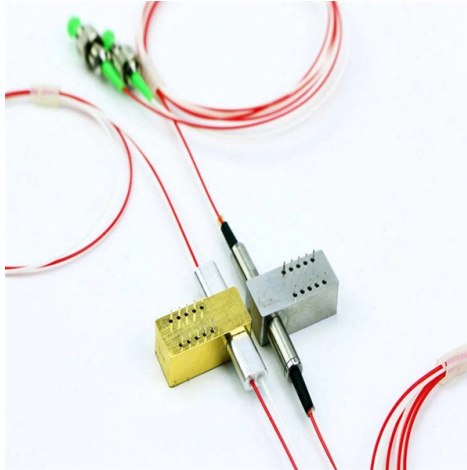


Setting Power Parameters for Secondary Distribution Box



Overview

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Key Takeaways

The power of a secondary distribution box (subpanel) is set by calculating the total load, selecting appropriate breakers, and ensuring proper wiring from the main panel. Determine Load Requirements

Before setting the power, calculate the total expected load for the circuits the subpanel will serve. Include lighting, outlets, appliances, and any high-demand equipment. The sum of these loads determines the main breaker rating for the subpanel and the wire size needed to safely carry the current .

Select the Subpanel and Breakers

Choose a subpanel with sufficient capacity for the calculated load. Install a main breaker in the subpanel that does not exceed the feeder breaker rating in the main panel. Then, install branch circuit breakers for each individual circuit, ensuring each breaker matches the load and wire gauge .

Wiring the Subpanel

- Connect the subpanel to the main panel using a properly sized feeder cable. The wire size depends on the subpanel's total load and distance from the main panel .

- Maintain correct phase, neutral, and ground connections. In a subpanel, the neutral and ground bars must be separated to prevent neutral current from flowing through the grounding system .
 - Arrange breakers neatly, typically from left to right, and label each circuit clearly .
- Safety and Compliance
- Ensure the subpanel is installed in a dry, accessible location with proper clearance (minimum 3 feet in front, 30 inches wide) as per NEC standards .
 - Mark the voltage and type of power (AC, DC) clearly inside the panel .
 - Perform a safety inspection after wiring to check for short circuits, overloads, and proper grounding .

Summary

Setting the power of a secondary distribution box involves calculating the load, selecting the correct subpanel and breakers, properly wiring the feeder and circuits, and ensuring compliance with safety standards. Following these steps ensures reliable and safe power distribution to the secondary circuits within a building .

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