

# TOP 10 CODE CHANGES



## 1. Definitions:

**Readily Accessible.** This definition maintained most of its existing text and now includes the the words “other than keys.” This should clarify that the practice and use of keys to gain access under controlled conditions within the code is acceptable.

**Structure.** A change to this definition clarifies that stand-alone equipment is no longer considered a structure.

- 2. 110.14 (D) Electrical Connections, Installation.** A properly calibrated tool must be used when torquing terminal connections.
- 3. 110.16 (B) Arc-Flash Hazard Warning, Service Equipment.** The requirements for warning qualified persons about arc-flash hazards have been increased for non-dwelling unit service equipment rated 1200 amperes or more. Expanded label information includes normal system voltage, available fault current, clearing times and date the label was applied.
- 4. 210.8 GFCI Protection.** New language added, to clarify the methods used for measuring GFCI requirements. In Commercial/Industrial applications some three-phase circuits now require protection, and new requirements for crawl space receptacles and lighting have been added.
- 5. 210.12 (C) AFCI Protection, In Guest Rooms and Guest Suites.** New provisions added requiring AFCI protection for all 120-volt, 15 and 20 ampere branch circuits supplying outlets and devices installed in guest rooms and guest suites of hotels and motels.
- 6. 210.64 Electrical Service Areas.** The rule requiring a convenience receptacle near the service equipment was revised to within 25 feet of indoor electrical service equipment.
- 7. 210.71 Meeting Rooms.** New rules require receptacle outlets for meeting rooms in commercial occupancies. The outlets shall be installed in accordance with 210.71(B).
- 8. 310.15(B)(3)(c) Raceways and Cables Exposed to Sunlight on Rooftops.** Raceways or cables installed on rooftops are now required to be installed 23 mm ( $\frac{7}{8}$  in.) above the rooftop to avoid a temperature adder of 33 °C (60 °F). Previous Table 310.15(B)(3)(c) was deleted.
- 9. 404.2 Switch Connections.** Revisions were made to clarify the rule on when you need a neutral (grounded) conductor at switch locations and they added rooms suitable for human habitation or occupancy as defined in the applicable building code.
- 10. 406.12 Tamper-Resistant Receptacles.** The locations requiring tamper-resistant receptacles have been expanded to include preschools and elementary education facilities, business offices, corridors, waiting rooms and the like in clinics, medical and dental offices and outpatient facilities, dormitories and other places where children typically gather like gymnasiums, skating rinks, and auditoriums.

## Article Title/Scope Revision:

### **Article 555 Marinas and Boatyards and Commercial and Noncommercial Docking Facilities**

The title of this article, its scope, and many of its provisions were changed to include dwelling unit docking facilities. A new requirement at 555.24 for precautionary signage related to electric shock hazard in the water around marinas and boatyards was added.

## New Articles / Informative Annexes:

- Article 425 Fixed Resistance and Electrode Industrial Process Heating Equipment
- Article 691 Large-Scale Photovoltaic (PV) Electric Supply Stations
- Article 706 Energy Storage Systems
- Article 710 Stand-Alone Systems
- Article 712 Direct-Current (DC) Microgrids
- Annex D, Example D7 Sizing of Service Conductors for Dwellings [Former Table 310.15(B)(7)]

These are just a few of the changes that have been incorporated into the new 2017 NEC®.