TOP 25 CODE CHANGES

IEC CENTEX INDEPENDENT ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

DJ's Top 10 ☑

1. 90.3 Code Arrangement ☑
   The text in 90.3 is modified to remove the independence of Chapter 8. The reorganization no longer requires that the communications systems articles be independent from Chapters 1-7. The intent of this change is to allow the reorganization of the limited energy articles into the new 2029 NEC® structure.

2. 110.3(B) Installation and Use
   A sentence was added to specify that instructions must result in an installation and use that complies within the requirements in the NEC® with no conflicts.

3. 110.16 Arc-Flash Hazard Marking ☑
   The arc-flash marking requirements were revised to correlate with NFPA 70E®, Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace®. The generic warning requirement and reference to 1000 amps were removed. Labels must now include: nominal voltage, arc flash boundary, available incident energy or arc flash boundary, date of assessment.

4. 110.26 Spaces About Electrical Equipment
   Clarification of measurement process for determining 24" clearance requirement. Equipment doors must be considered for potential obstructions to access or egress when opened to 90 degrees.

5. 120.7 Power Control System (PCS)
   Energy Management System (EMS) was renamed to Power Control System (PCS) to differentiate an EMS with overload control (Now PCS) from an EMS without overload control. Reflects progress in automated systems for managing loads and preventing overloads.

6. 120.13 Dwelling Units, Number of Branch Circuits
   To prevent decreasing the number of branch circuits supplying general lighting and receptacle loads in homes, this new section, located in Part II, Branch Circuits, keeps branch circuit calculations at a value of 3 VA/ft^2.

7. 120.41 Dwelling Units, Minimum Unit Load ☑
   This section was relocated and revised for Feeder and Service Load Calculations. The new value of 2 VA/ft^2 assumes approximately 80% LED or CFL lighting. This change recognizes the fact that the increased use of LED and compact fluorescent lighting will reduce the overall lighting load in dwellings.

8. 210.8 Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter (GFCI) Protection for Personnel ☑
   New informational note was added to refer to UL 943 and to recognize that Class A GFCIs marked HF and HF+ provide an option to address high-frequency ground-fault currents for interoperability concerns.

9. 210.8(F) Outdoor Outlets, Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter (GFCI) Protection for Personnel ☑
   The amperage threshold has been increased from 50 amps to 60 amps for single- phase branch circuits rated 150 volts or less to ground and a new Exception No.3 permits the use of a listed Class C SPGFCI protection for listed HVAC equipment. The expiration date in Exception No.2 for listed HVAC equipment was not extended.

10. 210.52 Dwelling Unit Receptacle Outlets, (A)(2) Wall Space
    List item (1) was revised to exclude any fixed cabinet from a wall space measurement. Previously, only fixed cabinets without countertops or similar work surfaces were excluded.

11. 210.52 Dwelling Unit Receptacle Outlets, (A)(5) Receptacle Outlet Locations Prohibited ☑
    Where receptacle outlets are installed in **wall spaces** adjacent to and below the countertops or work surfaces, they shall not be installed within 24 inches of the countertop or work surface.

12. 210.52 Dwelling Unit Receptacle Outlets, (C)(4) Receptacle Outlet Locations Prohibited ☑
    Receptacle outlets are permitted to be installed on **walls of cabinets** supporting a countertop or work surface, provided the receptacle outlets are not installed less than 24 inches below the countertop or work surface.

13. 230.70(A)(1) Service Disconnect Location ☑
    One- and Two-Family Dwellings, requires that the service disconnecting means be installed in a readily accessible outdoor location either on the dwelling unit or within sight.

14. 300.6 Protection Against Physical Damage, (E) Wiring Methods and Materials in or Under Roof Decking
    Removed the specific reference to "metal-corrugated" roof decking, the minimum spacing requirements now apply to all roof decking, and all wiring methods. A new exception was added for wiring methods and materials encased in at least 2 inches of concrete in concealed locations.

15. 310.5 Conductors, (A) Minimum Size of Conductors ☑
    The minimum sizes of the conductor ratings are now 16-AWG copper, 14-AWG copper-clad aluminum, or 12-AWG aluminum. See Section 240.4(D) Small Conductors for overcurrent protection!

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16. **312.11(A) Splices, Taps, and Feed-Through Conductors ☑**
    This revision modifies the requirements by adding a new list item (5) and adds additional language relative to meter socket wiring spaces. This change will preclude meter socket enclosures from containing non-service conductors and will clarify that service conductors are not permitted to run through other enclosures located prior to the service entrance enclosure.

17. **314.27(B) Boxes at Ceiling-Suspended (Paddle) Fan Outlets**
    Revised location requirements for ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan rated box or access through the box to structural framing to include the typical locations in lieu of mandating all locations.

18. **320.2 AC Cable, 330.2 MC Cable, 334.2 NM Cable, 338 SE Cable, 340.2 UF Cable Listing Requirements**
    New listing requirements have been added for the support and securement hardware.

19. 404 Switches, Scope
    The requirements for wiring device type switches (single pole, 3-way, 4-way snap switches) have been moved to Article 406 which was expanded and restructured to include the requirements for wiring device-type switches.

20. 408.10(F) Switchboard, Switchgear, or Panelboard Identification
    A requirement was added to locate caution signs and labels in a readily accessible location on the front of the enclosure.

21. 555.9 Engineered Design ☑
    New VA language permits an AHJ to request an engineered design for a pier distribution system.

22. 555.13 Bonding of Non-Current-Carrying Metal Parts
    The text removes the reference to “all metal parts in contact with the water, all metal piping” to only require the metal parts that are “likely to become energized” to be bonded using a conductor not larger than a #8 AWG to facilitate the operation of the ground fault devices.

23. 625.43(D) Emergency Shutoff ☑
    Charging stations supplying power to electric vehicles (EVs) are becoming more commonplace and available in public parking garages and workplace parking lots. New requirements for emergency shutoff devices for EV charging stations will provide a quick and accessible way for first responders to disconnect power during an emergency.

24. 625.44(A) Portable Equipment
    This revision adds requirements to ensure that receptacles meet certain standards and be listed for the specific purpose of use with EVSE and WPTE cord-and-plug-connected equipment for electric vehicles (EVs).

25. 680.26(B)(2) Perimeter Surfaces
    The height requirement from the perimeter surface was increased from 2 ft to 3 ft below maximum water level to more accurately address the reach range for a person using the pool.

Relocated Articles

120- Branch-Circuits, Feeder and Service Load Calculations (was NEC®-2023: Article 220)
130- Energy Management Systems (was NEC®-2023: 750)
772- Fire Resistive Cables Systems (was NEC®-2023: 728)

New Articles and New Informative Annex L

206- Non-Power-Limited Remote-Control and Signaling Circuits [From 300.26]
265- Branch Circuits Over 1000 Volts [From Part II of deleted Article 235]
266- Feeders Over 1000 Volts ac, 1500 Volts dc Nominal [From Part III of deleted Article 235]
267- Outside BC & Feeders Over 1000 Volts ac, 1500 Volts dc Nominal [From Part IV of deleted Article 235 and Article 395]
268- Services Over 1000 Volts ac, 1500 Volts dc, Nominal [From Part V of deleted Article 235]
270- Grounding and Bonding of Systems Over 1000 Volts ac, 1500 Volts dc, Nominal. [From Part X of Article 250]
624- Electric Self-Propelled Vehicle Power Transfer Systems (ESVSEs)
720- General Requirements for Limited-Energy Systems Wiring Methods & Materials
721- Powers Sources for Limited-Energy Systems
722- Limited-Energy Cables for Power-Limited circuits, Fault-Managed-Power Circuits, Optical fiber Circuits, and Communications Circuits
723- Raceways, Cable Routing Assemblies and Cable Trays for Limited-Energy Systems
742- Overvoltage Protection of Limited-Energy Systems
750- Grounding and Bonding of Limited-Energy Systems
Informative Annex L — Proposed Organization of the 2029 National Electrical Code®

Deleted Articles

235- Branch Circuits, Feeders, and Services Over 1000 volts ac, 1500 Volts dc (Contents were relocated into their own respective articles)
395- Overhead Conductors Over 1,000 Volts
770- Optical Fiber Cables (Contents were relocated to 722, Part VII)
805- Communications Circuits (Contents were relocated to 722, 742, and 750)
840- Premises-Powered Broadband Communication Systems (Article was deleted because the requirements are already covered elsewhere)

These are just a few of the changes that have been incorporated into the new 2026 NEC®.