2019 California Electrical Code, Section 89.108.4

Section 89.108.4.1(a): Permits Required. Except as exempted in paragraph (b) of this section, a written construction permit shall be obtained from the enforcing agency prior to the erection, construction, reconstruction, installation, movement, or alteration of any electrical system.

Section 89.108.4.1(b): Consistent with the requirements of Section 17960 of the Health and Safety Code, the local enforcing agency shall enforce the requirements of this code, but shall exempt the following activities from the requirement for a permit or inspection:

1. Listed cord and plug connected temporary decorative lighting.
2. Reinstallation of attachment plugs receptacles, but not the outlets therefore.
3. Repair or replacement of branch circuit overcurrent devices of the required capacity in the same location.
4. Installation or maintenance of communications wiring, devices, appliances, apparatus or equipment.

COMMON ELECTRICAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Permits Required – Permits are required for:
• New hard-wired (connected to the building wiring without the use of an approved plug) fixtures and appliance such as ceiling fans, fixed light fixtures, fan hoods, and electric water heaters.
• Any new or relocated wiring, circuits, switches, receptacles, underground conduits, low voltage apparatus over 25volts/50watts, sup-panels, or service panels.
• Any temporary power pole, service, or lighting for construction, space, or lot lighting.

Exempt From Permit – Permits are not required for:
• Portable (plug-in and not permanently fixed) appliances and fixtures such as plug-in lamps, plug-in kitchen appliances (toasters, microwaves etc.).
• Repair or replacement of fixed approved appliances or fixtures type and rating and in the same location. For example, replacing a light fixture, bathroom fan, or fan hood of the same type and rating, in the same place.
• Replacement of fuses and circuit breakers of the proper size and rating and in the same location.
• Temporary decorative holiday lighting (for not more than 90 days).