In 2021, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards Council voted to issue a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA 20-13) into the 2020 National Electric Code (NEC) 210.8, Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter (GFCI) Protection for Personnel. (F)

Outdoor Outlets.

The 2020 NEC 210.8 (F) states: “All outdoor outlets for dwellings, other than those covered in 210.8 (A)(3), Exception to (3), that are supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts to ground or less, 50 amperes or less, shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.

This requirement shall become effective on January 1, 2023 for mini-split-type heating/ventilating/air-conditioning (HVAC) equipment and other HVAC units employing power conversion equipment as a means to control compressor speed.

At the state level, many jurisdictions have either deleted the 210.8 (F) requirement, modified it to exempt HVAC equipment, or adopted TIA 20-13. In jurisdictions adopting TIA 20-13, the 210.8 (F) requirements do not apply until January 1, 2023, for mini-split heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) equipment and other HVAC equipment employing power conversion equipment to control compressor speed. See state actions on the 2020 NEC here.

To find out if equipment meets the 2020 NEC 210.8 (F) delay and does not need a GFCI installed with it:

• Review the product specification sheet and instruction manual;
• Look for wording that denotes 1) adjustable speed, 2) variable speed, or 3) inverter-driven compressor;
• Contact the manufacturer and provide the model and serial numbers and the product application; or
• Contact your state regarding the application of 210.8 (F).

For more information, visit ahrinet.org.