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determined by Part II of Article 220, then the "demand" load will always be equal to or smaller than the "connected" load. Let's start over with the more simple example of lighting. Say you have a 208V/3P main service to a commercial building that for the sake of this example contains only lighting. Thirty 120V lighting circuits, spread equally over each phase, each breaker with 1000VA of load. Tell me where we disagree: 1. Start with 220.40. Move on. 2. 220.42. Lighting demand factor of 100% applied. 3. So each branch circuit has 1000VA of connected load on it. 4. 1000VA / 120V = 8.3A. To get the branch circuit feeder and OCPD we look to 215, which says a continuous load must be multiplied by 125%. So 8.3A x 1.25 = 10.4A. If there was an 11A breaker we could use it here, but as we live in a world where this is not readily available we'll put it on a 15A or 20A breaker. 5. Total "connected load" on the panel is 30 x 1000VA = 30,000VA. No demand factor applied here. 6. 30,000VA / 208V / 1.732 = 83A. Holy smokes. I think I found where I've been led astray. I thought the next step is you go to 215 (or some other article?) and size the panel feeder by multiplying all your non-continuous loads by 100% and your continuous by 125%. But 215.1 says this article is only for sizing BRANCH CIRCUIT loads, not FEEDERS to PANELS or MAIN SERVICES. How I would have done the next step is this: 7. Multiply all your non-continuous loads by 100% and your continuous loads by 125%. 30,000VA x 125% = 37500VA -> 104A, and voila you need a minimum 125A panel. Have I been doing this wrong? Can you size this panel off the 83A connected load without applying the 125% continuous factor? Could this panel be a 100A panel? If so I have been taught incorrectly, and my spreadsheets have some issues, and apologies will be forthcoming for my haughtiness. Let's start over with the more simple example of lighting. Say you have a 208V/3P main service to a commercial building that for the sake of this example contains only lighting. Thirty 120V lighting circuits, spread equally over each phase, each breaker with 1000VA of load. Tell me where we disagree: 1. Start with 220.40. Move on. 2. 220.42. Lighting demand factor of 100% applied. 3. So each branch circuit has 1000VA of connected load on it. I think you've already gone astray here. You seem to be applying the feeder demand factors to branch circuits. 4. 1000VA / 120V = 8.3A. To get the branch circuit feeder and OCPD we look to 215, which says a continuous load must be multiplied by 125%. So 8.3A x 1.25 = 10.4A. If there was an 11A breaker we could use it here, but as we live in a world where this is not readily available we'll put it on a 15A or 20A breaker. You would go to Article 210 to size the branch circuit conductors, not to Article 215. Article 215 is for Feeders, not Branch Circuits. 5. Total "connected load" on the panel is 30 x 1000VA = 30,000VA. No demand factor applied here. 6. 30,000VA / 208V / 1.732 = 83A. This is where you would apply the demand factors. The FEEDER to the panel has a load of 30kVA. The FEEDER gets the demand factors. The demand factor for lighting is 100%, so the load stays at 30kVA. Holy smokes. I think I found where I've been led astray. I thought the next step is you go to 215 (or some other article?) and size the panel feeder by multiplying all your non-continuous loads by 100% and your continuous by 125%. But 215.1 says this article is only for sizing BRANCH CIRCUIT loads, not FEEDERS to PANELS or MAIN SERVICES. How I would have done the next step is this: You had it right in the first place. Article 215 is for the sizing of FEEDERS, not BRANCH CIRCUITS. 7. Multiply all your non-continuous loads by 100% and your continuous loads by 125%. 30,000VA x 125% = 37500VA -> 104A, and voila you need a minimum 125A panel. Have I been doing this wrong? Can you size this panel off the 83A connected load without applying the 125% continuous factor? Could this panel be a 100A panel? If so I have been taught incorrectly, and my spreadsheets have some issues, and apologies will be forthcoming for my haughtiness. You haven't been doing this wrong (except that you would need a feeder OCPD that is minimum 110A, not 125A.) Your feeder load after applying your demand factors is 30kVA. It is all continuous load. Therefore the minimum feeder ampacity would be 110A. Lets say that after applying demand factors, the load is 30kVA, but 15kVA is continuous and 15kVA is non-continuous. Then the minimum feeder ampacity would be 93.7A, and the minimum feeder OCPD size would be 100A. Or if after applying demand factors, the load is 30kVA, but it is all non-continuous. Then the minimum feeder ampacity would be 83A, and the minimum feeder OCPD size would be 90A. But in all 3 cases, the load is 30kVA. I still don't see how demand can be more than connected. I also have not seen a demand factor of more than 100%, someone please point out where some of these are if they exist. 220.14(C) points us to 430.22 and 430.24, yet both of those sections are about minimum conductor size and not about demand issues.? How does one call that a demand factor? 220.14(C) tells us to calculate the demand load for motors in accordance with 430.22 and 430.24. This means that the 25% factor is already part of the "connected" load. The same number is carried through to the "demand" load in Part III. This is where we disagree. But it is a matter of terminology. We are in the middle of the classical debate that I like to characterize as follows: The first person says, "The sky is blue." The second person says, "No you are wrong, the grass is green." Using your 5HP motor example, I believe you and I would both come up with the same design choices for branch circuit wiring and for panel sizing. But I would use the phrase "connected load" to refer to the 16.7 amp (6,012 VA) load on each branch circuit, not the 16.7 amps times 125% (7,515 VA) that is used to determine the branch circuit wiring. I have "connected" a 5 HP motor to the circuit. I have not "connected" a 5 x 125% HP motor. That is why my panel schedule would show a "connected load" of 4 times 6012, or 24.0 KVA, while at the same time showing a "demand load" of 7515 plus 3 times 6012, or 25.5 KVA. So if the OP comes across a panel schedule from a design of mine and sees a demand load that is higher than connected load, this will be the reason. If anyone sees the situation differently, it is not because one of us is right and the other is wrong, it is because we are using the words differently. Please note that the NEC does not define either "connected load" or "demand load." So neither one of us can say that "only I am right in my use of the phrases." It is all in the manner in which you are using those two phrases. Please see my post immediately above this one. I see what you are getting at. That said your demand load and connected load on your panel schedules are meaningless if they are not defined, JMO. To calculate the maximum demand of electrical circuits by applying diversity, first you need to know the total connected load. The total connected electrical load is all of the loads added together. Diversity might also be applied to individual items of electrical equipment such as a cooker. The Total connected load (or full load) is the sum of all electrical loads added together, for example: Total Connected Load = Load 1 + Load 2 + Load 3 and so on... Electrical Diversity is a factor applied as an allowance of load not likely to be used at the same time, for example: If load 1 is only used 50% of the time and load 2 is only used the remaining 50% of the time 10 Amps (Load 1) + 10 Amps (Load 2) = 20 Amps (Total Connected Load), then 20 Amps (Total Connected Load) x 0.5 (Diversity Factor @ 50%) = 10 Amps (Maximum Demand). This method might be referred to as a usage factor (UF). For another example a 32 Amp ring final circuit for standard 13 amp socket-outlets, every socket-outlet on the circuit are very unlikely to all be used at the same time, therefore the On-Site Guide offers a diversity factor calculation which maybe applied to this circuit. The IET On-Site Guide of BS 7671 Appendix A "Maximum demand and diversity" section offers some guidance on applying diversity to different types of loads and varying types of premises. Maximum demand is the load after applying diversity, for example, Total Connected Load x Diversity = Maximum Demand. After diversity maximum demand (ADMD) is used in the design of electricity distribution networks. ADMD is the load after applying diversity, for example: Load x Diversity = After diversity maximum demand (ADMD). ADMD (After diversity maximum demand) is the calculated "Maximum Demand", after applying "Diversity". There are many ways to apply different electrical diversity factors to different types of electrical loads, fixed equipment or electrical circuits. Calculating diversity is not an exact science since there are multiple varying factors which must be considered when calculating diversity and maximum demand, these factors will vary from premises to premises. It is also worth considering the life span of the electrical installation as should the way the installation is used change then the diversity factors applied previously may no longer be relevant. As a very basic example to calculate diversity for a cooker in a dwelling, based on Appendix A of the OSG: Cooker = 8kW 8kW + 230v = 34.78 Amps The first 10 Amps + 30% of the remaining load so, 10 Amps + 7.43 Amps = 17.43 Amps. Diversity can be applied to a cooker as it is very unlikely that the oven, grill and all 4 hob rings are going to be heating all at the same time, once the oven or hob ring has reached its target temperature then it will switch itself off until the temperature drops. Some types are not permitted to have diversity to be applied such as electric heaters and showers because it is either on or off. For easy of use, try out our Maximum Demand Calculator. The designer of an electrical installation might also take into account that certain circuits or loads within the installation are not likely to be used at the exact same time so they might apply a usage factor (UF) to those loads. An example of this might be in a premises with a master water heater and a backup water heater, the backup water heater can only be used if the master water heater fails. What diversity factor should I use? Although there is some guidance in the OSG unfortunately there is no single answer to this one, which is why applying diversity to connected loads can be time consuming and complicated, detailed knowledge of the electrical installation in question and experience is required to decide on which diversity factors to use and apply to the connected electrical loads. A diversity factor defined by the following formula, Diversity Factor = Total Connected Load / Actual Maximum Load We have recognized this issue so have developed an electrical Diversity Calculator to assist with the calculation of diversity which consists of 3 different methods for calculating and applying diversity to electrical loads which include the OSG guide values, rule of thumb method, and a custom diversity factor with an additional usage factor which could be applied to the OSG method. Preparing for the Texas electrician exam requires a comprehensive understanding of electrical concepts, including load calculations. One critical distinction that can significantly impact your exam success is knowing the difference between the connected load and the demand load. In this guide, we'll delve into this essential topic to ensure you're well-prepared for the state exam with this type of NEC code questions and answers. Connected Load: The Starting Point The connected load, often referred to as the connected load VA (Volt-Amperes), represents the sum of the ratings or nameplate values of all electrical devices, fixtures, and appliances connected to a circuit or electrical system. It's essentially the total capacity or potential load that could be drawn if all connected devices operated simultaneously at their maximum ratings. Understanding the connected load is foundational for load calculations, as it provides the starting point for assessing the electrical requirements of a system. During the Texas electrician exam, you may encounter questions that require you to determine the connected load accurately. Demand Load: The Realistic Load On the other hand, the demand load represents the actual load or power consumption that a system or circuit is expected to draw based on typical usage patterns. It takes into account the probability that not all connected devices will operate simultaneously at their maximum ratings. The demand load considers diversity and load factors, reflecting real-world scenarios where not all appliances or equipment run simultaneously at their peak. This load calculation method provides a more realistic assessment of a system's electrical requirements. Other Calculation NEC Code Questions in the Master Exam 33 Items (including 3 Non-Scored Items) 170 Minutes 70% Correct to Pass CONTENT OUTLINE - CALCULATIONS PORTION Subject Area # of Items Calculations and Theory 2 Electrical Services, Service Equipment, and Separately Derived Systems 8 Electrical Feeders 3 Branch Circuit Calculations and Conductors 4 Electrical Wiring Methods and Electrical Materials 2 Electrical Equipment and Devices 2 Motors and Generators 6 Electrical Control Devices and Disconnecting Means 1 Special Occupancies, Equipment, and Conditions 1 Renewable Energy Technologies 1 Exam Significance Understanding the difference between the connected load and the demand load is crucial for success on the Texas electrician exam. Questions related to load calculations may involve scenarios where you need to calculate the demand load based on the connected load and specific diversity or load factors. Mastering this distinction enables you to apply load calculation principles accurately, ensuring that your electrical designs and installations meet code requirements and safety standards. Conclusion As you embark on your journey to become a licensed electrician in Texas, remember that load calculations are a fundamental aspect of the profession. Knowing the difference between the connected load and the demand load is not only crucial for exam success but also for your future career as a skilled electrician. By grasping this essential distinction, you'll be better equipped to tackle load calculation questions on the Texas electrician exam and, more importantly, to provide safe and compliant electrical installations in the real world. There are a couple cases in article 220 where they specify the load you are required to use for a given purpose such as for a signage circuit (1200 VA) and for show window receptacles (75 va/ft) etc. These loads by their nature obviously run continuously (greater than 3 hours). In my load calcs, I have always taken these loads at face value and never bothered taking them at 125% because I assumed that when they wrote the NEC it was understood that these loads would run continuously. I received 2 rejections within 6 months requesting that I take these loads at 125%. I didn't bother arguing with the plan reviewer because it represented such a small load. My question is, if the NEC gives you a fixed VA, should you still apply the demand factor of 125%? There are a couple cases in article 220 where they specify the load you are required to use for a given purpose such as for a signage circuit (1200 VA) and for show window receptacles (75 va/ft) etc. These loads by their nature obviously run continuously (greater than 3 hours). In my load calcs, I have always taken these loads at face value and never bothered taking them at 125% because I assumed that when they wrote the NEC it was understood that these loads would run continuously. I received 2 rejections within 6 months requesting that I take these loads at 125%. I didn't bother arguing with the plan reviewer because it represented such a small load. My question is, if the NEC gives you a fixed VA, should you still apply the demand factor of 125%? First off, 125% factoring for continuous loads is not part of Article 220 load calculations. It is part of conductor and ocpd selection under 210.19(A)(1) or 215.2(A)(1). Note these sections state that "conductors shall have an ampacity not less than required to supply the load as calculated in Parts III, IV, and V of Article 220. The minimum ... conductor size, before the application of any adjustment or correction factors, shall have an allowable ampacity not less than the noncontinuous load plus 125 percent of the continuous load." So if the loads are continuous, then yes they are required to be factored at 125% for conductor and ocpd selection. Last edited: May 14, 2013 So why wouldn't the NEC require you to use 1500 VA for a sign rather than 1200 VA? A building's signage circuit will always be continuous and wont vary between building to building. I understand what you're saying just not sure why the code is written as it is. So why wouldn't the NEC require you to use 1500 VA for a sign rather than 1200 VA? A building's signage circuit will always be continuous and wont vary between building to building. I understand what you're saying just not sure why the code is written as it is. It is written as it is because the calculated load and the required ampacity are two different things and are discussed in two different sections of the code. The wire has to be able to carry 125%, but the service does not have to be sized to supply 125% of the calculated load. So lets say you have just a single 200A panel feeding all the lights, receptacles, signage etc. and you provide a load calculation for the panel which is pretty typical on a project. Are you saying that you shouldn't apply a demand factor of 125% for the lighting etc? Only apply the 125% demand for the branch circuit? Ie. Panel "X" Panel Schedule Lighting: \_\_\_\_va @ 125% Signage circuit: 1200 VA @ 125 %= 1500 VA Misc.: \_\_\_\_VA @ 100% ----- Panel "X" load calculation Lighting: 3 VA/ft^2 @ 100% Signage: 1200 VA @ 100% Misc.: \_\_\_\_VA @ 100% So why wouldn't the NEC require you to use 1500 VA for a sign rather then 1200 VA? A building's signage circuit will always be continuous and wont vary between building to building. I understand what you're saying just not sure why the code is written as it is. Not sure what you mean here. The 1200VA value is a minimum, just like the 75VA/ft for show windows. This value has to be included in the calculation whether there is an actual connected load or not. If the actual connected load is greater, you have to use the connected load value. If the connected load is less or non-existent, it is an allowance for future load addition without requiring upsizing of the service. As to why Code uses these particular values is a moot discussion. So lets say you have just a single 200A panel feeding all the lights, receptacles, signage etc. and you provide a load calculation for the panel which is pretty typical on a project. Are you saying that you shouldn't apply a demand factor of 125% for the lighting etc? Only apply the 125% demand for the branch circuit? Ie. Panel "X" Panel Schedule Lighting: \_\_\_\_va @ 125% Signage circuit: 1200 VA @ 125 %= 1500 VA Misc.: \_\_\_\_VA @ 100% ----- Panel "X" load calculation Lighting: 3 VA/ft^2 @ 100% Signage: 1200 VA @ 100% Misc.: \_\_\_\_VA @ 100% Application of 125% for continuous loads is not generalized. In some situations the same load can be noncontinuous. In a commercial environment, some lighting will likely be continuous, some not... but signage and show window loads are rarely noncontinuous.

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