

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION FORM	STATE BUILDING COMMISSION One Capitol Hill Providence, RI. 02908-5859 (401) 222-3033	Code Interpretation No. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Code Section RISBC-5 2014 Date of Staff Preparation 11-20-14
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INQUIRER   Lucien Berthiaume	TITLE   Owner; Lou B Electric
JURISDICTION / ORGANIZATION   <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span>	

ADDRESS 153 Glaude Ln	TOWN Woonsocket	STATE   RI	ZIP 02895
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<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING CODE	<input type="checkbox"/> 1&2 FAMILY CODE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ELECTRICAL CODE
<input type="checkbox"/> MECHANICAL CODE	<input type="checkbox"/> PLUMBING CODE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENERGY CODE
<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBILITY CODE	<input type="checkbox"/> FUEL AND GAS CODE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**QUESTION:**  
9-26-2014

Removal of Knob & Tube wiring in basements:

Insurance companies have been requiring that all knob & tube in basements of residential properties be removed. This usually happens when the property is sold or when the property owner changes insurance company.

When asked to bid this type of work, I would normally remove the entire knob & tube wiring in the basement, replace it with the proper size Romex wire and terminate the knob & tube wiring in a fiberglass J-box as it exits the basement to the upper level of the home. If this property had blown in insulation I would tell the owner that all the knob & tube wiring in the insulated walls has to be removed and replace with new Romex wiring.

The local Electrical Inspector is requiring, if the knob & tube wiring in the basement is removed, then all the knob & tube wiring in the entire home has to be removed, and replaced with Romex. I have not been able to find this requirement in the 2014 NFPA 70 code book could I have an Interpretation, as to what is required?

**Response;**

The knob and tube wiring, absent of existing violations, does not have to be removed in its entirety for the fact that it is being removed from the basement area.

**Article 394 Knob and Tube Wiring**, in the 2011 or 2014 Rhode Island Building Code SBC-5 National Electrical Code does not require removal of knob and tube wiring in its entirety when replacing any portions of the wiring method, nor are there any other articles requiring the removal of such.

PREPARED BY: Robert Raimbeault State Electrical Inspector	STATE BUILDING COMMISSIONER Jack Leyden	DATE: 11-20-14
		