
POLICY NUMBER: 26-011**ELECTRICAL MAIN SERVICE PANEL CONVERSIONS****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety, compliance, and reliability of electrical systems by regulating how sub-panels and main panels are installed or modified. Replacing an existing sub-panel with a new, properly listed sub-panel is permitted when done in accordance with manufacturer instructions and the California Electrical Code (CEC). Modifying an existing main panel to serve as a sub-panel is not permitted, as this can compromise panel listing, bonding, grounding, and overall electrical safety. This policy also enforces consistency in plan review, field inspections, and project approvals to ensure uniform adherence to safety standards and code requirements.

POLICY**1. Sub-Panel Replacement:**

- Replacement of an existing sub-panel is allowed provided the new sub-panel is listed for the intended application and installed according to manufacturer instructions and CEC requirements.
- All new sub-panels must maintain proper bonding, grounding, and conductor clearances.
- Verification of panel labeling, ratings, and suitability for the installation must be performed prior to final approval.

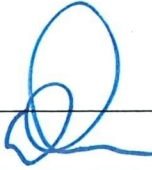
2. Main Panel Conversion:

- Modifying an existing main service panel to function as a sub-panel is strictly prohibited.
- Any attempt to convert a main panel to a sub-panel will require removal of the modification and installation of a proper listed sub-panel.
- This restriction ensures compliance with CEC 408.36, which governs service and feeder disconnecting means, and prevents compromised grounding, bonding, or overcurrent protection.

ANALYSIS

1. **Listing and Labeling Integrity:** Main panels are listed and approved as service equipment. Unauthorized modifications to convert them to sub-panels void the listing and may introduce hazards.
2. **Code Compliance:** CEC Sections 408.36 and 110.3(B) require adherence to manufacturer instructions and prohibit modifications that compromise safe operation.
3. **Bonding and Grounding Safety:** Converting a main panel to a sub-panel may disrupt bonding continuity and proper grounding, increasing shock and fire risk.

- 4. **Circuit Protection:** Main panels are designed for service disconnect and overcurrent protection; converting them may reduce protection and violate code.
- 5. **Inspection and Enforcement Consistency:** Requiring new listed sub-panels and prohibiting main panel conversions ensures uniform application of safety standards across all projects and inspections.

Approved: David Dent <i>Deputy Director/Chief Building Official</i>	Signature: 
	Date: 3/11/22