

## **MECHANICAL SERVICE OUTLET**

Provisions stipulating the placement of receptacle outlets are covered in 210.52 through 210.63. The only remaining section in Article 210 (not discussed in this series) contains receptacle placement requirements for heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration (HACR) equipment. **A 125V, single-phase, 15 or 20A-rated receptacle outlet must be installed at an accessible location for the servicing of HACR equipment.** This provision not only applies to all locations, it applies to all occupancies. The required receptacle must be located on the same level and within 25 feet (7.5 m) of the equipment. (See Figure 1.)

This section contains some significant changes from previous editions of the *Code*. **Before, this requirement only pertained to rooftops, attics and crawl spaces. Now, regardless of the equipment's location, an accessible receptacle is required. It must be on the same level and located within 25 feet (7.5 m) of the HACR equipment.** For example, an air-conditioning unit is located on the side of a one-family dwelling. The required outdoor receptacles on the front and back of the house are more than 25 feet from the air-conditioning unit. While the requirements in 210.52(E) for outdoor outlets have been satisfied, the air-conditioning equipment outlet provision has not. Therefore, another receptacle outlet must be installed. (See Figure 2.)

If the required outlet installed on the front or back of the house is on the same level and within 25 feet (7.5 m) of the air-conditioning (or heating) equipment, no additional outlet is required. For example, an air-conditioning unit is located on the side of a one-family dwelling. The required outdoor receptacles are at the front and back of the dwelling. The receptacle on the back of the house is on the same level and within 25 feet of the equipment.

Therefore, no additional receptacle outlet is required. (See Figure 3.) Section 210.63 does not require a dedicated receptacle outlet just for servicing HACR equipment. As shown by this example, a 125V, single-phase, 15 or 20A receptacle outlet can satisfy more than one *Code* requirement.