

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE
AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

Jessica S.B. Andritz, Director



COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY:

James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

August 8, 2026

RE: St. Mary's County Electrical Examiners Board – Article 210.8(F) in both the 2023 and 2026 editions of NFPA-70, The National Electric Code

To Whom It May Concern:

Article 210.8(F) in both the 2023 and 2026 editions of NFPA-70, The National Electric Code, requires GFCI protection on Single-Phase Outdoor Outlets rated 60 amperes or less at 150 volts or less to ground. This would include many outdoor HVAC units; however, Exception 2 states that GFCI protection shall not be required for listed HVAC equipment. This exception is set to expire on September 1, 2026.

This exception was put into place because traditional Class A GFCI Protection has been known to cause “nuisance tripping” due to the high frequency current leakage present in many HVAC units, and the exception was to allow manufactures time to develop and market GFCI Protection devices that would reliably operate with HVAC equipment. The technology that the industry is developing is known as GFCI HF or HF+ which will tolerate the high frequency leakage currents. While the industry is developing this technology, it appears that it is not yet readily available. Exception 3 to 210.8(F) allows a Class C SPGFCI device in lieu of the Class A GFCI, however it appears that this technology is also not yet widely available.

Since the availability of devices that fulfill the requirements of article 210.8(F) do not yet appear to be widely available The Board of Electrical Examiners for Saint Mary's County will delay enforcement of 210.8(F) for listed HVAC equipment until January 1, 2027, at which time the availability of suitable equipment will be reevaluated. Article 90.4(D) of NFPA-70 grants the authority having jurisdiction the authority to delay the implementation of this requirement.

Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Amber Harding

Amber Harding
Building Code Official