



Municipality of Anchorage



Policy E.07

Access to Jetted Pump Motors and Electrical Outlets Supplying Power Thereto

When a builder or owner installs a bathtub with jetted pumps and electrical outlets supplying power to these pumps, consideration must be given to the specific location and access to the pump motor and/or electrical outlet.

The electrical and mechanical portions of the building codes require reasonable access to pump motors and electrical outlets. The access will be required to be a minimum of 16" by 16"; this may be adjusted as noted below. Any motor will be required to be located so the supporting or securing bolts are no more than 2 feet from the access opening. Bolts need to be located so they can be easily reached with a wrench or socket from the access. Any electrical outlet will be required to be placed adjacent to the access opening.

Section 415 of the Uniform Plumbing Code requires removable access panels of sufficient dimension to provide access to pump motors. Article 314.29 of the National Electrical Code requires outlet boxes for motors to be accessible. The NEC, in Article 430.14(A) states that, "*motors shall be located so that adequate ventilation is provided and so that maintenance can be readily accomplished*" According to definitions in the NEC, a fixed panel is not acceptable. The access panel can be siliconed in place and must remain easily removable. Per Article 680.71 NEC a GFCI device may not be located behind the access panel.

While the minimum dimensions require a 16" by 16" clear opening, alternate access arrangements will be considered. The intent is that the pump may be removed easily and safely, and that electrical outlets are safely placed within one foot of the opening.

It will be required that the pump can be easily removed through the access opening without cutting or altering the piping and the tubs structural support system in any way. **IF THE REMOVAL OF A PUMP MOTOR IS IN QUESTION, THE CONTRACTOR WILL BE REQUIRED TO REMOVE THE PUMP MOTOR TO DEMONSTRATE PROPER ACCESS.**

Ron Thompson, Building Official

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(Ref: 93-01, 97-03, 97-03, 00-01, 02-09; 06-04; 05-06)