

TOP 25 CODE CHANGES



1. Article 100 – Definitions

Dormitory Unit : A building or a space in a building in which group sleeping accommodations are provided for more than 16 persons who are not members of the same family in one room, or a series of closely associated rooms, under joint occupancy and single management, with or without meals, but without individual cooking facilities. (CMP 2)

2. Terminal Connection Torque

This revision to Sec. 110.14 requires the use of an approved means to torque terminations and adds three Informational Notes.

3. Identification of Disconnect Means

Per Sec. 110.22, the disconnecting means now requires the identification of the source that supplies the circuit disconnecting means.

4. GFCI Protection

Revisions to Sec. 210.8 are many and include clarifications, expansions to existing rules, and a few new items.

5. Reconditioned Equipment

New Sec. 210.15 was added prohibiting GFCI devices, AFCI devices, and ground-fault protection equipment from being reconditioned

6. Lighting Load for Non-Dwellings

The scope of Sec. 220.12 was modified to only include lighting loads for non-dwelling occupancies, the lighting load table was revised to follow the maximum permitted lighting loads as specified by current energy codes.

7. Surge Protection

The new Sec. 230.67 requires installation of a surge-protective device (SPD) for all dwelling unit services.

8. Number of Service Disconnects

A service is required to have only one disconnecting means, except as permitted in Sec. 230.71(B).

9. Emergency Disconnects

A new requirement for one- and two-family dwelling units to have an emergency disconnect installed in a readily accessible exterior location was added to Sec. 230.85.

10. Grounding & Bonding

New provisions in Sec. 250.68(C)(3) were added to clarify that the rebar system in a footing or foundation is not suitable as the conductor to interconnect other grounding electrodes.

New Sec. 250.109 permits metal enclosures to be used to connect bonding jumpers or equipment grounding conductors as a part of the effective ground-fault current path.

11. Paralleled Installations

Additional language was added in (B)(1) of Sec. 300.3 to ensure that when connections, taps, or extensions are made from paralleled conductors, each connection involves all the paralleled conductors of each phase and/or neutral.

12. Article 310 Reorganized

Article 310 was extensively reorganized to increase the usability of the article and the ampacity tables which will simply be titled as Table 310.16 through Table 310.21.

13. Receptacles in Damp or Wet Locations (Bathtub and Shower Space)

The prohibited locations for receptacles in bathrooms has been expanded in Sec. 406.9, and a new exception was added to permit the installation of receptacles in small bathrooms.

14. Tamper-Resistant Receptacles

Four of the existing list items, (1), (2), (4), and (7) in Sec. 406.12 were modified and an eighth list item was added.

15. Luminaires (Lighting), Lampholders, and Lamps

New Sec. 410.118 was added to clarify that a luminaire cannot be used to access outlet, pull, or junction boxes or conduit bodies that are not associated with wiring for that luminaire

A new "Part XVI" was added to Article 410, that specifically address the unique requirements and special provisions for Horticultural Lighting. What is becoming better known as "grow" facilities.

16. GFCI Protection – Appliances

There were editorial revisions to the text of subsection (A) in Sec. 422.5, and the list of items was expanded to include sump pumps and dishwashers.

17. Marinas, Boatyards, Floating Buildings, and Docking Facilities — GFPE and GFCI Protection

Sec. 555.35 was relocated here from 550.3 and divided into two sub-parts: Ground-Fault Protection and Leakage Current Measurement Device. Part III Floating Buildings were relocated from Article 553 to Article 555.

18. Overcurrent Protective Devices – Temporary Installations

The equipment used to provide temporary access to electricity is rarely used on a "one-time and done" basis, so they are often reused on many jobs. This rule was added in Sec. 590.8 to provide guidance for AHJ's on the reuse of equipment for temporary applications.

19. Remote Location – Sign Disconnects

This new subsection, Sec. 600.6(A)(4), addresses first responder access to remotely located disconnects. When a remote sign disconnect is installed, it must be in a location that is readily accessible to firefighters and service personnel and clearly marked to identify what the disconnect controls.

20. Electric Vehicle Power Transfer System

Both the title and scope of Art. 625 were changed in Sec. 625.1 to include systems that permit bidirectional current flow of electricity. A new definition was added to Sec. 625.2 for electrical vehicle power export equipment (EVPE) and clarification that some electric vehicles can supply electrical loads external to the vehicle.

21. Splash Pads

The term "fountain" was expanded in Sec. 680.2 to include "splash pads." The term "splash pad" was added to the definitions that it is a type of fountain making all the requirements for fountains apply to splash pads.

22. Inspections After Installation – Swimming Pools

New Sec. 680.4 allows the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) to require periodic inspection and testing of the pool system.

23. Motors for Permanently Installed Pools

GFCI protection of motors was expanded and a new subsection in Sec. 680.21 requires GFCI protection to be provided for existing pump receptacles when replacing a pool pump motor.

24. Fire Pump Services and On-Site Power Production

Because a fire pump room is required to be 2-hour fire rated, a new exception was added to Sec. 695.6(A)(1) to clarify that supply conductors within the fire pump room are not required to be installed in accordance with 230.6. The fire pump controller is often service equipment, and the fire pump equipment may all be three-phase. A new informational note was added to call attention to the requirements of 250.24(C) requiring a neutral conductor be installed to the service equipment.

25. Emergency Systems — Meter-Mounted Transfer Switches

A new last sentence was added to Sec. 700.5(A) to clarify that meter mounted transfer switches are not permitted for use in emergency systems.

New Articles

- Article 242 Overvoltage Protection
- Article 311 Medium Voltage Conductors and Cables
- Article 337 Type P Cable
- Article 805 Communications Circuits

Deleted Articles

- Article 280 Surge Arrestors (New Article 242)
- Article 285 Surge Protective Devices (New Article 242)
- Article 328 Medium Voltage Cable (New Article 311 w/Amps)
- Article 553 Floating Buildings (Merge to Article 555)

These are just a few of the changes that have been incorporated into the new 2020 NEC®.