North Central Texas Council of Governments

Recommended Amendments to the
2026 National Electrical Code
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The following articles, paragraphs, and sentences of the *2026 National Electrical Code (NEC)* are hereby amended as follows: Standard type is text from the NEC. Underlined type is text inserted. ~~Lined through type is deleted text from NEC.~~ A double asterisk (**) at the beginning of an article identifies an amendment carried over from the 2023 edition of the code and a triple asterisk (***) identifies a new or revised amendment with the 2026 code.

***Article 100; add the following to definitions:**

Engineering Supervision. Supervision by a Qualified State of Texas Licensed Professional Engineer engaged primarily in the design or maintenance of electrical installations as referenced by 22 Texas Administrative Code Sections 137.59 (a) and (b) as acceptable by the AHJ.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To better define the qualifications for engineering supervision. This term is used 169 times in the 2026 National Electrical Code*.)*

***Article 110.2; change to read as follows:**

110.2 Approval. The conductors and equipment required or permitted by this Code shall be acceptable only if approved. Approval of equipment may be evident by listing and labeling of equipment by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) with a certification mark of that laboratory or a qualified third-party inspection agency or a field evaluation by a field evaluation body accredited by either the International Code Council, International Accreditation Service AC354 or ANSI National Accreditation Board programs and approved by the AHJ.

Exception: Unlisted equipment that is relocated to another location within a jurisdiction or is field modified is subject to the approval by the AHJ. This approval may be by a field evaluation by a NRTL or qualified third-party inspection agency or a field evaluation by a Field Evaluation Body accredited by either the ICC IAS AC354 or ANAB programs and approved by the AHJ.

Informational Note No. 1: See 90.7, Examination of Equipment for Safety, and 110.3, Examination, Identification, Installation, Use, and listing (Product Certification) of Equipment.

Informational Note No. 2: See Article 100 for the definition of Approved, Identified, Labeled, and Listed.

Informational Note No. 3: Manufacturer's self-certification of equipment may not necessarily comply with U.S. product safety standards as certified by an NRTL.

Informational Note No. 4: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 790 and 791 provide an example of an approved method for qualifying a third-party inspection agency.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To add clarity and provide more positive options for enforcement and approval of unlisted equipment.)

******Article 110.12; change to read as follows:***

110.12 Mechanical Execution of Work. The installation and servicing of electrical equipment and all associated wiring shall be ~~installed~~ performed by qualified persons in a professional and skillful manner.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To add clarity and provide more positive options for enforcement.)

******Article110.12(B); add the following to:***

(B) Integrity of Electrical Equipment and Connections. Internal parts of electrical equipment, including busbars, wiring terminals, insulators, and other surfaces, shall not be damaged or contaminated by foreign materials such as paint, plaster, cleaners, abrasives, corrosive residues or influences, fire, products of combustion, or water. There shall be no damaged parts that may adversely affect safe operation or mechanical strength of the equipment such as parts that are broken; bent; cut; or deteriorated by corrosion, chemical action, or overheating. Except where prohibited elsewhere in this Code, equipment shall be specifically evaluated by its manufacturer or a qualified testing laboratory prior to being returned to service.

Informational Note No. 1: See NEMA GD 1-2019, Evaluating Water-Damaged Electrical Equipment, for information on electrical equipment and wiring methods damaged by water.

Informational Note No. 2: See NEMA GD 2-2021, Evaluating Fire- and Heat-Damaged Electrical Equipment, for information on electrical equipment and wiring methods damaged by fire or heat.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To better define a Plan of Action for equipment that is compromised prior to restoring to service)

******110.26(C)(1); change the following to read as follows:***

(1) Minimum Required. At least one entrance of sufficient area shall be provided to give access to and egress from working space about electrical equipment. The pathway shall be continuous and unobstructed from the required working space for a minimum of 7.6 m (25 ft).

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To add clarity and provide more positive options for enforcement)

***Article 120.8; add the following:**

120.8 Load Calculation. A load calculation shall be provided to the AHJ upon request when modifications to the electrical installation occurs.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To provide a positive option to verify compliance with this code.)

***Article 210.52(C)(1) Exception; change to read as follows:**

(C) Countertops and Work Surfaces. In kitchens, pantries, breakfast rooms, dining rooms, and similar areas of dwelling units, receptacle outlets for countertop and work surfaces that are 300 mm (12 in.) or wider shall be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(1) with through (C)(3) and shall not be considered as the receptacle outlets required by **210.52(A)**.

For the purposes of this section, where using multioutlet assemblies, each 300 mm (12 in.) of multioutlet assembly containing two or more receptacles installed in individual or continuous lengths shall be considered to be one receptacle outlet.

(1) Wall Spaces. Receptacle outlets shall be installed so that no point along the wall line is more than 600 mm (24 in.) measured horizontally from a receptacle outlet in that space. The location of the receptacles shall be in accordance with 210.52(C)(3).

Exception ~~No. 1:~~ Receptacle outlets shall not be required directly behind a range, counter-mounted cooking unit, or sink in the installation described in Figure 210.52(C)(1).

~~Exception No. 2: Where a required receptacle outlet cannot be installed in the wall areas shown in Figure 210.52(C)(1), the receptacle outlet shall be permitted to be installed as close as practicable to the countertop area to be served. The total number of receptacle outlets serving the countertop shall not be less than the number needed to satisfy 210.52(C)(1). These outlets shall be located in accordance with 210.52(C)(3).~~

(REASON FOR CHANGE: Elimination of receptacles in an area with a concept window wall configuration over the countertop is not the only option as there are devices available for a compliant installation)

***Article 210.52(C)(2): change to read as follows:**

(2) Island and Peninsular Countertops and Work Surfaces. If provided to serve an island or peninsular countertop or work surface, receptacle outlets shall be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(3) and 210.52(C)(4). If a receptacle outlet is not provided to serve an island or peninsular countertop or work surface, a small appliance branch circuit in an approved wiring

method shall be installed to a listed outlet box in the peninsular or island cabinet at an accessible location ~~electrical provisions shall be provided at the island or peninsula~~ for future addition of a receptacle outlet to serve the island or peninsular countertop or work surface.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To clarify what the provisions are for positive options for enforcement and approval)

***Article 230.70(E) Exception; change to read as follows:**

Exception: If existing service equipment, installed in compliance with previous editions of this Code, and only meter sockets, service entrance conductors, or related raceways and fittings are replaced, the requirements of 230.70(A)(1) and 230.70(A)(2) shall not apply.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: The language that exists was amended in the 2023 NEC. It was moved to its new section in the 2026 NEC.)

***Article 250.50; change to read as follows:**

Grounding Electrode System. All grounding electrodes as described in 250.52(A)(1) through 250.52(A)(7) that are present at each building or structure served shall be bonded together to form the grounding electrode system. If none of these grounding electrodes exist, one or more of the grounding electrodes specified in 250.52(A)(4) through 250.52(A)(8) shall be installed and used. If the concrete encased electrode as required by 250.52(A)(3) is covered during construction prior to an inspection, one of the following shall be required:

(1) A ground ring installed in accordance with 250.52(A)(4).

(2) Under engineering supervision, a point of connection to the concrete encased electrode shall be detailed.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To provide uniform enforcement across North Texas for the ease of the contractor in the event an electrode is covered.)

Article 408.4; change to read as follows:

(A) Circuit Directory or Circuit Description. Every circuit and circuit modification shall be provided with a legible and permanent description that complies with all of the following conditions as applicable:

(1) Located at each switch or circuit breaker in a switchboard or switchgear
(2) Included in a circuit directory that is located on the face of, inside of, or in an approved location and permanently affixed to the panel door in the case of a panelboard
(3) Clear, evident, and specific to the purpose or use of each circuit including spare positions with an unused overcurrent device
(4) Described with a degree of detail and clarity that is unlikely to result in confusion between circuits
(5) Not dependent on transient conditions of occupancy
(6) Clear in explaining abbreviations and symbols when used

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To add clarity and provide more positive options for enforcement and approval)

***Article 410.118; change to read as follows:**

410.118 Access to other boxes. Luminaires recessed in the ceilings, floors, or walls shall not be used to access outlet, pull, or junction boxes or conduit bodies, unless the box or conduit body is an integral part of the listed luminaire.

Exception: removable luminaires with a minimum measurement of 22 in. X 22 in. shall be permitted to be used as access to outlet, pull, junction boxes or conduit bodies.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To add clarity and provide more positive options for enforcement and approval. This will allow access to boxes not integral with the luminaire. This measurement aligns with the limited access above a lay-in ceiling measurement in 110.26(A)(4).

~~***Article 422.31(B); change to read as follows***~~

~~**(B) Appliances Rated Over 300 Volt-Amperes.** For permanently connected appliances rated over 300 volt-amperes, the branch-circuit switch or circuit breaker shall be permitted to serve as the disconnecting means where the switch or circuit breaker is within sight from and is readily accessible to the appliance it serves or is capable of being locked in the open position in accordance with 110.25 and is readily accessible to the appliance it serves.~~

~~Informational Note No. 1: For appliances employing unit switches, see 422.34.~~

~~Informational Note No. 2: The following means of access are considered to constitute readily accessible for this code change when conforming to the additional access requirement of the I-Codes:~~
~~(1) A permanent stair.~~
~~(2) A pull-down stair with a minimum 300 lb. (136kg) capacity.~~
~~(3) An access door from an upper floor level.~~

(REASON FOR CHANGE: The language of this article was revised in the 2026 NEC. Enforcement of its requirements may be handled through other sections. It can be deleted.)

****Article 500.8(A)(3); change to read as follows:**

(A) Suitability. Suitability of identified equipment tested and investigated for use as defined in this article shall be determined by one of the following:

(1) Equipment listing or labeling
(2) Evidence of equipment evaluation from a qualified laboratory or inspection agency concerned with product evaluation
~~(3) Evidence acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction such as a manufacturer's self-evaluation~~

(REASON FOR CHANGE: Recommend for added clarity and to provide more positive options for enforcement..)

******Article 505.7 (A); change to read as follows:***

(A) Implementation of Zone Classification System. Classification of areas, engineering and design, selection of equipment and wiring methods, and an onsite assessment of the installation, and inspection shall be performed by qualified licensed professional engineer in the State of Texas engaged primarily in the design or maintenance of electrical installations as referenced in 22 *Texas Administrative Code* Sections 137.59(a) and (b) as acceptable by the AHJ ~~persons~~.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: Recommend for added clarity, positive enforcement options, and legal corrections.)

******Article 600.4(B); change to read as follows:***

(B) Visibility. Listing labels and markings that identify the input voltage and current rating shall be visible after installation and be permanently applied in a location visible prior to servicing. The marking shall be permitted in a location not viewed by the public.

A Class 2 field wired sign shall have the listing label permanently applied on the power supply enclosure.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To provide a positive option to verify compliance with this code and UL 48, Standard for Electric Signs.)

******Article 695.7(A)(1); change to read as follows:***

(1) Services and On-Site Power Production Facilities. Service conductors and conductors supplied by on-site power production facilities shall be physically routed outside a building(s) and shall be installed as service-entrance conductors in accordance with 230.9 and Article 230 Parts III and IV. Where supply conductors cannot be physically routed outside of buildings, the conductors shall be permitted to be routed through the building(s) where installed in accordance with 695.7(A)(2)(d)(1) or 695.7(A)(2)(d)(2).

Exception: The supply conductors within the fire pump room shall not be required to meet 695.7(A)(2)(d)(2).

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To add clarity and provide more positive options for enforcement and approval. All Fire Pump rooms are not Fire Rated ~~as~~ on all 4 sides. There are Fault Currents that could exceed 150,000-190,000 amps and protection of these Service Conductors is essential and conflict with other codes, specifically 230.70(A)(1).)

***Article 700.4(A); change to read as follows:**

(A) Commissioning Witness Test. The authority having jurisdiction shall conduct or witness the commissioning in person, remotely or through documentation acceptable to the AHJ of the completed system upon installation and periodically afterward.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To add additional paths for compliance that will ease scheduling on the contractor and field inspection staff.)

***Article 701.4(A); change to read as follows:**

(A) Commissioning Witness Test. The authority having jurisdiction shall conduct or witness the commissioning in person, remotely or through documentation acceptable to the AHJ of the completed system upon installation.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To add additional paths for compliance that will ease scheduling on the contractor and field inspection staff.)

Article 705.8; change to read as follows:

705.8 System Installation. Installation of one or more electrical power production sources operating in parallel with a primary source(s) of electricity shall be performed only by qualified persons. During the installation there shall be on site one of the following:

(1) A person holding a Master Electrician License issued by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

(2) A person holding a Journeyman Electrician License issued by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: These are specialized systems as evidenced by the Code, which contain installation requirements from chapter 6, Specific Equipment and chapter 7 Specific Conditions.)

***Article 705.11(C)(1); change to read as follows:**

Power Source Connections in Buildings. Power source service conductors located within buildings and connected to existing service conductors or equipment shall be terminated in a disconnect located in accordance with 230.70(A)(1) and protected in accordance with 230.91. ~~one of the following methods:~~

~~(1) In dwelling units, with an OCPD located within 3 m (10 ft) of conductor length from the point of connection~~

~~(2) In other than dwelling units, with an OCPD located within 5 m (16.5 ft) of conductor length from the point of connection~~

~~(3) Under engineering supervision for services not over 1000 volts ac, nominal, in other than dwelling units in accordance with the following:~~

~~(a) With one cable limiter per ungrounded conductor, located within switchgear or similar enclosures, and within 5 m (16.5) of conductor length from the point of connection~~

~~(b) With an OCPD located within 20 m (66 ft) of conductor length from the point of connection~~

(REASON FOR CHANGE: Code language as written creates a life safety hazard.)

***Article 705.80; change to read as follows:**

705.80 Power Source Capacity. For interconnected power production sources that operate in island mode, capacity shall be calculated using the sum of all power source output maximum currents for the connected power production source. Solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind systems shall not be included in the sum capacity.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To keep unreliable production sources out of the calculation as 705 creates conflicts with all standby systems.)

****Article 706.7(A); change to read as follows:**

(A) Commissioning. ESS's shall be commissioned upon installation in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. The commissioning report, which shall include the operational controls and safety systems, shall be provided upon request of the AHJ. Unless required elsewhere in this code, the AHJ shall not be required to conduct or witness the commissioning of the ESS.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To add additional paths for compliance that will ease scheduling on the contractor and field inspection staff.)

****Article 706.15(B); change to read as follows:**

(B) Location and Control. The disconnecting means shall be readily accessible and comply with one or more of the following:

(1) Be located within the ESS

(2) Be located and visible and within 3 m (10 ft) from the ESS
Informational Note: See Article 100 and 90.4(C) for information on special permission

(3) Be lockable open in accordance with 110.25, or the enclosure providing access to the disconnecting means be capable of being locked closed.

Where controls to activate the disconnecting means of an ESS are used and are not located within sight of the ESS, the disconnecting means shall be lockable in accordance with 110.25, and the location of the controls shall be marked on the disconnecting means.

Where the equipment contains a door assembly, the disconnecting means shall be located outside and within sight of the ESS.

For one- and two-family dwellings, an ESS shall include an emergency shutdown function to cease the export of power from the ESS to premises wiring of other systems. An initiation device(s) shall be located at a readily accessible location outside the building and shall plainly indicate whether in the "off" or "on" position. The "off" position of the device(s) shall perform the ESS emergency shutdown function.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To provide an appropriate level of protection for pre-assembled walk in ESS units. These systems have led to serious injury when entering by first responders.)

******Article 708.6; change to read as follows:***

Conduct or Witness Test. The authority having jurisdiction shall conduct or witness a test in person, remotely or through documentation acceptable to the AHJ of the completed system upon installation and periodically afterward.

(REASON FOR CHANGE: To add additional paths for compliance that will ease scheduling on the contractor and field inspection staff.)

END