation and does not contain spliced or terminated conductors.

**E3805.1.5 Buried conductors.** Splices and taps in buried conductors and cables shall not be required to be enclosed in a box or conduit body where installed in accordance with Section E3703.4.

**E3805.1.6 Luminaires.** Where a luminaire is listed to be used as a raceway, a box or conduit body shall not be required for wiring installed therein.

**E3805.1.7 Closed loop.** Where a device identified and listed as suitable for installation without a box is used with a closed-loop power-distribution system, a box or conduit body shall not be required.

**E3805.2 Metal boxes.** All metal boxes shall be grounded.

**E3805.3 Nonmetallic boxes.** Nonmetallic boxes shall be used only with nonmetallic-sheathed cable, cabled wiring methods, flexible cords and nonmetallic raceways.

### Exceptions:

1. Where internal bonding means are provided between all entries, nonmetallic boxes shall be permitted to be used with metal raceways and metal-armored cables.
2. Where integral bonding means with a provision for attaching an equipment grounding jumper inside the box are provided between all threaded entries in nonmetallic boxes listed for the purpose, nonmetallic boxes shall be permitted to be used with metal raceways and metal-armored cables.

**E3805.3.1 Nonmetallic-sheathed cable and nonmetallic boxes.** Where nonmetallic-sheathed cable is used, the cable

assembly, including the sheath, shall extend into the box not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.4 mm) through a nonmetallic-sheathed cable knockout opening.

**E3805.3.2 Securing to box.** All permitted wiring methods shall be secured to the boxes.

**Exception:** Where nonmetallic-sheathed cable is used with boxes not larger than a nominal size of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches by 4 inches (57 mm by 102 mm) mounted in walls or ceilings, and where the cable is fastened within 8 inches (203 mm) of the box measured along the sheath, and where the sheath extends through a cable knockout not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.4 mm), securing the cable to the box shall not be required.

**E3805.3.3 Conductor rating.** Nonmetallic boxes shall be suitable for the lowest temperature-rated conductor entering the box.

**E3805.4 Minimum depth of outlet boxes.** Boxes shall have an internal depth of not less than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm). Boxes designed to enclose flush devices shall have an internal depth of not less than 0.938 inch (24 mm).

**E3805.5 Boxes enclosing flush-mounted devices.** Boxes enclosing flush-mounted devices shall be of such design that the devices are completely enclosed at the back and all sides and shall provide support for the devices. Screws for supporting the box shall not be used for attachment of the device contained therein.

**E3805.6 Boxes at luminaire outlets.** Boxes for luminaire outlets shall be designed for the purpose. At every outlet used exclusively for lighting, the box shall be designed or installed so that a luminaire may be attached.

**Exception:** A wall-mounted luminaire weighing not more than 6 pounds (3 kg) shall be permitted to be supported on other boxes or plaster rings that are secured to other boxes, provided the luminaire or its supporting yoke is secured to the box with no fewer than two No. 6 or larger screws.

**E3805.7 Maximum luminaire weight.** Outlet boxes or fittings installed as required by Section E3804.3 shall be permitted to support luminaires weighing 50 pounds (23 kg) or less. A luminaire that weighs more than 50 pounds (23 kg) shall be supported independently of the outlet box unless the outlet box is listed for the weight to be supported.

**E3805.8 Floor boxes.** Where outlet boxes for receptacles are installed in the floor, such boxes shall be listed specifically for that application.

**E3805.9 Boxes at fan outlets.** Outlet boxes and outlet box systems used as the sole support of ceiling-suspended fans (paddle) shall be marked by their manufacturer as suitable for this purpose and shall not support ceiling-suspended fans (paddle) that weigh more than 70 pounds (32 kg). For outlet boxes and outlet box systems designed to support ceiling-suspended fans (paddle) that weigh more than 35 pounds (16 kg), the required marking shall include the maximum weight to be supported.

**E3805.10 Conduit bodies and junction, pull and outlet boxes to be accessible.** Conduit bodies and junction, pull and outlet boxes shall be installed so that the wiring therein can be accessed without removing any part of the building or, in

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underground circuits, without excavating sidewalks, paving, earth or other substance used to establish the finished grade.

**Exception:** Boxes covered by gravel, light aggregate or noncohesive granulated soil shall be listed for the application, and the box locations shall be effectively identified and access shall be provided for excavation.

**E3805.11 Damp or wet locations.** In damp or wet locations, boxes, conduit bodies and fittings shall be placed or equipped so as to prevent moisture from entering or accumulating within the box, conduit body or fitting. Boxes, conduit bodies and fittings installed in wet locations shall be listed for use in wet locations.

**E3805.12 Number of conductors in outlet, device, and junction boxes, and conduit bodies.** Boxes and conduit bodies shall be of sufficient size to provide free space for all enclosed conductors. In no case shall the volume of the box, as calculated in Section E3805.12.1, be less than the box fill calculation as calculated in Section E3805.12.2. The minimum volume for conduit bodies shall be as calculated in Section E3805.12.3. The provisions of this section shall not apply to terminal housings supplied with motors.

**E3805.12.1 Box volume calculations.** The volume of a wiring enclosure (box) shall be the total volume of the assembled sections, and, where used, the space provided by plaster rings, domed covers, extension rings, etc., that are marked with their volume in cubic inches or are made from boxes the dimensions of which are listed in Table E3805.12.1.

**E3805.12.1.1 Standard boxes.** The volumes of standard boxes that are not marked with a cubic-inch capacity shall be as given in Table E3805.12.1.

**E3805.12.1.2 Other boxes.** Boxes 100 cubic inches (1640 cm<sup>3</sup>) or less, other than those described in Table E3805.12.1, and nonmetallic boxes shall be durably and legibly marked by the manufacturer with their cubic-inch capacity. Boxes described in Table E3805.12.1 that have a larger cubic inch capacity than is designated in the table shall be permitted to have their cubic-inch capacity marked as required by this section.

**E3805.12.2 Box fill calculations.** The volumes in Section E3805.12.2.1 through Section E3805.12.2.5, as applicable, shall be added together. No allowance shall be required for small fittings such as locknuts and bushings.

**TABLE E3805.12.1  
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS IN METAL BOXES<sup>a</sup>**

BOX DIMENSIONS (inches trade size and type)	MAXIMUM CAPACITY (cubic inches)	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS <sup>a</sup>						
		No. 18	No. 16	No. 14	No. 12	No. 10	No. 8	No. 6
4 × 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> round or octagonal	12.5	8	7	6	5	5	4	2
4 × 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> round or octagonal	15.5	10	8	7	6	6	5	3
4 × 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> round or octagonal	21.5	14	12	10	9	8	7	4
4 × 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> square	18.0	12	10	9	8	7	6	3
4 × 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> square	21.0	14	12	10	9	8	7	4
4 × 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> square	30.3	20	17	15	13	12	10	6
4 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>16</sub> × 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> square	25.5	17	14	12	11	10	8	5
4 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>16</sub> × 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> square	29.5	19	16	14	13	11	9	5
4 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>16</sub> × 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> square	42.0	28	24	21	18	16	14	8
3 × 2 × 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> device	7.5	5	4	3	3	3	2	1
3 × 2 × 2 device	10.0	6	5	5	4	4	3	2
3 × 2 × 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> device	10.5	7	6	5	4	4	3	2
3 × 2 × 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> device	12.5	8	7	6	5	5	4	2
3 × 2 × 2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> device	14.0	9	8	7	6	5	4	2
3 × 2 × 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> device	18.0	12	10	9	8	7	6	3
4 × 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> × 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> device	10.3	6	5	5	4	4	3	2
4 × 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> × 1 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> device	13.0	8	7	6	5	5	4	2
4 × 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> × 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> device	14.5	9	8	7	6	5	4	2
3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> × 2 × 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> masonry box/gang	14.0	9	8	7	6	5	4	2
3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> × 2 × 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> masonry box/gang	21.0	14	12	10	9	8	7	4

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 cubic inch = 16.4 cm<sup>3</sup>.

a. Where no volume allowances are required by Sections E3805.12.2.2 through E3805.12.2.5.



**E3805.12.2.1 Conductor fill.** Each conductor that originates outside the box and terminates or is spliced within the box shall be counted once, and each conductor that passes through the box without splice or termination shall be counted once. A looped, unbroken conductor having a length equal to or greater than twice that required for free conductors by Section E3306.10.3, shall be counted twice. The conductor fill, in cubic inches, shall be computed using Table E3805.12.2.1. A conductor, no part of which leaves the box, shall not be counted.

**Exception:** An equipment grounding conductor or not more than four fixture wires smaller than No. 14, or both, shall be permitted to be omitted from the calculations where such conductors enter a box from a domed fixture or similar canopy and terminate within that box.

**TABLE E3805.12.2.1  
VOLUME ALLOWANCE REQUIRED PER CONDUCTOR**

SIZE OF CONDUCTOR (AWG)	FREE SPACE WITHIN BOX FOR EACH CONDUCTOR (cubic inches)
No. 18	1.50
No. 16	1.75
No. 14	2.00
No. 12	2.25
No. 10	2.50
No. 8	3.00
No. 6	5.00

For SI: 1 cubic inch = 16.4 cm<sup>3</sup>.

**E3805.12.2.2 Clamp fill.** Where one or more internal cable clamps, whether factory or field supplied, are present in the box, a single volume allowance in accordance with Table E3805.12.2.1 shall be made based on the largest conductor present in the box. No allowance shall be required for a cable connector with its clamping mechanism outside the box.

**E3805.12.2.3 Support fittings fill.** Where one or more fixture studs or hickies are present in the box, a single volume allowance in accordance with Table E3805.12.2.1 shall be made for each type of fitting based on the largest conductor present in the box.

**E3805.12.2.4 Device or equipment fill.** For each yoke or strap containing one or more devices or equipment, a double volume allowance in accordance with Table E3805.12.2.1 shall be made for each yoke or strap based on the largest conductor connected to a device(s) or equipment supported by that yoke or strap.

**E3805.12.2.5 Equipment grounding conductor fill.** Where one or more equipment grounding conductors or equipment bonding jumpers enters a box, a single volume allowance in accordance with Table E3805.12.2.1 shall be made based on the largest equipment grounding conductor or equipment bonding jumper present in the box.

**E3805.12.3 Conduit bodies.** Conduit bodies enclosing 6 AWG conductors or smaller, other than short radius conduit bodies, shall have a cross-sectional area not less than twice the cross-sectional area of the largest conduit or tubing to which it is attached. The maximum number of conductors permitted shall be the maximum number permitted by Table E3804.6 for the conduit to which it is attached.

**E3805.12.3.1 Splices, taps or devices.** Only those conduit bodies that are durably and legibly marked by the manufacturer with their cubic inch capacity shall be permitted to contain splices, taps or devices. The maximum number of conductors shall be calculated using the same procedure for similar conductors in other than standard boxes.

## SECTION E3806 INSTALLATION OF BOXES, CONDUIT BODIES AND FITTINGS

**E3806.1 Conductors entering boxes, conduit bodies or fittings.** Conductors entering boxes, conduit bodies or fittings shall be protected from abrasion.

**E3806.1.1 Insulated fittings.** Where raceways containing ungrounded conductors 4 AWG or larger enter a cabinet, box enclosure, or raceway, the conductors shall be protected by a substantial fitting providing a smoothly rounded insulating surface, unless the conductors are separated from the fitting or raceway by substantial insulating material securely fastened in place.

**Exception:** Where threaded hubs or bosses that are an integral part of a cabinet, box enclosure, or raceway provide a smoothly rounded or flared entry for conductors.

Conduit bushings constructed wholly of insulating material shall not be used to secure a fitting or raceway. The insulating fitting or insulating material shall have a temperature rating not less than the insulation temperature rating of the installed conductors.

**E3806.2 Openings.** Openings through which conductors enter shall be adequately closed.

**E3806.3 Metal boxes, conduit bodies and fittings.** Where raceway or cable is installed with metal boxes, or conduit bodies, the raceway or cable shall be secured to such boxes and conduit bodies.

**E3806.4 Unused openings.** Unused cable or raceway openings in boxes and conduit bodies shall be effectively closed to afford protection substantially equivalent to that of the wall of the box or conduit body. Metal plugs or plates used with nonmetallic boxes or conduit bodies shall be recessed at least 0.25 inch (6.4 mm) from the outer surface of the box or conduit body.

**E3806.5 In wall or ceiling.** In walls or ceilings of concrete, tile or other noncombustible material, boxes employing a flush-type cover or faceplate shall be installed so that the front edge of the box, plaster ring, extension ring, or listed extender will not be set back from the finished surface more than 1/4 inch (6.4 mm). In walls and ceilings constructed of wood or other combustible material, boxes, plaster rings, extension rings and listed extenders shall be flush with the finished surface or project therefrom.

**E3806.6 Plaster, gypsum board and plasterboard.** Openings in plaster, gypsum board or plasterboard surfaces that accommodate boxes employing a flush-type cover or faceplate shall be made so that there are no gaps or open spaces greater than  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (3.2 mm) around the edge of the box.

**E3806.7 Exposed surface extensions.** Surface extensions from a flush-mounted box shall be made by mounting and mechanically securing a box or extension ring over the flush box.

**Exception:** A surface extension shall be permitted to be made from the cover of a flush-mounted box where the cover is designed so it is unlikely to fall off, or be removed if its securing means becomes loose. The wiring method shall be flexible for a length sufficient to permit removal of the cover and provide access to the box interior and arranged so that any bonding or grounding continuity is independent of the connection between the box and cover.

**E3806.8 Supports.** Boxes and enclosures shall be supported in accordance with one or more of the provisions in Sections E3806.8.1 through E3806.8.6.

**E3806.8.1 Surface mounting.** An enclosure mounted on a building or other surface shall be rigidly and securely fastened in place. If the surface does not provide rigid and secure support, additional support in accordance with other provisions of Section E3806.8 shall be provided.

**E3806.8.2 Structural mounting.** An enclosure supported from a structural member of a building or from grade shall be rigidly supported either directly, or by using a metal, polymeric or wood brace.

**E3806.8.2.1 Nails and screws.** Nails and screws, where used as a fastening means, shall be attached by using brackets on the outside of the enclosure, or they shall pass through the interior within  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.4 mm) of the back or ends of the enclosure. Screws shall not be permitted to pass through the box except where exposed threads in the box are protected by an approved means to avoid abrasion of conductor insulation.

**E3806.8.2.2 Braces.** Metal braces shall be protected against corrosion and formed from metal that is not less than 0.020 inch (.508 mm) thick uncoated. Wood braces shall have a cross section not less than nominal 1 inch by 2 inches (25.4 mm by 51 mm). Wood braces in wet locations shall be treated for the conditions. Polymeric braces shall be identified as being suitable for the use.

**E3806.8.3 Mounting in finished surfaces.** An enclosure mounted in a finished surface shall be rigidly secured there to by clamps, anchors, or fittings identified for the application.

**E3806.8.4 Raceway supported enclosures without devices or fixtures.** An enclosure that does not contain a device(s), other than splicing devices, or support a luminaire, lampholder or other equipment, and that is supported by entering raceways shall not exceed 100 cubic inches (1640 cm<sup>3</sup>) in size. The enclosure shall have threaded entries or have hubs identified for the purpose. The enclosure shall be supported by two or more conduits threaded wrenchtight into the enclosure or hubs. Each conduit shall

be secured within 3 feet (914 mm) of the enclosure, or within 18 inches (457 mm) of the enclosure if all entries are on the same side of the enclosure.

**Exception:** Rigid metal, intermediate metal, or rigid nonmetallic conduit or electrical metallic tubing shall be permitted to support a conduit body of any size, provided that the conduit body is not larger in trade size than the largest trade size of the supporting conduit or electrical metallic tubing.

**E3806.8.5 Raceway supported enclosures, with devices or luminaire.** An enclosure that contains a device(s), other than splicing devices, or supports a luminaire, lampholder or other equipment and is supported by entering raceways shall not exceed 100 cubic inches (1640 cm<sup>3</sup>) in size. The enclosure shall have threaded entries or have hubs identified for the purpose. The enclosure shall be supported by two or more conduits threaded wrench-tight into the enclosure or hubs. Each conduit shall be secured within 18 inches (457 mm) of the enclosure.

**Exceptions:**

1. Rigid metal or intermediate metal conduit shall be permitted to support a conduit body of any size, provided that the conduit bodies are not larger in trade size than the largest trade size of the supporting conduit.
2. An unbroken length(s) of rigid or intermediate metal conduit shall be permitted to support a box used for luminaire or lampholder support, or to support a wiring enclosure that is an integral part of a luminaire and used in lieu of a box in accordance with Section E3805.1.1, where all of the following conditions are met:
  - 2.1. The conduit is securely fastened at a point so that the length of conduit beyond the last point of conduit support does not exceed 3 feet (914 mm).
  - 2.2. The unbroken conduit length before the last point of conduit support is 12 inches (305 mm) or greater, and that portion of the conduit is securely fastened at some point not less than 12 inches (305 mm) from its last point of support.
  - 2.3. Where accessible to unqualified persons, the luminaire or lampholder, measured to its lowest point, is not less than 8 feet (2438 mm) above grade or standing area and at least 3 feet (914 mm) measured horizontally to the 8-foot (2438 mm) elevation from windows, doors, porches, fire escapes, or similar locations.
  - 2.4. A luminaire supported by a single conduit does not exceed 12 inches (305 mm) in any direction from the point of conduit entry.
  - 2.5. The weight supported by any single conduit does not exceed 20 pounds (9.1 kg).

- 2.6. At the luminaire or lampholder end, the conduit(s) is threaded wrenchtight into the box, conduit body, or integral wiring enclosure, or into hubs identified for the purpose. Where a box or conduit body is used for support, the luminaire shall be secured directly to the box or conduit body, or through a threaded conduit nipple not over 3 inches (76 mm) long.

**E3806.8.6 Enclosures in concrete or masonry.** An enclosure supported by embedment shall be identified as being suitably protected from corrosion and shall be securely embedded in concrete or masonry.

**E3806.9 Covers and canopies.** Outlet boxes shall be effectively closed with a cover, faceplate or fixture canopy.

**E3806.10 Metal covers and plates.** Metal covers and plates shall be grounded.

**E3806.11 Exposed combustible finish.** Combustible wall or ceiling finish exposed between the edge of a fixture canopy or pan and the outlet box shall be covered with noncombustible material.

## SECTION E3807 CABINETS AND PANELBOARDS

**E3807.1 Enclosures for switches or overcurrent devices.** Enclosures for switches or overcurrent devices shall not be used as junction boxes, auxiliary gutters, or raceways for conductors feeding through or tapping off to other switches or overcurrent devices, except where adequate space for this purpose is provided. The conductors shall not fill the wiring space at any cross section to more than 40 percent of the cross-sectional area of the space, and the conductors, splices, and taps shall not fill the wiring space at any cross section to more than 75 percent of the cross-sectional area of that space.

**E3807.2 Damp or wet locations.** In damp or wet locations, cabinets and panelboards of the surface type shall be placed or equipped so as to prevent moisture or water from entering and accumulating within the cabinet, and shall be mounted to provide an airspace not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.4 mm) between the enclosure and the wall or other supporting surface. Cabinets installed in wet locations shall be weatherproof. For enclosures in wet locations, raceways and cables entering above the level of uninsulated live parts shall be installed with fittings listed for wet locations.

**E3807.3 Position in wall.** In walls of concrete, tile or other noncombustible material, cabinets and panelboards shall be installed so that the front edge of the cabinet will not set back of the finished surface more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.4 mm). In walls constructed of wood or other combustible material, cabinets shall be flush with the finished surface or shall project therefrom.

**E3807.4 Repairing plaster, drywall and plasterboard.** Plaster, drywall, and plasterboard surfaces that are broken or incomplete shall be repaired so that there will not be gaps or open spaces greater than  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (3.2 mm) at the edge of the cabinet or cutout box employing a flush-type cover.

**E3807.5 Unused openings.** Unused cable and raceway openings in cabinets and panelboards shall be effectively closed to afford protection equivalent to that of the wall of the cabinet. Metal plugs and plates used with nonmetallic cabinets shall be recessed at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.4 mm) from the outer surface. Unused openings for circuit breakers and switches shall be closed using identified closures, or other approved means that provide protection substantially equivalent to the wall of the enclosure.

**E3807.6 Conductors entering cabinets.** Conductors entering cabinets and panelboards shall be protected from abrasion and shall comply with Section E3806.1.1.

**E3807.7 Openings to be closed.** Openings through which conductors enter cabinets, panelboards and meter sockets shall be adequately closed.

**E3807.8 Cables.** Where cables are used, each cable shall be secured to the cabinet, panelboard, cutout box, or meter socket enclosure.

**Exception:** Cables with entirely nonmetallic sheaths shall be permitted to enter the top of a surface-mounted enclosure through one or more sections of rigid raceway not less than 18 inches (457 mm) nor more than 10 feet (3048 mm) in length, provided all the following conditions are met:

1. Each cable is fastened within 12 inches (305 mm), measured along the sheath, of the outer end of the raceway.
2. The raceway extends directly above the enclosure and does not penetrate a structural ceiling.
3. A fitting is provided on each end of the raceway to protect the cable(s) from abrasion and the fittings remain accessible after installation.
4. The raceway is sealed or plugged at the outer end using approved means so as to prevent access to the enclosure through the raceway.
5. The cable sheath is continuous through the raceway and extends into the enclosure beyond the fitting not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.4 mm).
6. The raceway is fastened at its outer end and at other points in accordance with Section E3702.1.
7. The allowable cable fill shall not exceed that permitted by Table E3807.8. A multiconductor cable having two or more conductors shall be treated as a single conductor for calculating the percentage of conduit fill area. For cables that have elliptical cross sections, the cross-sectional area calculation shall be based on the major diameter of the ellipse as a circle diameter.

**TABLE E3807.8**  
**PERCENT OF CROSS SECTION**  
**OF CONDUIT AND TUBING FOR CONDUCTORS**

NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS	MAXIMUM PERCENT OF CONDUIT AND TUBING AREA FILLED BY CONDUCTORS
1	53
2	31
Over 2	40

## SECTION E3808

### GROUNDING

**E3808.1 Metal enclosures.** Metal enclosures of conductors, devices and equipment shall be grounded.

#### Exceptions:

1. Short sections of metal enclosures or raceways used to provide cable assemblies with support or protection against physical damage.
2. A metal elbow that is installed in an underground installation of rigid nonmetallic conduit and is isolated from possible contact by a minimum cover of 18 inches (457 mm) to any part of the elbow or that is encased in not less than 2 inches (50 mm) of concrete.

**E3808.2 Equipment fastened in place or connected by permanent wiring methods (fixed).** Exposed noncurrent-carrying metal parts of fixed equipment likely to become energized shall be grounded where any of the following conditions apply:

1. Where within 8 feet (2438 mm) vertically or 5 feet (1524 mm) horizontally of earth or grounded metal objects and subject to contact by persons;
2. Where located in a wet or damp location and not isolated; or
3. Where in electrical contact with metal.

**E3808.3 Specific equipment fastened in place or connected by permanent wiring methods.** Exposed noncurrent-carrying metal parts of the following equipment and enclosures shall be grounded:

1. Luminaires as provided in Chapter 39.
2. Motor-operated water pumps, including submersible types. Where a submersible pump is used in a metal well casing, the well casing shall be bonded to the pump circuit equipment grounding conductor.

**E3808.4 Effective ground-fault current path.** Electrical equipment and wiring and other electrically conductive material likely to become energized shall be installed in a manner that creates a permanent, low-impedance circuit facilitating the operation of the overcurrent device. Such circuit shall be capable of safely carrying the maximum ground-fault current likely to be imposed on it from any point on the wiring system where a ground fault to the electrical supply source might occur.

**E3808.5 Earth as a ground-fault current path.** The earth shall not be considered as an effective ground-fault current path.

**E3808.6 Load-side neutral.** A grounding connection shall not be made to any grounded circuit conductor on the load side of the service disconnecting means.

**Exception:** A grounding conductor connection shall be made at each separate building where required by Section E3507.3.

**E3808.7 Load-side equipment.** A grounded circuit conductor shall not be used for grounding noncurrent-carrying metal parts of equipment on the load side of the service disconnecting means.

**Exception:** For separate buildings, in accordance with Section E3507.3.2.

**E3808.8 Types of equipment grounding conductors.** The equipment grounding conductor run with or enclosing the circuit conductors shall be one or more or a combination of the following:

1. A copper, aluminum or copper-clad conductor. This conductor shall be solid or stranded; insulated, covered or bare; and in the form of a wire or a busbar of any shape.
2. Rigid metal conduit.
3. Intermediate metal conduit.
4. Electrical metallic tubing.
5. Armor of Type AC cable in accordance with Section E3808.4.
6. The combined metallic sheath and grounding conductor of interlocked metal tape-type MC cable where listed and identified for grounding.
7. The metallic sheath or the combined metallic sheath and grounding conductors of the smooth or corrugated tube type MC cable where listed and identified for grounding.
8. Other electrically continuous metal raceways and auxiliary gutters.
9. Surface metal raceways listed for grounding.

**E3808.8.1 Flexible metal conduit.** Flexible metal conduit shall be permitted as an equipment grounding conductor where all of the following conditions are met:

1. The conduit is terminated in fittings listed for grounding.
2. The circuit conductors contained in the conduit are protected by overcurrent devices rated at 20 amperes or less.
3. The combined length of flexible metal conduit and flexible metallic tubing and liquid-tight flexible metal conduit in the same ground return path does not exceed 6 feet (1829 mm).
4. An equipment grounding conductor shall be installed where the conduit is used to connect equipment where flexibility is necessary after installation.

**E3808.8.2 Liquid-tight flexible metal conduit.** Liquid-tight flexible metal conduit shall be permitted as an

equipment grounding conductor where all of the following conditions are met:

1. The conduit is terminated in fittings listed for grounding.
2. For trade sizes  $\frac{3}{8}$  through  $\frac{1}{2}$  (metric designator 12 through 16), the circuit conductors contained in the conduit are protected by overcurrent devices rated at 20 amperes or less.
3. For trade sizes  $\frac{3}{4}$  through  $1\frac{1}{4}$  (metric designator 21 through 35), the circuit conductors contained in the conduit are protected by overcurrent devices rated at not more than 60 amperes and there is no flexible metal conduit, flexible metallic tubing, or liquid-tight flexible metal conduit in trade sizes  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch or  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (9.5 mm through 12.7 mm) in the grounding path.
4. The combined length of flexible metal conduit and flexible metallic tubing and liquid tight flexible metal conduit in the same ground return path does not exceed 6 feet (1829 mm).
5. An equipment grounding conductor shall be installed where the conduit is used to connect equipment where flexibility is necessary after installation.

**E3808.8.3 Nonmetallic sheathed cable (Type NM).** In addition to the insulated conductors, the cable shall have an insulated or bare conductor for equipment grounding purposes only. Equipment grounding conductors shall be sized in accordance with Table E3808.12.

**E3808.9 Equipment fastened in place or connected by permanent wiring methods.** Noncurrent-carrying metal parts of equipment, raceways and other enclosures, where required to be grounded, shall be grounded by one of the following methods:

1. By any of the equipment grounding conductors permitted by Sections E3808.8 through E3808.8.3.
2. By an equipment grounding conductor contained within the same raceway, cable or cord, or otherwise run with the circuit conductors. Equipment grounding conductors shall be identified in accordance with Section E3307.2.

**E3808.10 Methods of equipment grounding.** Fixtures and equipment shall be considered grounded where mechanically connected to an equipment grounding conductor as specified in Sections E3808.8 through E3808.8.3. Wire type equipment grounding conductors shall be sized in accordance with Section E3808.12.

**E3808.11 Equipment grounding conductor installation.** Where an equipment grounding conductor consists of a raceway, cable armor or cable sheath or where such conductor is a wire within a raceway or cable, it shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and Chapters 33 and 37 using fittings for joints and terminations approved for installation with the type of raceway or cable used. All connections, joints and fittings shall be made tight using suitable tools.

**E3808.12 Equipment grounding conductor size.** Copper, aluminum and copper-clad aluminum equipment grounding conductors of the wire type shall be not smaller than shown in Table E3808.12, but shall not be required to be larger than the

circuit conductors supplying the equipment. Where a raceway or a cable armor or sheath is used as the equipment grounding conductor, as provided in Section E3808.8, it shall comply with Section E3808.4. Where ungrounded connectors are increased in size, equipment grounding conductors shall be increased proportionally according to the circular mil area of the ungrounded conductors.

**TABLE E3808.12  
EQUIPMENT GROUNDING CONDUCTOR SIZING**

RATING OR SETTING OF AUTOMATIC OVERCURRENT DEVICE IN CIRCUIT AHEAD OF EQUIPMENT, CONDUIT, ETC., NOT EXCEEDING THE FOLLOWING RATINGS (amperes)	MINIMUM SIZE	
	Copper wire No. (AWG)	Aluminum or copper-clad aluminum wire No. (AWG)
15	14	12
20	12	10
30	10	8
40	10	8
60	10	8
100	8	6
200	6	4
300	4	2
400	3	1

**E3808.12.1 Multiple circuits.** Where a single equipment grounding conductor is run with multiple circuits in the same raceway or cable, it shall be sized for the largest overcurrent device protecting conductors in the raceway or cable.

**E3808.13 Continuity and attachment of equipment grounding conductors to boxes.** Where circuit conductors are spliced within a box or terminated on equipment within or supported by a box, any equipment grounding conductors associated with the circuit conductors shall be spliced or joined within the box or to the box with devices suitable for the use. Connections depending solely on solder shall not be used. Splices shall be made in accordance with Section E3306.10 except that insulation shall not be required. The arrangement of grounding connections shall be such that the disconnection or removal of a receptacle, luminaire or other device fed from the box will not interfere with or interrupt the grounding continuity.

**E3808.14 Connecting receptacle grounding terminal to box.** An equipment bonding jumper shall be used to connect the grounding terminal of a grounding-type receptacle to a grounded box except where grounded in accordance with one of the following:

1. Surface mounted box. Where the box is mounted on the surface, direct metal-to-metal contact between the device yoke and the box shall be permitted to ground the receptacle to the box. At least one of the insulating washers shall be removed from receptacles that do not have a contact yoke or device designed and listed to be used in conjunction with the supporting screws to establish the

grounding circuit between the device yoke and flush-type boxes. This provision shall not apply to cover-mounted receptacles except where the box and cover combination are listed as providing satisfactory ground continuity between the box and the receptacle.

2. Contact devices or yokes. Contact devices or yokes designed and listed for the purpose shall be permitted in conjunction with the supporting screws to establish the grounding circuit between the device yoke and flush-type boxes.
3. Floor boxes. The receptacle is installed in a floor box designed for and listed as providing satisfactory ground continuity between the box and the device.

**E3808.15 Metal boxes.** A connection shall be made between the one or more equipment grounding conductors and a metal box by means of a grounding screw that shall be used for no other purpose, or by means of a listed grounding device. Sheet-metal screws shall not be used to connect grounding conductors or connection devices to boxes.

**E3808.16 Nonmetallic boxes.** One or more equipment grounding conductors brought into a nonmetallic outlet box shall be arranged to allow connection to fittings or devices installed in that box.

**E3808.17 Clean surfaces.** Nonconductive coatings such as paint, lacquer and enamel on equipment to be grounded shall be removed from threads and other contact surfaces to ensure electrical continuity or the equipment shall be connected by means of fittings designed so as to make such removal unnecessary.

**E3808.18 Bonding other enclosures.** Metal raceways, cable armor, cable sheath, enclosures, frames, fittings and other metal noncurrent-carrying parts that serve as grounding conductors, with or without the use of supplementary equipment grounding conductors, shall be effectively bonded where necessary to ensure electrical continuity and the capacity to conduct safely any fault current likely to be imposed on them. Any nonconductive paint, enamel and similar coating shall be removed at threads, contact points and contact surfaces, or connections shall be made by means of fittings designed so as to make such removal unnecessary.

**E3808.19 Size of equipment bonding jumper on load side of service.** The equipment bonding jumper on the load side of the service overcurrent devices shall be sized, as a minimum, in accordance with Table E3808.12, but shall not be required to be larger than the circuit conductors supplying the equipment. An equipment bonding conductor shall be not smaller than No. 14 AWG.

A single common continuous equipment bonding jumper shall be permitted to bond two or more raceways or cables where the bonding jumper is sized in accordance with Table E3808.12 for the largest overcurrent device supplying circuits therein.

**E3808.20 Installation—equipment bonding jumper.** The equipment bonding jumper shall be permitted to be installed inside or outside of a raceway or enclosure. Where installed on the outside, the length of the equipment bonding jumper shall not exceed 6 feet (1829 mm) and shall be routed with the race-

way or enclosure. Where installed inside of a raceway, the equipment bonding jumper shall comply with the requirements of Sections E3808.9, Item 2; E3808.13; E3808.15; and E3808.16.

**SECTION E3809  
FLEXIBLE CORDS**

**E3809.1 Where permitted.** Flexible cords shall be used only for the connection of appliances where the fastening means and mechanical connections of such appliances are designed to permit ready removal for maintenance, repair or frequent interchange and the appliance is listed for flexible cord connection. Flexible cords shall not be installed as a substitute for the fixed wiring of a structure; shall not be run through holes in walls, structural ceilings, suspended ceilings, dropped ceilings or floors; shall not be concealed behind walls, floors, ceilings or located above suspended or dropped ceilings.

**E3809.2 Loading and protection.** The ampere load of flexible cords serving fixed appliances shall be in accordance with Table E3809.2. This table shall be used in conjunction with applicable end use product standards to ensure selection of the proper size and type. Where flexible cord is approved for and used with a specific listed appliance, it shall be considered to be protected where applied within the appliance listing requirements.

**E3809.3 Splices.** Flexible cord shall be used only in continuous lengths without splices or taps.

**E3809.4 Attachment plugs.** Where used in accordance with Section E3809.1, each flexible cord shall be equipped with an attachment plug and shall be energized from a receptacle outlet.

**TABLE E3809.2  
MAXIMUM AMPERE LOAD FOR FLEXIBLE CORDS**

CORD SIZE (AWG)	CORD TYPES S, SE, SEO, SJ, SJE, SJEO, SJO, SJOO, SJT, SJTO, SJTOO, SO, SOO, SRD, SRDE, SRDT, ST, STD, SV, SVO, SVOO, SVTO, SVTOO	
	Maximum ampere load	
	Three current-carrying conductors	Two current-carrying conductors
18	7	10
16	10	13
14	15	18
12	20	25