

TOP 25 CODE CHANGES



No. 1 — Working Space Around Electrical Equipment

This new rule in Sec. 110.26(A)(4) now specifies that when open equipment doors result in an egress path that is less than 24 in. wide or 6 ft, 6 in. high, the opening must be increased to prevent the equipment doors from impeding the egress path.

No. 2 — GFCI Protection – General

The text in Sec. 210.8 indicating how measurements are to be made was revised to clarify that the measurement applies to all power-supply cords plugged into a receptacle — not just appliance cords.

No. 3 — GFCI Protection in Dwelling Units

This revision involves removing the phrase “receptacles serving the countertop” from Sec. 210.8(A)(6), thereby expanding the GFCI protection requirement to include any cord- and plug-connected appliance in kitchens — not just on countertops.

No. 4 — GFCI Protection in Other Than Dwelling Units

The word “kitchens” was added as list item (2) and removed from list item (3) in Sec. 210.8(B). This change clarifies that all areas with permanent provisions for food serving, beverage service, or cooking must be protected.

No. 5 — GFCI Protection for Specific Appliances

Changes in Sec. 210.8(D) now require GFCI protection to be provided for the branch circuit or the outlet supplying listed appliances. Note: The appliances in list items Sec. 210.8(D)(8) through (12) are commonly installed as hardwired outlets, and the GFCI protection requirements of Sec. 210.8(A) and (B) only apply to receptacles. The shock hazards exist whether appliances are hardwired, or cord- and plug-connected; therefore, GFCI protection must be provided for the appliance branch circuit or outlet.

No. 6 — GFCI Protection for Outdoor Dwelling Unit Outlets

The rule in Sec. 210.8(F) for outdoor outlets was new in the 2020 Code, and its introduction caused a big problem with air-conditioning units in areas outside of dwelling units. The battle continued during the 2023 Code cycle and ultimately resulted in a new exception for listed HVAC equipment.

No. 7 — Branch Circuit Requirements in Guest Rooms and Guest Suites

Per Sec. 210.17, assisted living facilities with permanent provisions for cooking were added to the list of guest rooms and guest suites that must now have branch circuits installed to meet the dwelling unit requirements.

No. 8 — Barriers in Electrical Equipment

The new Sec. 215.15 requires the line-side busbar or terminals of equipment supplied by feeder taps or transformer secondary conductors to be protected from inadvertent contact by placing barriers over the exposed energized parts.

No. 9 — Energy Management Systems (EMSs)

Digital control has become a big part of electrical systems these days. A new Sec. 220.70 was added for energy management systems that can control the maximum load of a service.

No. 10 — Emergency Disconnects

A new Sec. 225.41 requires outside emergency disconnects for feeders supplied to one- and two-family dwelling units. This mirrors the requirements in Sec. 230.85 for service-supplied dwelling units so first responders are always able to shut off the power on the exterior of a dwelling regardless of how it is supplied.

No. 11 — Tamper-Resistant Receptacles

Additional locations (such as boathouses, mobile homes, motel rooms, dorms, and childcare facilities to name a few) will now require tamper-resistant receptacles per Sec. 406.12.

No. 12 — Horticultural Lighting

To address certain potential hazards in the horticultural lighting industry, Sec. 410.184 clarifies that GFCI protection is required where the horticultural lighting is connected with flexible cords using separable connectors or attachment plugs. A new Exception allows lighting equipment supplied by circuits over 150V to be protected with a listed special-purpose ground-fault circuit interrupter that trips at 20mA instead of 6mA.

No. 13 — Disconnects Readily Accessible to Unqualified Persons

To prevent a hazard from energized parts, Sec. 440.11 was revised to require disconnecting means with doors that can open to expose live parts to be lockable or require tools to open them when installed in areas readily accessible to unqualified persons.

No. 14 — Documentation for Classified and Unclassified Areas

Revisions in Sec. 500.4 clarify that area classification documentation must be available for both classified and adjacent unclassified areas. Language was also added requiring the documentation to be made available to the AHJ.

No. 15 — Wiring and Equipment Installed Above Hazardous (Classified) Locations

Section 511.7 went through quite a transformation as it was reorganized into a list format with additional requirements for listed fittings and equipment grounding conductors (EGCs).

No. 16 — Location of Service Equipment Near Docks

Two changes in Sec. 555.4 pertaining to the location of the service equipment near docks require the service equipment to be no closer than 5 ft horizontally from the water and at least 12 in. above the electrical datum plane.

No. 17 — Replacement of Equipment in Marine Locations

Section 555.15 was added to deal with equipment that is replaced at docking facilities. The circuit that supplies the equipment must then be inspected. If existing equipment is damaged, it must be identified, documented, and repaired by a qualified person to the minimum requirements of the edition of this Code to which it was originally installed.

No. 18 — Shore Power Receptacle Disconnecting Means

The new subdivision (C) in Sec. 555.36 requires an externally operable emergency disconnect, clearly marked “Emergency Shutoff” that can de-energize all power at each marina power outlet or enclosure that provides shore power to boats. As this rule is implemented in marinas, it will help to eliminate electric shock drownings (ESDs).

No. 19 — Electric Vehicle Branch Circuit

A new Exception in Sec. 625.40 permits multiple units of EVSE drawing 16A or less, at 120V, to share a circuit.

No. 20 — Island Mode (Electric Vehicle Power Transfer System)

Section 625.49 permits electric vehicle power export equipment (EVPE) and bidirectional EVSE that have a power export function to be part of an interconnected power system operating in island mode.

No. 21 — GFCI and SPGFCI Protection

Section 680.5 was revised and expanded to include special-purpose ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and now has three subdivisions. The new subdivision (C) addresses SPGFCI protection for circuits over 150V to ground. The intent is to protect pool equipment in commercial installations that have higher voltages.

No. 22 — Receptacles, Luminaires, and Switches

The requirements for GFCI protection of receptacles in Sec. 680.22(A)(4) were expanded this cycle in Sec. 680.22 to include all receptacles rated 60A or less within 20 ft of a pool wall.

No. 23 — Tests and Maintenance

Revisions to Sec. 700.3(A) now require commissioning and not just testing of the emergency system.

No. 24 — Class-2-Powered Emergency Lighting Systems

A new Sec. 700.11 for Class 2 wiring provides the requirements for these systems. This new Section addresses technologies such as PoE and other emergency lighting systems that utilize Class 2 power.

No. 25 — Commissioning and Maintenance of Energy Storage Systems

The title of Sec. 706.7 was changed to recognize performance tests and a new subdivision (A) requires ESSs to be commissioned upon installation in other than one- and two-family dwellings.

New Articles – Global

369: Insulated bus pipe/tubular covered conductors.
371: Flexible bus systems.
512: Cannabis oil equipment and systems using flammable materials.
726: Class 4 Fault-managed power systems.

New Articles for Medium Voltage

235: Branch circuits, feeders, and services.
245: Overcurrent protection.
305: General requirements.
315: Conductors and cables.
395 (was 399): Outdoor overhead wiring.
495 (was 490): Equipment.

These are just a few of the changes that have been incorporated into the new 2023 NEC®.