

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupters in Dwellings

Code: 2014 Electrical Code
Section: 210.12(A)

Date: March 16, 2017

Question:

Where arc-fault circuit-interrupter protection is required for branch circuits serving outlets installed in certain areas of dwellings, are lights and smoke detectors, in addition to receptacles, required to be protected by an arc-fault circuit-interrupter?

Answer:

All branch circuits supplying 15 and 20 ampere, 125 volt, single phase, outlets in dwelling unit family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sunrooms, recreation rooms, closets, hallways, or similar rooms or areas shall be protected by an arc-fault circuit-interrupter (AFCI) listed to provide protection of the entire circuit.

Lights, receptacles, and smoke detectors are outlets by definition in Article 100.