



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM

To: DSD Associates
From: Roderick J. Sanchez, Director and Code Official
Date: July 9, 2015

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2015-004

TITLE: Storage in Electrical Rooms or Mechanical Rooms

CODE EDITION: 2014 National Electrical Code; 2015 International Fire Code

SECTION: NEC Section 110.26(B), NEC Section 240.24 (A), NEC Section 240.24 (D)
NEC Definitions; IFC 315.3.3, IFC 605.3.1

QUESTION: Can an electrical or mechanical room be used for storage?

ANSWER: **No.** The 2014 NEC Section 110.26 specifies that access and working space shall be provided and *maintained* for all electrical equipment. The space is required to allow safe operation, protection, and maintenance of the equipment and devices should not be located in the vicinity of easily ignitable material. The NEC also dictates that devices shall be readily accessible and defines readily accessible as “capable of being reached quickly for operation, renewal, or inspections without requiring...to climb over or remove obstacles...”.

The 2015 IFC Section 315.3.3 specifically states that combustible materials shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical rooms. The rooms containing electrical control panels are to be marked with a sign stating ELECTRICAL ROOM so fire fighters and authorized personnel have quick access to power and equipment disconnects in an emergency situation.

The codes work together to reduce the possibility of the ignition source coming into contact with combustible materials and to provide a safe working area for operation and maintenance.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roderick J. Sanchez', is written over a horizontal line.

Roderick J. Sanchez, AICP, C.B.O.
Director and Building Official
Development Services Department