



FILED
Department of Business and Professional Regulation
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File #:

City of Cape Coral
Department of Development Services

**PETITION FOR DECLARATORY STATEMENT
BEFORE THE FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION**

April 21, 2026

Company: City of Cape Coral
Address: 1015 Cultural Park Blvd
Cape Coral, FL 33990

Petitioner:

Name: Shane Kittendorf
Title: Building Official
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DS 2026-022

Subject: NFPA 70 (2020) – Article 555.13: Bonding of Non-Current-Carrying Metal Parts, as adopted by the Florida Building Code (2023, 8th Edition / NEC;2020)

Statute(s), Agency Rule(s), and Code Section(s) on which the Declaratory Statement is sought:

- Florida Building Code (2023, 8th Edition – NEC 2020 adoption)
- NFPA 70 (2020), NEC 555.13, which states:
“All metal parts in contact with the water, all metal piping, and all non-current-carrying metal parts that are likely to become energized shall be connected to the grounding bus in the panelboard using solid copper conductors; insulated, covered, or bare; not smaller than 8 AWG. Connections to bonded parts shall be made in accordance with 250.8.”

Background:

A wood-framed residential dock is proposed to include a permitted electrical installation consisting of:

- Boat lift(s)
- Luminaires
- Receptacles

NFPA 70 (2020) – Article 555.13: Bonding of Non-Current-Carrying Metal Parts

The dock also includes a metal ladder required by local ordinance. The ladder is permanently affixed to the structure and extends into the water.

Question(s) Presented:

1. For the specific installation described above, a wood-framed residential dock equipped with electrical systems (boat lift, luminaires, and receptacles), does NEC 555.13, as adopted by the Florida Building Code, require bonding of the permanently affixed metal ladder that extends into and is in direct contact with the water?
2. For the same installation, does the presence of energized electrical equipment located on the dock (including a boat lift, luminaires, and receptacles) cause the metal ladder, which is affixed to the structure and in contact with the water, to be considered a “non-current-carrying metal part likely to become energized” under NEC 555.13, thereby requiring bonding?
3. For the described dock installation, does the requirement in NEC 555.13 for “all metal parts in contact with the water” apply to the metal ladder independent of its connection to the electrical system, solely based on its physical condition of being in contact with the water?
4. For the described installation, where electrical equipment is present on the dock and the metal ladder extends into the water, should the potential for electrical current to be introduced into the water be considered in determining whether the metal ladder is required to be bonded under NEC 555.13, due to the risk of electrical shock hazards to individuals using or swimming near the dock?

Petitioner’s Position / Requested Determination:

The Petitioner interprets NEC 555.13 (2020) to require bonding where electrical systems are installed on residential docking facilities.

Specifically, metal ladders installed for ingress and egress into the water, and which are in direct contact with the water, are considered:

- Metal parts in contact with the water, and/or
- Non-current-carrying metal parts likely to become energized

Accordingly, such components are required to be bonded to the grounding bus in the panelboard in accordance with NEC 555.13.

The 2020 NEC language establishes three distinct categories:

1. All metal parts in contact with the water

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2. All metal piping
3. All non-current-carrying metal parts that are likely to become energized

The Petitioner’s interpretation is that the first two categories are **not modified by the phrase “likely to become energized,”** and therefore require bonding based on their condition alone.

This interpretation is further supported by the conditions present in the proposed installation:

- The presence of energized electrical equipment on the dock
- The potential for electrical current to be introduced into the water
- The increased risk of electrical shock hazards to occupants utilizing the dock or surrounding waters

Clarification:

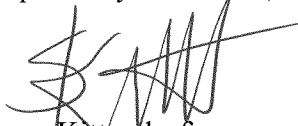
The need for this Declaratory Statement arises due to conflicting interpretations among:

- Contractors
- Design professionals
- Code officials
- Industry representatives

A formal statewide interpretation is requested to ensure:

- Consistency in enforcement
- Protection of public safety
- Alignment with the intent of the Florida Building Code

Respectfully submitted,



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