

NEC 2026 Adoption Review Committee

Summary of Significant 2026 NEC® Changes

Line No.	NEC Code Section	Change Title	Change Summary	Committee Concern		
				Yes	No	CA
1	Global	Preparing the NEC for 2029 Reformatting	In preparation for the reformatting of the 2029 edition, structural changes were implemented during the 2026 code cycle. The proposed 2029 NEC structure will be located in Annex L of the 2026 NEC.			
2	Global	Limited-Energy Summary	The independence of Chapter 8, Communications Systems, has now been removed. Chapter 7 (Art. 720-760) now provides the main installation requirements for all Limited-Energy Systems, including Communications.			
3	90.3	90.3 Code Arrangement	Chapter 5 Specific Occupancies and Locations (previously Special Occupancies). Chapter 6 Specific Equipment (previously Special Equipment). Chapter 7 Specific Conditions and Systems (previously Special Conditions). Chapter 8 Communication Systems – Outside and Entering Buildings (previously just Communication Systems)			
4	110.3(B)	110.3 Examination, Identification, Installation, Use, and Listing (Product Certification) of Equipment, (B) Installation and Use.	A sentence was added to specify that instructions must result in an installation and use that complies with the NEC.			
5	110.16	110.16 Arc-Flash Hazard Marking	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.			
6	110.17	110.17 Servicing of Equipment	Title change removes “and maintenance” to reflect NEC’s exclusive scope over installation-related servicing.			
7	110.26	110.26 Spaces About Electrical Equipment	Equipment doors must be considered for potential obstructions to access or egress, ensuring safety; regardless of the door's position, whether it can be removed, or opens more than 90 degrees.			
8	110.26(C)(2)	110.26 Spaces About Electrical Equipment, (C)(2) Large Equipment.	The requirement was broadened to cover feeder disconnects installed according to 225.33(A). Previously it only applied to service disconnects.			
9	120.7	120.7 Power Control System (PCS).	The energy management system (EMS) has now been renamed Power Control Systems (PCS). Reflects progress in automated systems for managing loads and preventing overloads.			
10	120.130 and 120.140	120 Branch-Circuit, Feeder, and Service Load Calculations. Part VIII and Part IX.	Calculations for RV parks and Mobile and Manufactured Home Parks were relocated to Article 120 - Parts VIII, and IX.			

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11	130.50, 60, 70 and .80	130 Energy Management Systems - Part II, Power Control Systems (PCS)	The New Part II for an Energy Management System used for overload control includes additional requirements for EMS that provide controls necessary to prevent overloading of conductors and equipment through the use of a PCS. The content from Article 750, Special Conditions, concerning the installation and operation of energy management systems was relocated to Article 130 to apply generally.			
12	200.7(A)(9)	200.7 Means of Identifying Grounded Conductors	A new list item 9 was added to allow a single stripe, other than green, for identifying the grounded conductor.			
13	Counter (Countertop)	Article 100 Definitions	The definition of “Countertop” has been revised to include beverage preparation or beverage serving.			
14	Work Surface	Article 100 Definitions	The definition of “Work Surface” was revised to clarify that a work surface is intended for dry use and tasks other than food or beverage preparation or serving.			
15	Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter, (GFCI), (Class A GFCI)	Article 100 Definitions	Class A was added as an alternate term (NEC Style Manual Section 2.1.2.8) to align with three new defined terms for Class C, D, and E Special Purpose GFCI (SPGFCI).			
16	210.8	210.8 Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for Personnel	New informational note was added to recognize that Class A GFCIs marked HF and HF+ provide an option to address high-frequency ground-fault currents for interoperability concerns.			
17	210.8(F)	210.8 Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for Personnel, (F) Outdoor Outlets	The amperage threshold has been increased from 50 amps to 60 amps for single-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts or less to ground. New Exception No. 3 permits a listed Class C SPGFCI protection for listed HVAC equipment. No expiration date was given.			
18	210.12(E)	210.12 Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection, (E) Branch Circuit Wiring Extensions, Modification, or Replacements	A listed OBCAFCI can now be located at the first receptacle outlet or switch of the existing branch circuit.			
19	210.52(A)(2)	210.52 Dwelling Unit Receptacle Outlets, (A) General Provisions.	In Subdivision (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.			
20	210.52(A)(5)	210.52 Dwelling Unit Receptacle Outlets, (A) General Provisions.	Subdivision (A)(5), Receptacle Outlet Locations Prohibited, permits receptacle outlets to be installed on walls of cabinets supporting a countertop or work surface, provided the receptacle outlets are not installed less than 24 inches beneath the countertop.			
21	210.52(C)(4)	210.52 Dwelling Unit Receptacle Outlets, (C) Countertops and Work Surfaces.	Section 210.52(C)(4) is new and addresses the locations that are prohibited for receptacle outlets.			

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22	210.63	210.63 Equipment Requiring Servicing, (B) Other Electrical Equipment.	The requirement that the receptacle not be located on the load side of the disconnecting means was removed to address a conflict when the disconnect was located in a separate structure or building.			
23	210.70(A)(1)	210.70 Lighting Outlets Required, (A) Dwelling Units, (1) Habitable Rooms, Kitchens, Laundry Rooms, and Bathrooms.	Exception 3 was added to permit the lighting outlet to be located outside a laundry area in order to adequately illuminate the area where a closet houses the laundry equipment.			
24	225.31(A)	225.31 Disconnecting Means, (A) General.	The changes clarify that a single disconnect can meet the requirements of both 225.31 and 225.41.			
25	225.31(B)	225.31 Disconnecting Means, (B) Location.	Text was added to specify that when the disconnecting means is located outside the building, it must be placed in a readily accessible location on or within sight of the building, as required by 110.29. If the disconnect is within sight and not on the building, the next disconnect or distribution equipment could be anywhere inside the structure.			
26	230.46	230.46 Spliced and Tapped Conductors	A new informational note states that an industry identification marking “SVC” is considered equivalent to “suitable for use on the line side of service equipment.”			
27	230.68	230.68 Meter Sockets	A new exception was added for meter sockets in fire pump applications to only be sized to the circuit ampere rating and not the current rating of the fire pump service.			
28	230.70(A)(1)	230.70(A) Service Disconnect Location	Section 230.70(A)(1), 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.			
29	230.70(D)	230.70(D) Identification of Other Source Disconnects	Previously, this applied only to emergency disconnects. Now, all sources not located at the service disconnect must be listed on a plaque or directory to show their location.			
30	230.82	230.82 Equipment Connected to the Supply Side of the Service Disconnect	The list was reorganized into a more logical order by grouping similar items together. Some list items are equipment, while others are systems.			
31	240.24(E)	240.24 Location in or on Premises, (E) Not Located in Bathrooms.	An exception was added to clarify that it is permissible to add OCPDs to an existing panelboard in a bathroom, provided the panelboard was installed in compliance with previous editions of the NEC.			
32	250.53(A)(4)	250.53(A)(4) Rod and Pipe Electrodes	The section has been revised to specify that a rod or pipe electrode should initially be driven vertically to a depth of 8 feet.			
33	250.64(C)	250.64 Grounding Electrode Conductor Installation, (C) Continuous.	The requirement has been revised to allow the splicing of grounding electrode conductors with listed grounding and bonding equipment.			
34	250.64(E)(1)	250.64(E)(1) Raceways, Cable Armor, and Enclosures for Grounding Electrode Conductors	Cable armor has been added to clarify that the bonding requirement for ferrous cable armor applies to both ends of the armor.			

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35	250.64(G)	250.64 Grounding Electrode Conductor Installation, (G) Enclosures with Ventilation, Mounting, or Drainage Openings.	Mounting and drainage openings are not intended for the installation of a grounding electrode conductor.			
36	250.102(A)	250.102 Grounded Conductor, Bonding Conductors, and Jumpers, (A) Material.	Non-flexible metal raceway and fittings were added as a permissible bonding jumper type to coordinate with 250.30(A)(2).			
37	265.19(B)	265.19 Conductors – Minimum Ampacity and Size, (B) Supervised Installations.	Conductor sizing for supervised installations shall be permitted to be determined by qualified persons under engineering supervision. This wording is similar to the wording in 266.4(C), 267.39(C), 268.23 (C), 268.31, 268.42, 270.5.			
38	300.4(C)	300.4(C) Damaged Conductors and Wiring Methods	Text has been added to require that conductors and wiring methods that are no longer “suitable for use” must be replaced. Damaged cables could include cables that have been exposed to overheating, fire, water, or subjected to corrosive influences.			
39	300.6(C)	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.			
40	300.7(D)(3)	300.7 Underground Installations, (D) Protection from Damage.	The new revision states that a warning ribbon must be placed over underground service raceways as well as direct buried service conductors.			
41	300.11(B)	300.11 Raceways in Wet Locations Above Grade, (B) Drainage.	Revisions have been added to specify that raceways installed in indoor wet locations must include drainage.			
42	300.13(E)	300.13 Securing and Supporting, (E) Securing and Supporting	A new subdivision and informational note in 300.13(E) were added to utilize this new term and are essential for the proper installation of cable ties. Cable ties and cable tie fixing devices must be listed and identified for securement and support purposes.			
43	300.24	300.24 Bends	This new section clarifies that the 360-degree bend limitation between pull points applies even if you transition to another type of raceway.			
44	310.5	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.			
45	310.15(E)	310.15 Ampacity Tables, (E) Neutral Conductor.	A new list format will clearly identify when a neutral is considered as a current-carrying conductor as opposed to a non-current-carrying conductor.			
46	330.30	Type MC cable, 330.30 Securing and Supporting	Cable cleats were added as an approved method for supporting or securing Type MC cable.			

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47	334.10(3)	Type NM cable, 334.10(3) Uses Permitted	An exception has been added to permit nonhabitable grade-level storage garages and storage buildings less than 1500 square feet to use NM cable without the 15-minute thermal barrier.			
48	342.19	IMC, 342.29 Paired Locknuts	The requirement now states that locknuts must be installed on both the inside and outside of the enclosure.			
49	392.18	392.18 Cable Tray Installation, (F) Access	This revision adds a requirement for a minimum access space of 12 inches above a cable tray. There are 4 conditions that are new exceptions to forgo the requirement.			
50	404.1	404 Switches, Scope.	The requirements for wiring device type switches (e.g., single pole, 3-way, 4-way snap switches) have been moved to Article 406.			
51	406.1	406 Wiring Devices, Part III	The article was expanded and restructured to include the requirements for wiring device-type switches, as formally found in Article 404.			
52	406.12(D)(3)	406.12(D)(3) Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection	This revision will allow the installer to consider other options when applying the exception to forgo providing GFCI protection:			
53	406.4(G)	406.14(G) Receptacle Orientation	A new List Item 3 was added to exclude receptacles from being mounted in the face-up position in laundry areas.			
54	406.26(11)	406.26 Tamper-Resistant Receptacles	The requirements for listed tamper-resistant receptacles have been expanded to include a new List Item (11) Park and recreation areas.			
55	408.10(F)	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.			
56	422.12	422.12 Central Heating Equipment	Exception No. 2 was added to permit the servicing receptacles required by 210.63(A) and the lighting outlets for areas where equipment will be serviced required by 210.70(C) to be supplied from the circuit supplying the equipment.			
57	426, Part VI	426 Fixed Outdoor Electric Deicing and Snow-Melting Equipment, Part VI Conductive Pavement Heating System.	Part VI was added to specify the requirements for conductive pavement heating systems.			
58	430	430 Motors, Motor Circuits, and Controllers	BE and CE motors have been included throughout Article 430 due to their energy-efficient design. The motors, typically, have higher locked rotor currents.			
59	430.98(A)	430.98(A) Motor Control Centers	The section clarifies that an MCC supplied by a feeder must be marked with the location of the means necessary to disconnect all power to the MCC.			
60	440.11	440.11 General, Disconnecting means.	The revision requires doors or covers that expose energized parts to be locked or require a tool to be opened.			

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61	440.15	440.15 Split-System Disconnect Identification	A new section was created for marking requirements to identify the location of all indoor units supplied by the exterior disconnect of a split-system HVAC system in other than one- and two-family dwellings.			
62	480.1	480 Stationary Batteries	Informational Note 1 clarifies that Article 480 will apply to all stationary battery installations that are not listed energy storage systems.			
63	480.14	480.14 Overcharge Control	Addresses risks of fire, thermal runaway, and equipment failure. New requirement mandates overcharge prevention provisions for all stationary battery systems.			
64	495.2	495 Equipment Over 1000 Volts ac, 1500 Volts dc, Nominal, Listing Requirements.	The listing requirement for equipment rated up to 15,000 volts will take effect on January 1, 2029. The listing requirement for equipment operating over 15,000 volts up to 52,000 volts will take effect on January 1, 2032.			
65	500.8(G)	500.8(G) Equipment Involving Optical Radiation	Specifies that the requirements apply to optical equipment located outside the hazardous (classified) location when the optical radiation extends into a hazardous (classified) location.			
66	Table 501.10(A)(1) & (B)(1)	501.10(A)(1) & (B)(1) Class I, Divisions 1 and 2 Locations	Tables were added to consolidate the wiring methods permitted for use in Class I, Division 1 and 2 Locations. There are six additional wiring methods, including: Type MC-HL cable, Type ITC-HL cable, Type TC-ER-HL cable, Type P cable, RMC, and PVC conduit.			
67	501.130(C)	501.130 Wiring Methods, (C) Luminaire Retrofit Kits.	The revision adds requirements for luminaire retrofit kits in hazardous locations. This equipment existed but was not explicitly specified in the NEC.			
68	512.6	512.6 Prohibited locations	Added locations where cannabis extraction is prohibited by adding text from NFPA 1, Section 8.6.1.1.3.			
69	513.8	513.8 Underground Wiring	Revised text removes the requirement to classify underground installations at aircraft hangars as Class I, Division 1. This change aligns with the requirements in Section 514.8 regarding underground wiring at motor fuel dispensing facilities.			
70	514.11(A)	514.11(A) Emergency Electrical Disconnects	Revised text to update extracted language from NFPA 30A 6.7.4. The clarification added text to include receptacles over or adjacent to motor fuel dispensing devices in hazardous classified locations.			
71	517.4	517.4 Electrical Service	This new section provides the ability for microgrids to act as a source on either side of the transfer switch. Subdivision (B), Capacity of Systems, states that system capacity can be determined by the actual demand of the connected load.			

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72	517.20(A)	517.20 Wet Procedure Locations, (A) Receptacles and Fixed Equipment.	New requirements have been added for GFCI protection in operating rooms. If installed, it must be one of the following: 1. An individual receptacle-type GFCI device. 2. A receptacle individually protected by a single GFCI device — a separate GFCI device protecting each receptacle.			
73	517.26	517.26 Application of Other Articles	The references to the Article 700 exclusions have been removed.			
74	517.42(F)	517.42 Essential Electrical Systems, (F) Coordination.	New subsection (F) requires the coordination of OCPDs for Type 2 essential electrical systems.			
75	525	525 Carnivals, Circuses, Fairs, and Similar Events	Article 525 was restructured and revised for clarity, including specific references for portable and vehicle- and trailer-mounted generators, and separating the disconnecting means requirements for moving and nonmoving equipment.			
76	525.31	525.31 Equipment Grounding	The exception would allow the use of portable ‘inverter’ generators that are manufactured with no grounded conductor connection to the generator frame.			
77	545.22	545.22 Power Supply, (D) Grounding.	The reference to Article 250 Part III was removed because a relocatable structure is supplied by a feeder and does not require an additional grounding electrode system.			
78	547.44(C)	547.44(C) Equipotential Plane Construction	Text was added to include the requirements for the construction of the equipotential plane. In past editions of the NEC®, there was no specific language as to how to install and construct the equipotential plane.			
79	550.51(A)	550.51 Service Equipment, (A) Mobile Home Service Equipment.	Revisions were made to point to the general requirements for a service disconnect found in Article 230.			
80	550.51(F)	550.51 Service Equipment, (E) Replacement Home.	Where the existing service equipment is reconnected to a replacement mobile or manufactured home, the installer must provide a surge protective device in compliance with 230.67.			
81	555.9	555.9 Engineered Design	New language permits an AHJ to request an engineered design for a pier distribution system.			
82	555.14	555.14 Equipotential Planes and Bonding of Equipotential Planes.	Additional text provides details on how the equipotential plane is to be constructed and bonded to the electrical system when the system voltages exceed 250 volts to ground, and the equipment is located within 10 feet of the water.			
83	555.15	555.15 Servicing and Replacing of Equipment	Revised the language to align with the definition for “servicing.” (A) Servicing. Equipment can be serviced to the edition of the Code to which it was installed. (B) Replacing. If replacing equipment, it must comply with the current adopted Code. Additionally, the circuit must be inspected, and any issues found must be addressed as required in Section 555.15(A).			

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84	555.35(B)	555.35 GFPE and GFCI Protection, (B) Fire Pump Circuits.	Section 555.35(B) was added to address the GFPE monitoring for a fire pump.			
85	555.35(F)	555.35 GFPE and GFCI Protection, (F) Coordination and Performance Testing.	Requirements were added to mandate that GFPE protection systems be coordinated and undergo performance testing using an approved method. A written record of this testing is to be made available to the authority having jurisdiction.			
86	620.62(B) & (C)	620.62 Selective Coordination, (B) Replacements & (C) Modifications.	Requirements were added to re-evaluate selective coordination when overcurrent protection is replaced or if there are modifications, additions, or deletions to the existing elevator system.			
87	624	Article 624 Electric Self-Propelled Vehicle Power Transfer Systems (ESVSEs)	This new article addresses new technology regarding electric vehicles that do not meet the definition of “Electric Vehicle” in Article 100.			
88	625.42	625.42 Rating, (A) Power Control System and (B) EVSE with Adjustable Controls.	The requirement was clarified to state that the service, feeder, and branch circuit supplying the EVSE must have a sufficient rating to supply the load served.			
89	625.44	625.44 Equipment Connection	Text was added to require the attachment plug for cord- and plug-connected equipment to be listed for “EV”.			
90	625.54	625.54 GFCI and SPGFCI Protection	Requirements were added for permanently wired equipment. The title and new requirements recognize SPGFCI protection.			
91	680.22(B)(1)	680.22(B)(1) Outdoor Clearances	Festoon lighting is now subject to the minimum height requirements above a pool, including the area surrounding the pool.			
92	680.26(B)(2)	680.26(B)(2) Perimeter Surfaces	Expands the requirement to provide GFCI protectionThe height requirement from the perimeter surface was increased from 2 ft to 3 ft below maximum water level.			
93	682.33(A)	682.33(A) Equipotential Plane Construction and Bonding	Equipotential planes for systems over 250 volts to ground and located within 10 feet of the water must encompass the area around outdoor service equipment and/or the disconnecting means and must extend at least 36 inches in all directions from the equipment, covering areas where a person could stand and touch the equipment.			
94	690.7(A)	690.7(A) PV Source Circuits	References were added to clarify this section is specific to only dc voltages. The 100kW inverter generating capacity threshold was removed allowing engineering calculation to be used on any size PV system.			
95	690.47	690.47 Grounding Electrode System	Language from Article 250, Grounding and Bonding, with regard to additional grounding electrodes has been removed from Subdivision (B).			
96	695.7(A)(2)	695.7(A)(2) Feeder Supply Conductors	The existing 2" concrete encasement requirement was revised to also require it to provide a 2-hour fire rating that is documented by a PE. A new option for 5" of concrete encasement is permitted, with the measurement being taken from the surface of the raceway or cable.			

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97	700.6(C)	700.6(C) Bypass and Isolation of Transfer Equipment	The list of exceptions has been removed, and the requirement now applies to assembly occupancies, educational occupancies, and high-rise buildings. Applies to installations where the emergency loads are supplied by a single feeder.			
98	700.10(D)(2)(5)	700.10(D)(2)(5) Feeder-Circuit Wiring	The existing 2" concrete encasement requirement was revised to also require it to provide a 2-hour fire rating that is documented by a PE. A new option for 5" of concrete encasement is permitted, with the measurement being taken from the surface of the raceway or cable.			
99	700.28	700.28 Class 4 Powered Emergency Lighting Systems	Class 4 Fault-Managed Power (FMP) is allowed if listed for emergency use and integrated into an emergency lighting system.			
100	702.4(A)(2)(b)	702.4 Capacity and Rating, System Capacity, Automatic Load Connection, EMS.	This revision recognizes that traditional EMS may shed load during standby power, while PCS systems will manage load and sources based on the control settings.			
101	702.4(A)(3)	702.4 Capacity and Rating, Multimode Inverter-Based Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings.	This revision provides a third option for listed multi-mode inverter-based systems that are nominally grid-interactive but can be capable of transitioning to standby operation.			
102	705.11(C)(1)(2) & (3)	705.11 Source Connections to a Service, Power Source Connections in Buildings.	The length of the service tap conductors is limited to 16.5' or 66' with cable limiters. Supply-side connection is to existing service equipment			
103	Cable, Limited-Energy	Article 100 Definition	Created to provide a comprehensive term that clearly defines all cable types qualifying as limited-energy cables.			
104	Limited-Energy System	Article 100 Definition	This definition was revised to provide clarity and incorporate specific terminology from various limited-energy product standards. A limited-energy system is capable of limiting or shutting down the power source, preventing deviations above normal operating limits. This mitigates hazards related to electrical shock and fire.			
105	800	800 General Requirements for Communications Systems Outside and Entering Buildings.	Chapter 8 is no longer independent due to the revisions of 90.3. Now, Article 800 only covers the requirements for communications system wires and cables located outside of and entering buildings.			
106	Chapter 9 Annex L	Annex L, Proposed Organization of the 2029 National Electrical Code.	In preparation for the reformatting of the 2029 edition, structural changes were implemented during the 2026 code cycle.			