ARTICLE

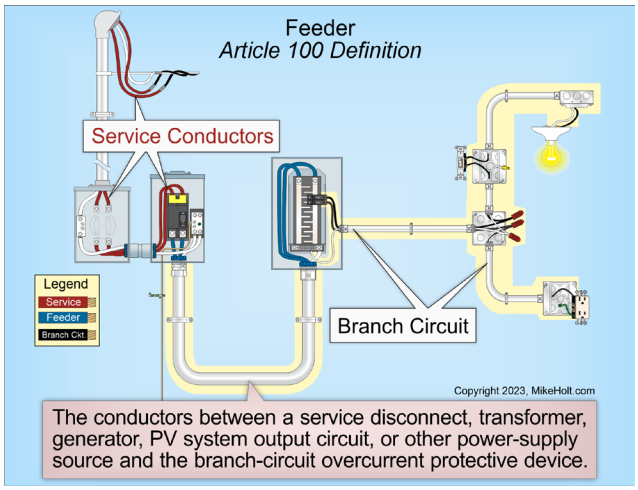
215 FEEDERS

Introduction to Article 215—Feeders

Article 215 covers the rules for the installation, protection, and ampacity of feeders. It is important to understand the distinct differences between these circuits to correctly apply the *Code* requirements.

Feeders are the conductors between the service disconnect, the separately derived system, or other supply source, and the final branch-circuit overcurrent protective device. Conductors past the final overcurrent protective device protecting the circuit and the outlet are branch-circuit conductors and fall within the scope of Article 210 [Article 100 Definitions]. ▸Figure 215–1

It is easy to be confused between feeder, branch-circuit, and service conductors so it is important to evaluate each installation carefully using the Article 100 definitions to be sure the correct *NEC* rules are followed.



▸Figure 215–1

215.15 Barriers

This new section requires inadvertent contact protection for the line-side busbars or terminals of equipment supplied by feeder taps or transformer secondary conductors.

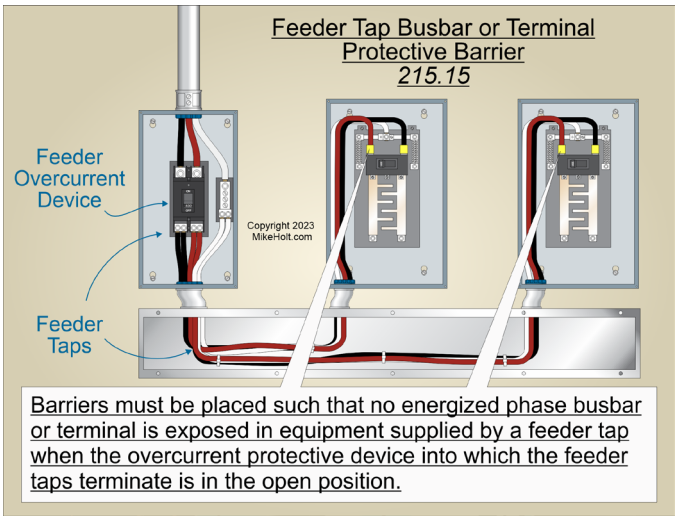
Analysis

NEW

This new section requires the line-side busbar or terminals of equipment supplied by feeder taps or transformer secondary conductors to be protected from inadvertent contact by placing barriers over the exposed energized parts. This mirrors the line-side barrier protection requirements for services found in 230.62(C), but this requirement applies to panelboards, switchboards, switchgear, or motor control centers supplied by feeder taps or transformer secondary conductors.

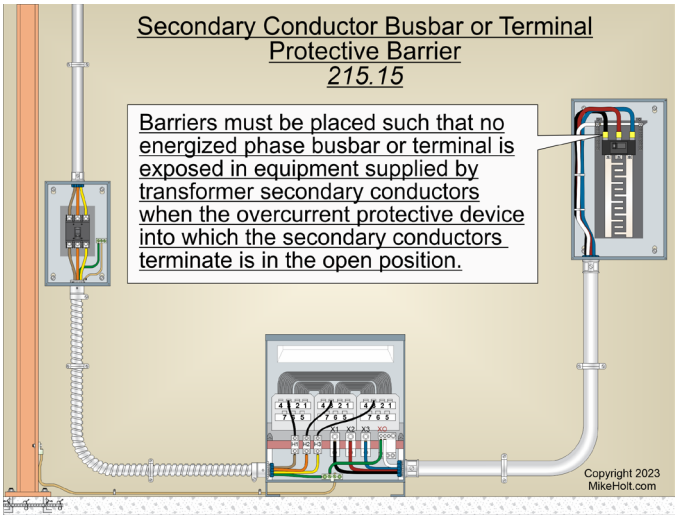
215.15 Barriers

Feeder Taps. Barriers must be placed such that no energized phase busbar or terminal is exposed in equipment supplied by a feeder tap [240.21(B)] when the overcurrent protective device into which the feeder taps terminate is in the open position. ▸Figure 215–4



▸Figure 215–4

Secondary Conductors. Barriers must be placed such that no energized phase busbar or terminal is exposed in equipment supplied by transformer secondary conductors [240.21(C)] when the overcurrent protective device into which the secondary conductors terminate is in the open position. ▸Figure 215–5



▸Figure 215–5

Author's Comment:

- During maintenance and servicing it is very likely an electrical worker can be exposed to inadvertent contact with energized parts on the line side of a feeder tap or secondary conductor disconnect, even if the disconnect is in the open position. Barriers on feeder tap and transformer secondary conductor disconnects reduce the hazards that exist and create an electrically safe work condition.