

SIEMENS

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REF: Combination AFCIs: The Clear Choice for Superior Public Safety

Dear Electrical Professional,

Siemens Energy & Automation recognizes and applauds the vital work done by the National Electrical Code Committees and the nation's electrical inspectors to protect the public under the National Electric Code[®] (NEC[®]). This work is never easy, but it is vital to ensuring the safety of Americans where they live, work and play.

Time and again, the National Electrical Code Committees, many state electrical code committees, and the nation's electrical inspectors have stepped up to the responsibility of putting public safety ahead of all other considerations. They have done so with the 1999-2005 NEC, which mandates the use of Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) in residential construction. AFCIs detect hidden fault conditions that can create quick and intense bursts of heat, and cut the flow of electricity before a fire can start.

Beginning January 1, 2008, the 2005 NEC requires Combination AFCIs for entire branch circuit protection in residential construction. This is the most recent example of the NEC's commitment to public safety. Combination AFCIs, which protect against series arcs as well as line-to-ground and line-to-neutral arcs, offer the most advanced technology currently available for combating the hidden threat of fires resulting from arc faults. No other option is as complete or straightforward in addressing this invisible threat, or underpinned by as much advanced scientific testing.

Fires initiated by arc faults can strike at any time, and often burn undetected for a considerable period before breaking into the open. Siemens strongly encourages each state to enforce the most recent NEC, including the requirement for Combination AFCIs. The estimated \$250 to \$500 cost to fully equip an entire house with Combination AFCIs is a small price to pay to ensure the safety of the homeowners.

The American public cannot know all of the technical considerations that go into making the decisions that underpin the NEC, nor does it need to. With the National Electrical Code Committees and the nation's electrical inspectors hard at work on their behalf, Americans can trust that the NEC takes advantage of the most advanced technology available to protect the ones they love.

Mandating the use of Combination AFCIs is a prime example of how the NEC lives up to this vital public trust. We at Siemens Energy & Automation take pride in doing our part by helping to develop the latest advancements in electrical safety technology and by putting more than a decade of scientific testing behind every Combination AFCI we offer to the marketplace.

For more information about Combination AFCIs and their advantages over older, alternative technologies, please call 1-800-964-4114.

Respectfully,



Dennis Sadlowski
COO, Siemens Energy & Automation