



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING & REGULATION

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Industrialized Housing and Buildings - Technical Bulletin

IHB TB 24-01 – Electrical Equipment Approval

Applicable Code: 2014-2020 NEC

110.2 Approval. The conductors and equipment required or permitted by this Code shall be acceptable only if approved.

It has come to the attention of The Industrialized Housing and Buildings (IHB) Program that Equipment Buildings/Equipment Shelters, and “E Houses” are being released for shipment to their final destination with electrical components and enclosures that are not approved by an accredited testing laboratory. **The information included in this bulletin will be strictly enforced, as there is a threat to public health and safety.**

Although this technical bulletin pertains to all electrical equipment, this bulletin is provided to explicitly address specialized equipment installed in Equipment Shelters, Equipment Buildings and E Houses.

In some applications, the NEC specifically requires the use of listed equipment. Where the NEC does not specifically require electrical equipment to be listed, the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is solely responsible to evaluate and approve the installation. In compliance with 110.3(A) of the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC), the IHB program will deny the installation of un-listed equipment. Options shall be to either replace the un-listed equipment with listed products or have a Field Evaluation performed on the un-listed equipment.

Field Evaluations (FE) must be performed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) in accordance with NFPA 790 (Standard for Competency of Third-Party Field Evaluation Bodies) and NFPA 791 (Recommended Practice and Procedures for Unlabeled Electrical Equipment Evaluation).

NFPA 791 states “The Field Evaluation is performed at the final installation site of the equipment in question. Notification must be sent by the NRTL or FEB to the AHJ to indicate the location and date for the Field Evaluation (FE)”. Notification will allow the inspector to be present for the FE. Successful completion and installation of FE labels by the NRTL concludes the FE. A final report will be sent to the AHJ and any other appropriate parties. The AHJ reviews and gives Approval.

With Modular Buildings, this FE process is modified because the equipment installation site as indicated in NFPA 791 is assumed to be at the final building site location. In the case of modular buildings, the equipment is installed at the building manufacturer’s location and then the building with the installed equipment is moved to the final site location. To complicate matters further, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Industrialized Housing and Buildings program rules will not allow buildings to ship with open deviations, and the FE requirement is typically an open deviation.

In cases where unlisted equipment has been installed and decals have been assigned, the TPI or IHB Inspector shall confiscate state decals and TPIA labels for modules that require an FE. A TPI or IHB inspector must be present for the final FE to allow the inspector to install the state decal and TPIA label at the completion of the FE and after the FE Listing Label is applied. Final inspection documentation with FE label numbers that correspond to the equipment noted in previous deviation reports shall be prepared by the TPI or IHB inspector to close out the deviations. Corresponding notations should be included on all State inspection records as required. Any questions should be emailed to ihbtech@tdlr.texas.gov.