



**CITY OF OAKLAND
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF BUILDING**

CODE BULLETIN CB22 – 002

Reference: CBC 1136A.1

Date: 4/26/22

Revised:

CBC 1136A.1 - KITCHEN OUTLETS WITHIN DWELLING UNITS

1136A.1 Receptacle Heights references 1138A.3 Reach Range which sets a number of reach range limitations/requirements. However, 1136A.1 ends with the following statement: *Receptacle outlets that do not satisfy these specifications are acceptable provided that comparable receptacle outlets, that perform the same functions, are provided within the same area and are accessible.*

Question 1: Are we to assume that only one outlet is required per kitchen?

Response: The location for receptacle placements is designated within the California Electrical Code. Please see Article 210 - III- Required Outlets Article 210.52 - Dwelling unit Receptacle Outlets. This section mandates where electrical outlets are to be provided within dwelling units. Article 210-52 (3) specifies placement of receptacles within the kitchen.

California Building Code (CBC) Section 1136A identifies receptacle and switch height provisions and refers to CBC Section 1138A.3 for reach range provisions for those receptacles and switches which are required to be made accessible. Both the CBC and the Electrical Code regulate how many receptacles need to comply with these reach range provisions; the codes indicate that each branch circuit requires at least one complying receptacle. Since the Electrical Code requires not less than 2 small appliance branch circuits to be provided within a kitchen counter, a minimum of 2 receptacles (1 for each circuit) would need to be provided. In the case where the kitchen design comprises more than one bank of cabinets (e.g. galley or U-shaped arrangement), complying receptacles would be required on each counter wall. Because the Electrical Code requires that a receptacle be provided on any counter space 12-inches or longer, and receptacle placement is usually 48-inches on center for longer counters, **not less than one receptacle which complies with accessible reach ranges would be required for each kitchen counter provided.**

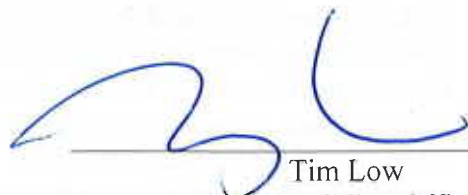
In many cases receptacles are placed within the corners of adjacent counters to comply with the Electrical Code. In cases where only a single receptacle is provided at a corner location, it is typical that the receptacle would not meet the allowable reach range of 25-inches maximum from a position where a person using a wheelchair would access the receptacle. In this type of case, an additional receptacle can be positioned out further from the corner to comply with the applicable reach ranges. The Fair Housing Act specifies that to comply with the reach range requirements for corner-placed receptacles, the receptacle must be positioned a minimum of 30-inches out from the corner. Please see Chapter 5 Page 5.8 of the Fair Housing Act Design Guidelines manual for additional reference. CBC Section 1135A allows other methods such as cabinet face receptacles to be used when a receptacle located within the corner cannot be moved.

Question 2: Many of dwelling units have open floor plans, and the kitchen, dining and living areas blend together:

- a) How is "area" defined as it pertains to the kitchen of dwelling units per 11A?
- b) Does the outlet have to be over a countertop space?
- c) Does the kitchen "work surface" require an outlet?
- d) Can the accessible outlet be on an island serving the kitchen/dining area? If the accessible outlet can be located on a wall not serving countertops or work surfaces, how far away can it be?

Response:

- a) The Electrical Code specifies where receptacles are to be located within kitchens and surrounding areas. See Article 210-52.
- b) If the countertop space meets a minimum width of 12-inches, or if a countertop space is provided on each side of a stove or kitchen sink, then the answer is yes. Article 210-52 "C" 1.
- c) Since the work surface is a minimum of 30-inches in width, it is our opinion that a receptacle would be required based upon the work surface being more than 12-inches in minimum width, and the work surface being at a wall which is more than 24-inches in width, per the Electrical Code requirements, Article 210-52.
- d) Electrical Code Section 210-52 "C" 2 & 3 requires receptacles on kitchen islands and peninsula counters. Typically, these would need to be within the reach ranges to comply with these regulations.



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