

ARVC Pushes Exemption for Pedestal GFCI



Following through on its promise to fight for a change to the National Electric Code and remove a possible retrofit requirement for campground electric pedestal outlets, ARVC issued a call for the entire industry to voice its support.

ARVC, the National Association of Recreational Vehicles and Campgrounds, and its industry partners at RV Industry Association and RV Dealers Association, “are requesting all members join a grassroots effort to show support for TIA 1474,” it says.

Earlier this week, ARVC officially submitted a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) as its formal request to change the existing code and remove any requirement for ground fault circuit interrupt (GFCI) protection on 30- and 50-amp RV electrical services typically found on campground pedestals.

As part of its biennial review and revision of its electric standards, the National Fire Protection Association’s NEC board declined to clarify the existing code, leaving open to local interpretation whether GFCI should be retrofit to campground pedestals.

In August, RV News reported [on the issue](#) noting that ARVC leadership pledged they “would not rest until a standard is in place that protects our member parks from unnecessary regulation.”

Leaving open the question of whether pedestals should be retrofit with GFCI could cost operators tens of thousands of dollars and the campground industry millions, ARVC Senior Director of State Relations and Program Advocacy Jeff Sims says.

A Temporary Interim Amendment allows emergency changes to be put in place between biennial publication of the written NEC. If adopted, the amendment would change the NEC to specifically prohibit the requirement of GFCI protection on campground 30- and 50-amp RV electrical services.

ARVC’s grassroots push asks the industry to use an available email template to show support for the TIA during the current public comment period ending Nov. 7.

The NEC panel is next scheduled to meet in December. With a strong showing from industry, the panel may agree to add the issue to its agenda, Sims says.

The email template includes a list of four reasons the TIA should be approved.

The RV industry supports the amendment to NFPA 70 551.71(F) for the following reasons:

- 1.) The 30- and 50-amp devices are feeders and not subject to 210.8(B);

- 2.) The additive leakage allowed by multiple GFCI devices in an RV could easily exceed the limits of a Class A GFCI device;
- 3.) The Code Making Panel did not have the opportunity to review and correlate Article 551 during the 2017 code process; and
- 4.) The 2020 code now has conflicts within Article 551.71 concerning weather-resistant 20-amp receptacles, as well as with other special occupancy sections of the NEC.

Approval of TIA 1474 is an urgent matter because in its current form, the code has created ambiguous and possibly unenforceable code sections, the email concludes.

The suggested template, including the proper email address, is available on the ARVC website [here](#).

Online article: [ARVC Pushes Exemption for Pedestal GFCI](#)