



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

To: DSD Associates

From: Michael Shannon, PE, CBO, Director and Building Official

Date: January 30, 2024

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI-2024-001

TITLE: Insulation Color Coding for Non-Metallic Sheathed Cable, #10 and Smaller.

CODE EDITION: 2020 National Electrical Code and 2021 Chapter 10, Building Related Codes

SECTION: Chapter 10, Building Related Codes, Article VI, Section 210.5(C) (1)(a)

QUESTION: Am I permitted to reidentify the grounded (neutral) conductor in Non-Metallic (NM) Sheathed Cable, #10 and smaller, as an ungrounded (hot) conductor?

ANSWER: Yes. Recognizing the unavailability of factory color coded NM Cable, #10 and smaller, with only ungrounded conductors, it will be permitted to field identify the grounded (neutral) conductor with required phase conductor colors.

The grounded (neutral) conductor shall be permanently field identified with the required phase conductor color for the entire visible length, with no visible white or gray coloring exposed, in panels, disconnects, junction boxes, and termination points. The means of marking shall be by phasing tape or other effective means that is not detrimental to the insulation. The use of marking pens is not acceptable.

These changes shall apply only to Non-Metallic Sheathed Cable as described in 2020 NEC Article 334.

This Code Interpretation will remain in place until the adoption of a new Chapter 10 with the above interpretation incorporated into 210.5(C)(1)(a).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Shannon", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Shannon, P.E., C.B.O.
Director and Building Official
Development Services Department