2017 National Electrical Safety Code® (NESC®)

C2-2017






NESC® 100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

IEEE

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Accredited
Standards
Committee
C2-2017

National Electrical Safety Code®

Secretariat
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

Approved 26 April 2016
American National Standards Institute



2017 Edition

Abstract: This Code covers basic provisions for safeguarding of persons from hazards arising from the installation, operation, or maintenance of (1) conductors and equipment in electric supply stations, and (2) overhead and underground electric supply and communication lines. It also includes work rules for the construction, maintenance, and operation of electric supply and communication lines and equipment. The Code is applicable to the systems and equipment operated by utilities, or similar systems and equipment, of an industrial establishment or complex under the control of qualified persons. This Code consists of the introduction, definitions, grounding rules, list of referenced and bibliographic documents, and Parts 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code.

Keywords: communications industry safety; construction of communication lines; construction of electric supply lines; electrical safety; electric supply stations; electric utility stations; high-voltage safety; operation of communications systems; operation of electric supply systems; power station equipment; power station safety; public utility safety; safety work rules; underground communication line safety; underground electric line safety

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1. ~~**Red Text**~~ - Red strikethrough text denotes deletions.

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Foreword

This foreword is not a part of Accredited Standards Committee C2-2017, National Electrical Safety Code.

This publication consists of the parts of the National Electrical Safety Code® (NESC®) (Accredited Standards Committee C2) currently in effect.

Substantive changes in the 2017 Edition are identified by a change bar in the left-hand margin. In several cases, rules have been relocated without substantive changes in the wording. In these cases, only the rule numbers have been indicated as having been changed.

2017 Edition

Major changes in the 2017 Edition include (1) adding definitions for *communication* and *supply space*, (2) adding exceptions for underground cable grounding requirements, (3) revising and reorganizing the guy insulator placement rules, (4) revising and reorganizing the Grades of Construction application rules, and (5) revising the Part 4 worker safety rules to align with the changes in the OSHA work rules.

In Section 1, the Purpose rule was reorganized to clarify who and what the rules of the Code are meant to safeguard. The Scope rule was revised to include wind and solar energy as one of the sources for generating electricity. Two major revisions were added to the Application Rule (Rule 013). The first is the addition to Rule 013B3 clarifying which edition of the Code applies after an installation has been updated to a subsequent Code edition. The second revision concerns the addition of new facilities to an installation that does not meet Code rules.

Definitions for terms no longer used in the Code were deleted. Definitions added include *communication equipment, communication space, electric supply equipment, insulator*, *limited access highways, supply space, wind span,* and *weight span*.

In Section 3 (References), standards were added, updated, or deleted if no longer referenced in the Code. Appendix E (Bibliography) was also updated.

In Rules 092C1 and 096C, exceptions were added to exempt the four-grounds-in-each mile requirement under specific limiting conditions. In Rule 094B, stainless steel was included with nonferrous metals. Many of the grounding electrodes described in the rule are now considered to be equivalent. The exception allowing other dimensions and configurations if supported by a qualified engineering study was expanded to cover more types of electrodes.

In Part 1, major revisions to *electric supply stations* consisted of additions to Rule 110A that address safety sign locations, adjoining fence restrictions, and impenetrable fence modifications. Rule 114 pertaining to fire-extinguishing equipment was deleted. Rule 124A1 was revised to require the electric supply station clearance values in Table 124-1 and Table 110-1 to have appropriate atmospheric correction factors applied for altitudes above 1000 m (3300 ft).

Guy insulator Rules 215C2 to 215C8 were rewritten and reorganized to make them easier to understand and apply with the voltage transfer rules associated with guy insulators being removed. Voltage ‘adder’ calculations for vertical clearances between conductors carried on different supporting structures specified in Rule 233C will now require using a phasor relationship when determining the voltage between the conductors involved. Clearances of overhead lines from aboveground swimming pools with and without decks were added to Rule 234E1. All the rules associated with the clearances of antennas from supply and communication lines were placed into one rule, Rule 235I, and Rule 238E will now require a 1 m (40 in)

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vertical clearance between luminaires that are not effectively grounded and communication cables and equipment located in the communication space.

NOTE—Definitions of supply and communication space are now in Section 2.

In general, the rules in Section 24 were edited to provide greater clarity and easier reading. For example, Rule 241C was converted from a paragraph format to a bulleted format and a note was added to Rule 240 to point out that requirements for emergency and temporary installations are addressed in Rule 014.

Although the content of Table 242-1 remains largely the same, the order of the columns and rows was changed to follow a more intuitive progression. Take note that for crossing supply conductors exceeding 22 kV, the table value is now shown as Grade B and Footnote 3 allows a reduction to Grade C if the supply circuits will be promptly de-energized. Previously, the Table 242-1 showed a requirement of Grade C with a footnote stating that Grade B was required if the supply would not be promptly de-energized. Footnote 11 was also added to Table 242-1 to specify that Grade N construction can be used for dielectric fiber-optic supply cables when certain grounding requirements are met.

Rule 250D has additional language that clarifies the objects that have ice added to them for loading analysis and those objects where ice is not added. Rule 261H has an added requirement that the potential for damage from Aeolian vibration must be considered for all conductors. In addition, when limiting tension is the only method applied for mitigation, initial and final tension limits are specified.

Several changes to requirements for insulators were adopted into Section 27. The industry has developed new insulator ratings over the last 10 years and the changes in Section 27 were made to coincide with manufacturers' current rating practices.

Separate allowed percentage of strength ratings are now specified for Rule 250B loads versus Rules 250C and 250D loads. In addition, new classifications were adopted to differentiate distribution and transmission insulators and the allowable values were changed for those insulators that have a new rating methodology.

In Part 3, rules requiring underground conductor neutrals and any other conductors that are intentionally grounded were revised to require grounding where they are exposed to personnel contact.

Rule 354D contains exceptions that allow grounding and bonding between underground communication and supply cables at equipment locations in lieu of grounding and bonding the underground cable between equipment locations.

The rules covering burial depths for direct buried underground cables and duct not part of a conduit system were revised to require burial depths; an exception was added if the requirement cannot be met.

The conductance requirement in the random separation between supply and communication rules was deleted.

Several noteworthy changes were made to Part 4. Specifically, revisions to Rule 410A, Rule 420K, Rule 441, and the associated tables were adopted to align these work rules with changes to OSHA federal regulations (Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations) published in April 2014.

Rule 410A3 was revised to recognize the possible necessity to protect the head, face, hand, and feet of employees working on or near energized lines, parts, or equipment at voltages 50 V to 800 000 V (ac) and also includes a recommendation for voltages 50 V to 250 V (dc).

Rule 420K was revised and expanded to address and provide guidance fall protection and fall arrest equipment and its use.

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Rule 441 (and the associated tables) was extensively revised to: address situations where the grounding of lines operating at 600 V (ac) or less is impractical; include definitions for *reach* and *extended reach*; address work on exposed grounded lines 301 V to 72.5 kV (ac); clarify the use of the Rubber Glove Work Method for lines 301 V to 72.5 kV (ac); and address work position when performing live-line work on lines 72.5 kV and above. Table 441-1 was revised to include material changes to the default minimum approach distance values for ac live-line work for lines 72.6 kV and above. Corresponding to the revisions to Rule 441A4, new Table 441-2, Table 441-3, and Table 441-4 were added to supplement Table 441-1 where the per unit transient overvoltage value has been determined through an engineering analysis.

2012 Edition

In the 2012 Edition, major changes include: an updated scope, application, and definitions; greatly simplified minimum approach tables and voltage exposure for arc flash; the addition of K factor for wire tension; and added clarification of the ungrounded portions of guys around swimming pools. Consistency to the application of the terms *grounded* and *effectively grounded* was applied. Rule 313 was reworded to include the recording and correction of conditions, not just defects, which affects compliance with the Code. A new rule, Rule 355, was added that contains rules for duct not part of a conduit system. Two significant changes were made to the work rules in Part 4, specifically in the Rule 441 minimum approach distanced tables, and also in Rule 410A3 on arc flash exposure.

2007 Edition

The major revisions for the 2007 Edition included grounding, moving sag calculations to Section 23, moving guy and span wires insulator rules to Section 21, phasing out of the alternate method for load factors and strength factors, flammable materials transported, phase-to-phase cover-up, and minimum approach distance tables.

2002 Edition

In the 2002 Edition, several changes were made that affected all or several parts of the Code. Particularly, this edition clarifies interfaces between the NEC and NESC with regard to Code jurisdiction in the area of streetlights and area lights. Also included is clarification for situations between utility workers and their authorized contractors and installations on industrial complexes.

1997 Edition

In the 1997 Edition, the most notable general change that took place is that numerical values in the metric (SI) system are shown in the preferred position, with customary inch-foot-pound values (inside parentheses) following. A bibliography, Appendix B, which consists of a list of resources identified in notes or recommendations, was added. Changes were made to rules affecting grounding, electric supply stations, and overhead lines, particularly with regard to clearance rules applicable to emergency and temporary installations. Strength requirements contained in Sections 24, 25, and 26 were revised completely. Underground line requirements for random separation for underground lines of direct-buried cables were modified. The requirement for cable identification marking by means of sequentially placed logos was introduced. Work rules added a requirement that warning signs and tags comply with applicable ANSI standards, tagging requirements were clarified with regard to SCADA, and extensive requirements for fall protection were added.

1993 Edition

In the 1993 Edition, changes were made in the rules applicable to emergency and temporary installations. In Section 9 and Parts 1, 2, and 3, rules were extended or clarified to include HVDC systems. The requirements for random separation of direct-buried supply and communications systems were modified for consistency and clarity, as was the rule in Part 4 on tagging electric supply circuits.

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1990 Edition

The 1990 Edition included several major changes. General rules were revised. A significant change to the method for specifying overhead line clearances was made and the rationale added as Appendix A. Requirements for clearances of overhead lines from grain bins and an alternate method for determining the strength requirements for wood structures was added. Rules covering grounding methods, electric supply stations, underground lines, and work rules were changed.

1987 Edition

The 1987 Edition was revised extensively. Definitions were changed or added. Requirements affecting grounding methods, electric supply stations, overhead line clearances and loading, underground lines, and work rules were revised.

1981 Edition

The 1981 Edition included major changes in Parts 1, 2, and 3, minor changes in Part 4, and the incorporation of the rules common to all parts into Section 1. The 1984 Edition was revised to update all references and to list those references in a new Section 3. Converted metric values, for information only, were added. Gender-related terminology was deleted. Section 1—Introduction, Section 2—Definitions, Section 3—References, and Section 9—Grounding Methods, were made applicable to each of the Parts 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Early Editions

The former practice of designating parts by editions has not been practical for some time. In the 1977 Edition, Parts 1 and 4 were sixth editions, Part 2 was a seventh edition, Part 3 was a revision of the sixth edition, Part 2, Section 29, did not cover the same subject matter as the fifth edition, and Part 3 was withdrawn in 1970. In the 1987 Edition, revisions were made in all parts, and revisions to all parts have been made in subsequent editions. It is therefore recommended that reference to the NESC be made solely by the year of the published volume and desired part number. Separate copies of the individual parts are not available.

Work on the NESC started in 1913 at the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), resulting in the publication of NBS Circular 49. The last complete edition of the Code (the fifth edition, NBS Handbook H30) was issued in 1948, although separate portions had been available at various times starting in 1938. Part 2, Definitions and the Grounding Rules, sixth edition, were issued as NBS Handbook H81, ANSI C2.2-1960, in November 1961, but work on other parts was not active again until 1970.

In 1970, the C2 Committee decided to delete the Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Electric Utilization Equipment (Part 3 of the fifth edition), now largely covered by the National Electrical Code® (NEC®) (NFPA 70®, 2011 Edition), and the Rules for Radio Installation (Part 5 of the fifth edition) from future editions. The Discussion of the NESC, issued as NBS Handbook H4 (1928 Edition) for the fourth edition of the NESC and as NBS Handbook H39 for Part 2 of the Grounding Rules of the fifth edition, was not published for the sixth edition.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., was designated as the administrative secretariat for C2 in January 1973, assuming the functions formerly performed by the NBS. Comments should be sent to the Secretary, National Electrical Safety Code Committee, through the following online comment form:

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Interpretations

Previously rendered interpretations of the NESC can be found at http://standards.ieee.org/about/nesc/interps.html.

The Interpretations Subcommittee was established to prepare replies to requests for interpretation of the rules contained in the Code. Requests for interpretation should state the rule in question, as well as the conditions under which it is being applied. Interpretations are intended to clarify the intent of specific rules and are not intended to supply consulting information on the application of the Code. Requests for interpretation should be submitted using the NESC Interpretation Request Form on the NESC home page: http://standards.ieee.org/about/nesc/interps.html.

If the request is suitable for processing, it will be sent to the Interpretations Subcommittee. After consideration by the committee, which may involve many exchanges of correspondence, the inquirer will be notified of its decision. Decisions are published regularly and may be accessed online at no cost at http://standards.ieee.org/about/nesc/interps.html.

The NESC as written is a voluntary standard. However, some editions and some parts of the Code have been adopted, with and without changes, by some state and local jurisdictional authorities. To determine the legal status of the NESC in any particular state or locality within a state, the authority having jurisdiction should be contacted.

Change proposals and comments for the 2022 Edition of the NESC will be submitted to the NESC Secretary online. For information on how this electronic revision process will take place and for updates and complete information on the NESC, please visit the National Electrical Safety Code on the IEEE Standards website at http://standards.ieee.org/about/nesc/index.html.

Acknowledgments

On behalf of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) Committee, the IEEE Standards Association would like to express thanks and gratitude to Michael J. Hyland for his 10-year tenure as Chair of the NESC, from 2006 to 2016. Mike has served with an enthusiasm and leadership unsurpassed in the NESC. The support by the American Public Power Association and its membership for Mike in his role as NESC Chair is sincerely appreciated.

On behalf of the NESC Committee, the IEEE Standards Association gratefully thanks James R. Tomaseski for his 10-year tenure as Vice Chair of the NESC.

Beginning 1 September 2016, the NESC Committee looks forward to leadership for the next Code edition by welcoming Nelson G. Bingel, III, Osmose Utilities Services, as Chair of the NESC, and Danna Liebhaber, Bonneville Power Administration, as Vice Chair of the NESC.

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At the time this Code was approved, Accredited Standards Committee C2 had the following membership:

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		Stephen Cantrell	Tennessee Valley Authority
WAPA	Patrick Nies		Western Area Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy

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NESC Subcommittee 1
Purpose, Scope, Application, Definitions, and References
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AAR—Association of American Railroads
AEIC—Association of Edison Illuminating Companies
AISI—American Iron and Steel Institute
APPA—American Public Power Association
APTA—American Public Transit Association
ATIS—Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions
AWPA—American Wood Preserves Association
BPA—Bonneville Power Admin., U.S. Dept. of Energy
EEI—Edison Electric Institute
EIA—Electronic Industries Association
IBEW—International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
IEA—Infrastructure Energy Alternatives
IEC—Independent Electrical Contractors
IEEE—Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.
IMSA—International Municipal Signal Association
NARUC—National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
NAWPC—North American Wood Pole Council
NCEMC—North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation
NCTA—National Cable Television Association
NECA—National Electrical Contractors Association
NEMA—National Electrical Manufacturers Association
NRECA—National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
NSC—National Safety Council
NSPE—National Society of Professional Engineers
RUS—Rural Utilities Services, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
SCTE—Society of Telecommunication Engineers
SEEX—Southeastern Electric Exchange
SEIA—Solar Energy Industries Association
TVA—Tennessee Valley Authority
TWC—Treated Wood Council
WAPA—Western Area Power Administration, U.S. Dept. of Energy

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Section 9

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Steven Johnson		NCTA	Johnson Telecomm LLC
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	Robert D. Saint	NRECA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
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Timothy Cooke		SCTE	Times Fiber Communications, Inc.
Keith Reese		SEEX	Georgia Power Company
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Sections 10–19

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	Ted Pejman	RUS	USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Mark A. Konz		SEEX	Gulf Power Company
	Christopher A. Carson	SEEX	Alabama Power Company

For the 2022 Edition, David J. Marne assumes the position of Subcommittee 3 Chair, and Gregory Wolven assumes the position of Subcommittee 3 Secretary.

NESC Subcommittee 4—Overhead Lines—Clearances
Sections 20, 21, 22, 23

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	Steve Mace	NCTA	National Cable & Telecommunications Association
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NESC Subcommittee 5—Overhead Lines—Strength and Loading
Sections 24, 25, and 27

Nelson G. Bingel, III, *Chair*
Bruce Freimark, *Secretary*

Principle	*Alternate*	*Organization represented*	*Employer*
John Busel		ACMA	ACMA
	Scott Holmes	ACMA	Utility Composite Solutions Intl.
	Dustin Troutman	ACMA	Creative Pultrusions Inc.
Helen Chen		AISI	American Iron and Steel Institute
	Richard Aichinger	AISI	Valmont-Newmark
Warren Brooks		APPA	Springfield City Utilities
Joseph Rempe		APPA	Tacoma Power
Lawrence M. Slavin		ATIS	Outside Plant Consulting Services, Inc.
	Trevor Bowmer	ATIS	Ericsson
Leon Kempner		BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
Ronald Cotant		EEI	American Electric Power
Bruce Freimark		EEI	American Electric Power
Jeffrey Erdle		EEI	Duke Energy
Edward Harrel		EEI	Oncor Electric Delivery Company
G. Paul Anundson		EEI	National Grid
C. Jerry Wong		EEI	Florida Power & Light
John-Chung Ng		EEI	American Electric Power
	Bryan L. Williams	EEI	Oncor Electric Delivery Company
	Prasad Yenumula	EEI	Duke Energy
Nelson G. Bingel, III		IEEE/PES	Osmose Utilities Services, Inc.
Michael Garrels		IEEE/PES	Consumers Energy
Andrew Schwalm		IEEE/PES	Victor Insulators, Inc.
Donald Soderberg, Jr.		IEEE/PES	Consumers Energy
Mark Jurgemeyer		IEEE/IAS	Stanley Consultants, Inc.
H. M. Rollins		NAWPC	H. M. Rollins Company, Inc.
	Jason Rollins	NAWPC	H. M. Rollins Company, Inc.
Jacob Joplin		NCEMC	Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative
	Russell Guerry	NCEMC	Edgecombe-Martin County EMC
Steven Johnson		NCTA	Johnson Telecomm LLC
	Steve Mace	NCTA	National Cable & Telecommunications Association
Robert Harris		NRECA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Robert S. Fuller		NSPE	Texas-New Mexico Power Co.
	Grant Glaus	NSPE	Columbia Rural Electric Association
Otto J. Lynch		Power Line Systems	Power Line Systems, Inc.
Thomas Haire		REMC	Rutherford EMC
Wilson Johnson		RUS	USDA, Rural Utilities Service
	Norris Nicholson	RUS	USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Timothy Cooke		SCTE	Times Fiber Communications, Inc.
Frank Agnew		SEEX	Alabama Power
Wade Shultz		SEEX	Alabama Power Company
	David West	SEEX	Duke Power Company

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NESC Subcommittee 5 *(continued)*

	Melanie Bragdon	SEEX	Florida Power & Light
	John Trentham	SEEX	Southern Company
Richard J. Standford		Consultant	TRC Companies
	Joseph Procopio	Consultant	TRC Companies
Clayton L. Clem		TVA	TVA Power System Operations
	Stephen Cantrell	TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority
Jim Fixsen		TWC	Bell Lumber & Pole
	Bob Reisdorf	TWC	Laminated Wood Systems, Inc.
Douglas Hanson		WAPA	Western Area Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy

NESC Subcommittee 7—Underground Lines
Sections 30–39

Charles C. Bleakley, *Chair*
Lauren E. Gaunt, *Secretary*

Principle	*Alternate*	*Organization represented*	*Employer*
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George S. Pristach		APTA	Stantec Consulting, Ltd.
Lawrence M. Slavin		ATIS	Outside Plant Consulting Services, Inc.
Trevor Bowmer		ATIS	Ericsson
	Dennis Henry	ATIS	Ericsson
Lauren E. Gaunt		EEI	Eversource Energy
Donald Guinn		EEI	Progress Energy
William Eanes		EEI	Duke Energy
John C. Spence		EEI	Baltimore Gas & Electric Co.
	Jonathan Gonynor	EEI	National Grid
David Mullen		IBEW	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Richard S. Vencus		IEEE	United Illuminating Company
Jorge Camacho		NARUC	Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
	Steve Mace	NCTA	National Cable & Telecommunications Association
James R. Tomaseski		NECA	Wilson Construction Company Inc.
Robert Emgarten		NRECA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
	Robert D. Saint	NRECA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
David J. Marne		NSPE	Marne and Associates, Inc.
Trung Hiu		RUS	USDA, Rural Utilities Service
	Donald Junta	RUS	USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Timothy Cooke		SCTE	Times Fiber Communications, Inc.
Charles C. Bleakley		SEEX	Georgia Power Company, Consultant
Mickey B. Gunter		SEEX	Georgia Power Company, Consultant
	Keith Reese	SEEX	Georgia Power Company
	Lee Welch	SEEX	Southern Company

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NESC Subcommittee 8—Work Rules
Sections 40–43

James R. Tomaseski, *Chair*
Samuel Stonerock, *Secretary*

Principle	*Alternate*	*Organization represented*	*Employer*
Bill McGough		AEIC	Alabama Power Company
	Bernie D. (Donnie) Bell	AEIC	Gulf Power Company
Brent McKinney		APPA	City Utilities of Springfield
	Kevin Dody	APPA	City Utilities of Springfield
Trevor Bowmer		ATIS	Ericsson
	Dennis Henry	ATIS	Ericsson
Michael Granata		EEI	Appalachian Power Company
Tommy Russell		EEI	Southwestern Electric Power Company
Samuel Stonerock		EEI	Southern California Edison Co.
	Patrick Geoffrey	EEI	PG&E
	Stephen Barnard	EEI	Dominion Virginia Power
	Thuy Nguyen	EEI	American Electric Power
David Mullen		IBEW	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
John Masarick		IEC	Independent Electrical Contractors
	James C. Tuggle	IEC	Malpaso Group Inc.
Lawrence Schweitzer		IEEE	The L. E. Myers Company
Thomas Verdecchio		IEEE	PSE&G (retired)
Stephen Poholski		NECA	Newkirk Electric
	James R. Tomaseski	NECA	PAR Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Mark Zavislan		NRECA	Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
	Robert Harris	NRECA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Steven Theis		NSC	PSE&G
Troy Little		NSPE	Brooks & Jackson, Inc.
	F. M. Brooks	NSPE	Brooks & Jackson, Inc.
Albert Smoak		NSPE	Southwestern Electric Power Company
Brian Erga		NWPPA	ESCI Inc.
David M. Wallis			Emeritus
Norris Nicholson		RUS	USDA, Rural Utilities Services
Charles Shaw		SEEX	Alabama Power Company
Bruce Gurley		SEEX	Duke Energy
	Keith Wallace	SEEX	Alabama Power Company
	Corey Ziegler	SEEX	Duke Energy
Charles W. Grose		Self	Consultant
Edward Hunt		WAPA	Western Area Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy
	Patrick Nies	WAPA	Western Area Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy

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NESC Executive Subcommittee

Michael J. Hyland, *Chair*
James R. Tomaseski, *Vice Chair*

Name	*Organization*	*Employer*
Michael J. Hyland	APPA	American Public Power Association
Lawrence M. Slavin	ATIS	Outside Plant Consulting Services, Inc.
Leon Kempner	BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
Edward Harrel	EEI	Oncor Electric Delivery Company
Eric K. Engdahl (Alternate)	EEI	American Electric Power
Nelson G. Bingel, III	IEEE	Osmose Utilities Services, Inc.
James R. Tomaseski	NECA	National Electrical Contractors Association
Robert Harris	NRECA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

NESC Interpretations Subcommittee

Donald E. Hooper, *Chair*

Name	*Employer*	*Part*	*Section*
Charles C. Bleakley	Georgia Power Company	G	
D. J. Christofersen	CeCe	1	
Allen L. Clapp	PCU Training Center	G	
Alton L. Comans	Alabama Power Company	1	9
John Dagenhart	Dagenhart Consulting Services	G	
Eric K. Engdahl	American Electric Power	G	
Bruce Freimark	American Electric Power	2	
Charles W. Grose	Consultant	4	
Mickey B. Gunter	Engineering Consultant	G	
Donald E. Hooper	ES&C, Inc.	G	
Herman N. Johnson, Jr.	Pike Energy Solutions	G	
David J. Marne	Marne and Associates, Inc.	G	
Percy E. Pool	Verizon	3	9
Keith Reese	Georgia Power Company	G	
Ewell T. Robeson	Duke Energy	3	9
Wade Shultz	Alabama Power Company	G	
Lawrence M. Slavin	Outside Plant Consulting Services, Inc.	G	
Lanny L. Smith	Consultant	G	
James R. Tomaseski	PAR Electrical Contractors, Inc.	G	

Key:
G = General (all areas); 1 = Part 1; 2 = Part 2; 3 = Part 3; 4 = Part 4; 9 = Section 9

Grounding
When a member has Section 9 and a part number, the member covers grounding and grounding for that part.

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Procedure for revising the NESC

1. Preparation of proposals for amendment

   NOTE: The procedures for the collection of change proposals are subject to change for the 2022 NESC revision cycle. See http://standards.ieee.org/about/nesc/general.html for updates.

   1.1 A proposal may be prepared by any

   a. Substantially interested person

   b. Interested organization

   c. NESC Subcommittee

   d. Member of the NESC Committee or its subcommittees

   1.2 Change proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary of the National Electrical Safety Code Committee via the NESC's electronic revision process found at http://standards.ieee.org/about/nesc/index.html.

   1.3 Each separate topic shall begin on a separate form and shall only address one rule, unless a change in a rule directly affects another rule. If a proposal references documents not readily available to all subcommittee members, sufficient copies of the referenced documents to supply the subcommittee must be furnished.

   1.4 The proposal shall consist of

   a. A statement, in NESC rule form, of the exact change, rewording, or new material proposed.

   b. Words to be deleted shall be indicated via strikethroughs, and words to be added shall be underlined.

   c. The name of the submitter (organization or individual as applicable).

   d. Supporting comments, giving the reasons why the NESC should be revised.

   NOTE: A change proposal will not be accepted if these steps are not followed.

2. The NESC Secretary will

   a. Acknowledge receipt of proposals for revision.

   b. Distribute to each member of the appropriate NESC Subcommittee all of the proposals received, arranged in a coordinated sequence.

3. Subcommittee recommendation

   The NESC Subcommittee responsible will consider each proposal and take one or more of the following steps:

   a. Endorse the proposal as received.

   b. Prepare a proposed revision or addition for the NESC (this may be a coordination of several comments or a committee consensus on a modification of a proposal).

   c. Refer the proposal to a technical working group for detailed consideration.

   d. Request coordination with other NESC Subcommittees.

   e. Recommend rejection of the proposal, for stated reasons.

   For each item, the responsible subcommittee shall prepare a voting statement, accompanied by all members' statements concerning their votes (cogent reasons are required for negative votes). Steps (c) and (d) are intended to result, eventually, in a proposal of category (b).

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Action under steps (c) or (d) shall be completed and reported to the subcommittee before the end of the public review period if the item is to be included in the upcoming revision.

4. Preprint of proposals

The NESC Secretary shall organize and publish a preprint of the proposed revisions including

a. The original proposal as received from the submitter.

b. The recommendation of the subcommittee with respect to the proposal (including a voting statement and subcommittee members' statements).

c. Copies of submittal form for comments.

The Preprint shall be distributed to all members of NESC Subcommittees and representatives of organizations comprising the NESC Committee. Copies shall be available for sale to other interested parties. Notice of availability of the Preprint shall be submitted to ANSI for publication in ANSI Standards Action. The Preprint shall carry information on how to submit comments on the proposals and the final date for such submissions.

5. Final processing of proposed revisions and comments

5.1 Following the public review period, the Secretary shall organize and distribute for subcommittee consideration all comments received electronically.

5.2 The Preprint and the comments received shall be reconsidered by the subcommittees. No new change proposals may be considered.

a. The subcommittee may recommend adoption or rejection of the proposal by majority vote.

b. When extended technical consideration or resolution of differing or conflicting points of view is necessary, the subcommittee shall refer the problem to a working group of the subcommittee for proposed resolution. If expeditious resolution is not possible, the subject shall be held on the docket.

Each working group shall provide, to its parent subcommittee, recommendations on matters considered as a result of subcommittee referrals under items 3(c) and 4.2(b).

Each subcommittee shall prepare a report showing its proposed revisions and all items held on the docket together with a plan for their disposition.

5.3 The Secretary shall provide commenters with copies of actions taken on the rules affected by their comments, and shall make all such reports available for examination upon request.

6. Final approval

6.1 Based upon the subcommittee reports, the Secretary shall prepare a draft of the revision of the NESC and distribute copies to

a. The NESC Committee for approval by a 30-day letter ballot

b. The ANSI Board of Standards Review for concurrent 45-day public review

Comments received in response to the letter ballot and public review shall be referred to the Executive Subcommittee for resolution or referral to the appropriate subcommittee. Those items on which consensus cannot be reached shall be referred to the appropriate subcommittee for consideration during the next revision cycle. Unless a consensus for revision is established, the requirements of the current edition shall carry over to the proposed edition.

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Time schedule for the next revision of the NESC

The revision schedule for the 2022 NESC is as follows:

15 July 2018	Final date to receive change proposals from the public for revision of the 2017 Edition of the NESC, preparatory to the publication of a 2022 Edition.
September–October 2018	NESC Subcommittees consider change proposals to the NESC and prepare their recommendations.
1 September 2019	Preprint of the change proposals for incorporation into the 2022 Edition of the NESC published for distribution to the NESC Committee and other interested parties. This opens the comment period, by interested parties, on the submitted change proposals and the subcommittee recommendations.
1 May 2020	The final date to submit comments on the submitted change proposal and the subcommittee recommendations. All comments and recommendations on these proposals are due to the Secretary, NESC Committee.
September–October 2020	Period for NESC Subcommittee Working Groups and NESC Subcommittees to reconsider all recommendations concerning the proposed amendments and prepare a final report.
15 January 2021	Proposed revision of the NESC, Accredited Standards Committee C2, submitted to NESC Committee for letter ballot and to ANSI for concurrent public review.
15 May 2021	NESC Committee approved revisions of the NESC submitted to ANSI for recognition as an ANSI standard.
1 August 2021	Publication of the 2022 Edition of the NESC.

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Working Group assignments and activities for the 2022 Edition

Subcommittee 2, Grounding Methods (SC2)

Working Group 2.1

A Task Force was formed to review CP4059 for possible requirements for grounding line side for services greater than 750 V.

Members: John Dagenhart, Keith Reese

Working Group 2.2

A Task Force was formed to review CP4058 to look at the diameter of different ground rods and modern materials and techniques.

Chair: Roger J. Montambo

Members: Trevor Bowmer, John Dagenhart, Keith Reese, Ewell T. Robeson

Subcommittee 3, Electric Supply Stations (SC3)

See NESC Subcommittee 8, WG 8.15 (following).

Subcommittee 4, Overhead Lines—Clearances (SC4)

Working Group 4.3

SC4 formed WG 4.3 to address all rules and tables for Rule 232 water crossing and to clarify the definition of "bodies and levels of water" (e.g., high water mark, flood level).

Chair: Douglas Proctor

Members: David D'Hooge, Alan Kuipers, Joseph L. White

Working Group 4.4

SC4 formed WG 4.4 to review the clearances between energized parts and down guys. Table 235-6, Row 2, a, b, c.

Chair: Branch Davis

Members: David D'Hooge, Mickey B. Gunter, Jeffery Hall, Douglas Proctor, Jeffrey Steiner

Subcommittee 5, Overhead Lines—Strength and Loading (SC5)

Working Group 5.1

Coordination of loading calculations in Sections 24, 25, and 26

WG 5.1/Task Force 5.1.3: Inconsistencies, clarifications, and modifications of Sections 24, 25, and 26.

WG 5.1/Task Force 5.1.5: Review/update, as required, the extreme wind methodology.

WG 5.1/Task Force 5.1.11: Eliminate the conductor constant (k factor).

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Subcommittee 8—Work Rules (SC8)

Working Group 8.14

Work Group 8.14 was formed to address possible gaps in Part 4 rules applicable in generating stations.

Working Group 8.15

SC8 formed a working group to address remaining concerns regarding CP4176 and Rule 420G, Liquid-cell batteries. New working group may include SC3 members.

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Contents

Letter symbols for units xlii

Section 1. Introduction to the National Electrical Safety Code® 1
010. Purpose 1
011. Scope 1
A. Covered 1
B. Not covered 2
C. Types of requirements 3
012. General rules 4
013. Application 4
A. New installations and extensions 4
B. Existing installations 4
C. Inspection and work rules 5
014. Waiver for emergency and temporary installations 5
A. Emergency installations 5
B. Temporary overhead installations 5
015. Intent 5
016. Effective date 6
017. Units of measure 6
018. Method of calculation 6

Section 2. Definitions of special terms 7

Section 3. References 21

Section 9. Grounding methods for electric supply and communications facilities 24
090. Purpose 24
091. Scope 24
092. Point of connection of grounding conductor 24
A. Direct-current systems that are required to be grounded 24
1. 750 V and below 24
2. Over 750 V 24
B. Alternating current systems that are required to be grounded 24
1. 750 V and below 24
2. Over 750 V 24
3. Separate grounding conductor 25
C. Messenger wires and guys 25
1. Messenger wires 25
2. Guys 25
3. Common grounding of messengers and guys on the same supporting structure 25
D. Current in grounding conductor 26
E. Fences 26
093. Grounding conductor and means of connection 27
A. Composition of grounding conductors 27
B. Connection of grounding conductors 27
C. Ampacity and strength 27
1. System grounding conductors for single-grounded systems 27
2. System grounding conductors for multi-grounded alternating current systems 28
3. Grounding conductors for instrument transformers 28
4. Grounding conductors for primary surge arresters 28
5. Grounding conductors for equipment, messenger wires, and guys 28

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Section *Page*

6. Fences 28
7. Bonding of equipment frames and enclosures 28
8. Ampacity limit 28
9. Strength 29
D. Guarding and protection 29
E. Underground 29
F. Common grounding conductor for circuits, metal raceways, and equipment 30
094. Grounding electrodes 30
A. Existing electrodes 30
1. Metallic water piping system 30
2. Local systems 30
3. Steel reinforcing bars in concrete foundations and footings 30
B. Made electrodes 30
1. General 30
2. Driven rods, buried wire, strips, or plates 31
3. Pole-butt plates and wire wraps 32
4. Concentric neutral cable 32
5. Concrete-encased electrodes 32
6. Directly embedded metal poles 33
095. Method of connection to electrode 33
A. Ground connections 33
B. Point of connection to piping systems 33
C. Contact surfaces 34
096. Ground resistance requirements 34
A. General 34
B. Supply stations 34
C. Multi-grounded systems 34
D. Single-grounded (unigrounded or delta) systems 35
097. Separation of grounding conductors 35
098. Number 098 not used in this edition. 36
099. Additional requirements for grounding and bonding of communication apparatus 36
A. Electrode 36
B. Electrode connection 36
C. Bonding of electrodes 37

Part 1. Safety Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Electric Supply Stations and Equipment

Section 10. Purpose and scope of rules 39
100. Purpose 39
101. Scope 39
102. Application of rules 39
103. Referenced sections 39

Section 11. Protective arrangements in electric supply stations 40
110. General requirements 40
A. Enclosure of equipment 40
1. Types of enclosures 40
2. Safety clearance zone 40
B. Rooms and spaces 41
1. Construction 41
2. Use 41
3. Ventilation 41
4. Moisture and weather 41

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section Page

C. Electric equipment 41
111. Illumination 43
A. Under normal conditions 43
B. Emergency lighting 43
C. Fixtures 44
D. Attachment plugs and receptacles for general use 44
E. Receptacles in damp or wet locations 44
112. Floors, floor openings, passageways, and stairs 45
A. Floors 45
B. Passageways 45
C. Railings 45
D. Stair guards 45
E. Top rails 45
113. Exits 45
A. Clear exits 45
B. Double exits 45
C. Exit doors 46

Section 12. Installation and maintenance of equipment 47
120. General requirements 47
121. Inspections 47
A. In-service equipment 47
B. Idle equipment 47
C. Emergency equipment 47
D. New equipment 47
122. Guarding shaft ends, pulleys, belts, and suddenly moving parts 47
A. Mechanical transmission machinery 47
B. Suddenly moving parts 47
123. Protective grounding 47
A. Protective grounding or physical isolation of non-current-carrying metal parts 47
B. Grounding method 48
C. Provision for grounding equipment during maintenance 48
D. Grounding methods for direct-current systems over 750 V 48
124. Guarding live parts 48
A. Where required 48
B. Strength of guards 48
C. Types of guards 49
1. Location or physical isolation 49
2. Shields or enclosures 49
3. Supplemental barriers or guards within electric supply stations 49
4. Mats 49
5. Live parts below supporting surfaces for persons 49
6. Insulating covering on conductors or parts 49
D. Taut-string distances 49
125. Working space about electric equipment 60
A. Working space (600 V or less) 60
1. Clear spaces 60
2. Access and entrance to working space 60
3. Working space 60
4. Headroom working space 60
5. Front working space 60
B. Working space over 600 V 61
126. Equipment for work on energized parts 61
127. Classified locations 61

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section *Page*

A. Coal-handling areas ... 61
B. Flammable and combustible liquids ... 62
C. Flammable liquid storage area ... 62
D. Loading and unloading facilities for flammable and combustible liquids ... 62
F. Boilers ... 62
G. Gaseous hydrogen systems for supply equipment ... 62
H. Liquid hydrogen systems ... 63
I. Sulfur ... 63
J. Oxygen ... 63
K. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) ... 63
L. Natural gas (methane) ... 63
128. Identification ... 63
129. Mobile hydrogen equipment ... 63

Section 13. Rotating equipment ... 64
130. Speed control and stopping devices ... 64
A. Automatic overspeed trip device for prime movers ... 64
B. Manual stopping devices ... 64
C. Speed limit for motors ... 64
1. Separately excited dc motors ... 64
2. Series motors ... 64
D. Number 130D not used in this edition. ... 64
E. Adjustable-speed motors ... 64
F. Protection of control circuits ... 64
131. Motor control ... 64
132. Number 132 not used in this edition. ... 65
133. Short-circuit protection ... 65

Section 14. Storage batteries ... 66
140. General ... 66
141. Location ... 66
142. Ventilation ... 66
143. Racks ... 66
144. Floors in battery areas ... 66
145. Illumination for battery areas ... 66
146. Service facilities ... 66

Section 15. Transformers and regulators ... 68
150. Current-transformer secondary circuits protection when exceeding 600 V ... 68
151. Grounding secondary circuits of instrument transformers ... 68
152. Location and arrangement of power transformers and regulators ... 68
A. Outdoor installations ... 68
B. Indoor installations ... 68
153. Short-circuit protection of power transformers ... 69

Section 16. Conductors ... 70
160. Application ... 70
161. Electrical protection ... 70
A. Overcurrent protection required ... 70
B. Grounded conductors ... 70
C. Insulated power cables ... 70
162. Mechanical protection and support ... 70
163. Isolation ... 70
164. Conductor terminations ... 70

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section *Page*

A. Insulation ... 70
B. Metal-sheathed or shielded cable ... 70

Section 17. Circuit breakers, reclosers, switches, and fuses ... 71
170. Arrangement ... 71
171. Application ... 71
172. Circuit breakers, reclosers, and switches containing oil ... 71
173. Switches and disconnecting devices ... 71
A. Capacity ... 71
B. Provisions for disconnecting ... 71
174. Disconnection of fuses ... 71

Section 18. Switchgear and metal-enclosed bus ... 73
180. Switchgear assemblies ... 73
A. General requirements for all switchgear ... 73
B. Metal-enclosed power switchgear ... 73
C. Dead-front power switchboards ... 74
D. Motor control centers ... 74
E. Control switchboards ... 74
181. Metal-enclosed bus ... 74
A. General requirements for all types of bus ... 74
B. Isolated-phase bus ... 75

Section 19. Surge arresters ... 76
190. General requirements ... 76
191. Indoor locations ... 76
192. Grounding conductors ... 76
193. Installation ... 76

Part 2. Safety Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Overhead Electric Supply and Communication Lines

Section 20. Purpose, scope, and application of rules ... 77
200. Purpose ... 77
201. Scope ... 77
202. Application of rules ... 77

Section 21. General requirements ... 78
210. Referenced sections ... 78
211. Number 211 not used in this edition. ... 78
212. Induced voltages ... 78
213. Accessibility ... 78
214. Inspection and tests of lines and equipment ... 78
A. When in service ... 78
1. Initial compliance with rules ... 78
2. Inspection ... 78
3. Tests ... 78
4. Inspection records ... 78
5. Corrections ... 78
B. When out of service ... 79
1. Lines infrequently used ... 79
2. Lines temporarily out of service ... 79
3. Lines permanently abandoned ... 79

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section *Page*

215. Grounding of circuits, supporting structures, and equipment ... 79
A. Methods ... 79
B. Circuits ... 79
1. Common neutral ... 79
2. Other neutrals ... 79
3. Other conductors ... 79
4. Surge arresters ... 79
5. Use of earth as part of circuit ... 79
C. Non-current-carrying parts ... 79
1. General ... 79
2. Guys ... 80
3. Span wires ... 80
4. Insulators used to limit galvanic corrosion ... 81
5. Multiple messengers on the same structure ... 81
216. Arrangement of switches ... 81
A. Accessibility ... 81
B. Indicating open or closed position ... 81
C. Locking ... 81
D. Uniform position ... 81
E. Remotely controlled, automatic transmission, or distribution overhead line switching devices ... 81
217. General ... 82
A. Supporting structures ... 82
1. Protection of structures ... 82
2. Readily climbable supporting structures ... 82
3. Identification ... 83
4. Attachments, decorations, and obstructions ... 83
B. Unusual conductor supports ... 83
C. Protection and marking of guys ... 83
218. Vegetation management ... 83
A. General ... 83
B. At line crossings, railroad crossings, limited-access highway crossings, or navigable waterways requiring crossing permits ... 84

Section 22. Relations between various classes of lines and equipment ... 85
220. Relative levels ... 85
A. Standardization of levels ... 85
B. Relative levels: supply and communication conductors and equipment ... 85
1. Preferred levels ... 85
2. Special construction for railroad supply circuits of 600 V or less and carrying power not in excess of 5 kW ... 85
C. Relative levels: Supply lines of different voltage classifications (0 to 750 V, over 750 V to 8.7 kV, over 8.7 kV to 22 kV, over 22 kV to 50 kV, and over 50 kV) ... 86
1. At crossings or conflicts ... 86
2. On structures used only by supply conductors ... 86
D. Identification of overhead conductors and cables ... 86
E. Identification of equipment on supporting structures ... 86
221. Avoidance of conflict ... 86
222. Joint use of structures ... 87
223. Communications protective requirements ... 87
A. Where required ... 87
B. Means of protection ... 87

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section *Page*

224. Communication circuits located within the supply space and supply circuits located within the communication space ... 87
A. Communication circuits located in the supply space ... 87
B. Supply circuits used exclusively in the operation of communication circuits ... 88
225. Electric railway construction ... 89
A. Trolley-contact conductor fastenings ... 89
B. High-voltage contact conductors ... 89
C. Third rails ... 89
D. Prevention of loss of contact at railroad crossings at grade ... 89
E. Guards under bridges ... 89

Section 23. Clearances ... 90
230. General ... 90
A. Application ... 90
1. Permanent and temporary installations ... 90
2. Emergency installations ... 90
3. Measurement of clearance and spacing ... 90
4. Rounding of calculation results ... 91
B. Ice and wind loading for clearances ... 91
C. Supply cables ... 93
D. Covered conductors ... 93
E. Neutral conductors ... 93
F. Fiber-optic cable ... 93
1. Fiber-optic—supply cable ... 93
2. Fiber-optic—communication cable ... 94
G. Alternating- and direct-current circuits ... 94
H. Constant-current circuits ... 94
I. Maintenance of clearances and spacings ... 94
231. Clearances of supporting structures from other objects ... 96
A. From fire hydrants ... 96
B. From streets, roads, and highways ... 96
C. From railroad tracks ... 96
232. Vertical clearances of wires, conductors, cables, and equipment aboveground, roadway, rail, or water surfaces ... 96
A. Application ... 96
B. Clearance of wires, conductors, cables, equipment, and support arms mounted on supporting structures ... 97
1. Clearance to wires, conductors, and cables ... 97
2. Clearance to unguarded rigid live parts of equipment ... 97
3. Clearance to support arms, switch handles, and equipment cases ... 97
4. Street and area lighting ... 97
C. Additional clearances for wires, conductors, cables, and unguarded rigid live parts of equipment ... 97
1.Voltages exceeding 22 kV ... 97
D. Alternate clearances for voltages exceeding 98 kV ac to ground or 139 kV dc to ground ... 98
1. Sag conditions of line conductors ... 98
2. Reference heights ... 98
3. Electrical component of clearance ... 98
4. Limit ... 99
233. Clearances between wires, conductors, and cables carried on different supporting structures ... 114
A. General ... 114
1. Conductor movement envelope ... 115

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section Page

2. Clearance envelope 115
B. Horizontal clearance 115
1. Clearance requirements 115
2. For voltages exceeding 50 kV 115
3. Alternate clearances between conductors of different circuits 115
C. Vertical clearance 115
1. Clearance requirements 115
2. Voltages between the wires, conductors, or cables exceeding 22 kV 116
3. Alternate clearances for voltage exceeding 98 kV ac to ground or 139 kV dc to ground 116
234. Clearance of wires, conductors, cables, and equipment from buildings, bridges, rail cars, swimming pools, and other installations 126
A. Application 126
1. Vertical and horizontal clearances (no wind displacement) 126
2. Horizontal clearances (with wind displacement) 126
3. Transition between horizontal and vertical clearances 126
B. Clearances of wires, conductors, and cables from other supporting structures 127
1. Horizontal clearances 127
2. Vertical clearances 127
C. Clearances of wires, conductors, cables, and rigid live parts from buildings, signs, billboards, chimneys, radio and television antennas, tanks, flagpoles and flags, banners, and other installations except bridges 128
1. Vertical and horizontal clearances 128
2. Guarding of supply conductors and rigid live parts 128
3. Supply conductors attached to buildings or other installations 128
4. Communication conductors attached to buildings or other installations 129
D. Clearance of wires, conductors, cables, and unguarded rigid live parts from bridges 130
1. Vertical and horizontal clearances 130
2. Guarding trolley-contact conductors located under bridges 130
E. Clearance of wires, conductors, cables, or unguarded rigid live parts installed over or near swimming areas with no wind displacement 130
1. Swimming pools 130
2. Beaches and waterways restricted to swimming 131
3. Waterways subject to water skiing 131
F. Clearances of wires, conductors, cables, and rigid live parts from grain bins 131
1. Grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyers, or elevator systems 131
2. Grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyers, or elevators 131
G. Additional clearances for voltages exceeding 22 kV for wires, conductors, cables, and unguarded rigid live parts of equipment 132
H. Alternate clearances for voltages exceeding 98 kV ac to ground or 139 kV dc to ground 132
1. Sag conditions of line conductors 132
2. Reference distances 132
3. Electrical component of clearance 132
4. Limit 133
I. Clearance of wires, conductors, and cables to rail cars 133
J. Clearance of equipment mounted on supporting structures 133
1. Clearance to unguarded rigid live parts of equipment 133
2. Clearance to equipment cases 133
235. Clearance for wires, conductors, or cables carried on the same supporting structure 157
A. Application of rule 157
1. Multiconductor wires or cables 157
2. Conductors supported by messengers or span wires 157
3. Line conductors of different circuits 157

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section Page

B. Horizontal clearance between line conductors ... 158
1. Fixed supports ... 158
2. Suspension insulators ... 159
3. Alternate clearances for different circuits where one or both circuits exceed 98 kV ac to ground or 139 kV dc to ground ... 159
C. Vertical clearance at the support for line conductors and service drops ... 160
1. Basic clearance for line wires, conductors, and cables, and service drops of same or different circuits ... 160
2. Additional clearances ... 160
3. Alternate clearances for different circuits where one or both exceed 98 kV ac, or 139 kV dc to ground ... 163
4. Communication worker safety zone ... 163
D. Diagonal clearance between line wires, conductors, and cables located at different levels on the same supporting structure ... 163
E. Clearances in any direction at or near a support from line conductors to supports, and to vertical or lateral conductors, service drops, and span or guy wires, attached to the same support ... 163
1. Fixed supports ... 163
2. Suspension insulators ... 163
3. Alternate clearances for voltages exceeding 98 kV ac to ground or 139 kV dc to ground ... 163
F. Clearances between circuits located in the supply space on the same support arm ... 164
G. Conductor spacing: vertical racks or separate brackets ... 165
H. Clearance and spacing between communication conductors, cables, and equipment ... 165
I. Communication antenna clearances in any direction from supply and communication lines attached to the same supporting structure ... 165
1. General ... 165
2. Communication antenna clearances ... 165
3. Equipment case that supports or is adjacent to a communication antenna ... 166
4. Vertical or lateral communication conductors and cables attached to a communication antenna ... 166

236. Climbing space ... 184
A. Location and dimensions ... 184
B. Portions of supporting structures in climbing space ... 184
C. Support arm location relative to climbing space ... 184
D. Location of equipment relative to climbing space ... 184
E. Climbing space between conductors ... 184
F. Climbing space on buckarm construction ... 184
G. Climbing space past longitudinal runs not on support arms ... 185
H. Climbing space past vertical conductors ... 185
I. Climbing space near ridge-pin conductors ... 185

237. Working space ... 188
A. Location of working spaces ... 188
B. Dimensions of working spaces ... 188
1. Along the support arm ... 188
2. At right angles to the support arm ... 188
3. Vertically ... 188
C. Location of vertical and lateral conductors relative to working spaces ... 188
D. Location of buckarms relative to working spaces ... 188
1. Standard height of working space ... 188
2. Reduced height of working space ... 188
E. Guarding of energized equipment ... 188
F. Working clearances from energized equipment ... 189

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section *Page*

238. Vertical clearance between specified communications and supply facilities located on the same structure ... 189
A. Equipment ... 189
B. Clearances in general ... 189
C. Clearances for span wires or brackets ... 189
D. Clearance of drip loops associated with luminaires and traffic signals ... 189
E. Communication worker safety zone ... 190
239. Clearance of vertical and lateral facilities from other facilities and surfaces on the same supporting structure ... 191
A. General ... 191
B. Location of vertical or lateral conductors relative to climbing spaces, working spaces, and pole steps ... 191
C. Conductors not in conduit ... 191
D. Guarding and protection near ground ... 191
E. Requirements for vertical and lateral supply conductors on supply line structures or within supply space on jointly used structures ... 192
1. General clearances ... 192
2. Special cases ... 192
F. Requirements for vertical and lateral communication conductors on communication line structures or within the communication space on jointly used structures ... 192
1. Clearances from communication conductors ... 192
2. Clearances from supply conductors ... 192
G. Requirements for vertical supply conductors and cables passing through communication space on jointly used line structures ... 193
1. Guarding—General ... 193
2. Cables and conductors in conduit or covering ... 193
3. Protection near trolley, ungrounded traffic signal, or ungrounded luminaire attachments ... 193
4. Service drops ... 193
5. Clearance from through bolts and other metal objects ... 193
H. Requirements for vertical communication conductors passing through supply space on jointly used structures ... 194
1. Metal-sheathed communication cables ... 194
2. Communication conductors ... 194
3. Communication grounding conductors ... 194
4. Clearance from through bolts and other metal objects ... 194
I. Operating rods ... 194
J. Additional rules for standoff brackets ... 195

Section 24. Grades of construction ... 198
240. General ... 198
241. Application of grades of construction to different situations ... 198
A. Supply cables ... 198
B. Order of grades ... 198
C. At crossings ... 198
1. Wires, conductors, or other cables of one line ... 198
2. Grade of upper line ... 198
3. Grade of lower line ... 198
4. Multiple crossings ... 198
D. Structure conflicts ... 199
242. Grades of construction for conductors ... 199
A. Constant-current circuit conductors ... 199
B. Railway feeder and trolley-contact circuit conductors ... 199
C. Communication circuit conductors and cables ... 199

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section Page

D. Fire-alarm circuit conductors ... 199
E. Neutral conductors of supply circuits ... 199
F. Surge-protection wires ... 199
243. Grades of construction for line supports ... 202
A. Structures ... 202
B. Crossarms and support arms ... 202
C. Pins, armless construction brackets, insulators, and conductor fastenings ... 202

Section 25. Loadings for Grades B and C ... 203
250. General loading requirements and maps ... 203
A. General ... 203
B. Combined ice and wind district loading ... 203
C. Extreme wind loading ... 203
1. Velocity pressure exposure coefficient, k_z ... 204
2. Gust response factor, G_{RF} ... 204
D. Extreme ice with concurrent wind loading ... 205
251. Conductor loading ... 221
A. General ... 221
B. Load components ... 221
1. Vertical load component ... 221
2. Horizontal load component ... 222
3. Total load ... 222
252. Loads on line supports ... 222
A. Assumed vertical loads ... 222
B. Assumed transverse loads ... 223
1. Transverse loads from conductors and messengers ... 223
2. Wind loads on structures ... 223
3. At angles ... 223
4. Wind span ... 223
C. Assumed longitudinal loading ... 223
1. Change in grade of construction ... 223
2. Jointly used poles at crossings over railroads, communication lines, or limited access highways ... 224
3. Deadends ... 224
4. Unequal spans and unequal vertical loads ... 224
5. Stringing loads ... 224
6. Communication conductors on unguyed supports at railroad and limited access highway crossings ... 224
D. Simultaneous application of loads ... 224
253. Load factors for structures, crossarms, support hardware, guys, foundations, and anchors ... 224

Section 26. Strength requirements ... 226
260. General (see also Section 20) ... 226
A. Preliminary assumptions ... 226
B. Application of strength factors ... 226
261. Grades B and C construction ... 227
A. Supporting structures ... 227
1. Metal, prestressed-, and reinforced-concrete structures ... 227
2. Wood structures ... 227
3. Fiber-reinforced polymer structures ... 228
4. Transverse strength requirements for structures where side guying is required, but can be installed only at a distance ... 228
5. Longitudinal strength requirements for sections of higher grade in lines of a lower grade construction ... 228

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

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Section Page
B. Strength of foundations, settings, and guy anchors ... 229
C. Strength of guys and guy insulators ... 229
1. Metal and prestressed-concrete structures ... 229
2. Wood and reinforced-concrete structures ... 229
3. Fiber-reinforced polymer structures ... 229
D. Crossarms and braces ... 229
1. Concrete and metal crossarms and braces ... 229
2. Wood crossarms and braces ... 230
3. Fiber-reinforced polymer crossarms and braces ... 230
4. Crossarms and braces of other materials ... 230
5. Additional requirements ... 230
E. Insulators ... 231
F. Strength of pin-type or similar construction and conductor fastenings ... 231
1. Longitudinal strength ... 231
2. Double pins and conductor fastenings ... 231
3. Single supports used in lieu of double wood pins ... 231
G. Armless construction ... 231
1. General ... 231
2. Insulating material ... 232
3. Other components ... 232
H. Open supply conductors and overhead shield wires ... 232
1. Tensions ... 232
2. Splices, taps, dead-end fittings, and associated attachment hardware ... 232
3. Trolley-contact conductors ... 233
I. Supply cable messengers ... 233
J. Open-wire communication conductors ... 233
K. Communication cables and messengers ... 233
1. Communication cables ... 233
2. Messenger ... 233
L. Paired metallic communication conductors ... 233
1. Paired conductors supported on messenger ... 233
2. Paired conductors not supported on messenger ... 234
M. Support and attachment hardware ... 234
262. Number 262 not used in this edition. ... 236
263. Grade N construction ... 236
A. Poles ... 236
B. Guys ... 236
C. Crossarm strength ... 236
D. Supply line conductors ... 236
1. Size ... 236
E. Service drops ... 236
1. Size of open-wire service drops ... 236
2. Tension of open-wire service drops ... 237
3. Cabled service drops ... 237
F. Trolley-contact conductors ... 237
G. Communication conductors ... 237
H. Street and area lighting equipment ... 237
I. Insulators ... 237
264. Guying and bracing ... 238
A. Where used ... 238
B. Strength ... 238
C. Point of attachment ... 238
D. Guy fastenings ... 239

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Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section *Page*

E. Electrolysis ... 239
F. Anchor rods ... 239

Section 27. Line insulation ... 240
270. Application of rule ... 240
271. Material and marking ... 240
272. Ratio of flashover to puncture voltage ... 240
273. Insulation level ... 240
274. Factory tests ... 241
275. Special insulator applications ... 241
A. Insulators for constant-current circuits ... 241
B. Insulators for single-phase circuits directly connected to three-phase circuits ... 241
276. Number 276 not used in this edition. ... 242
277. Mechanical strength of insulators ... 242
278. Aerial cable systems ... 243
A. Electrical requirements ... 243
B. Mechanical requirements ... 243
279. Guy and span insulators ... 244
A. Insulators ... 244
1. Properties of guy insulators ... 244
2. Galvanic corrosion and BIL insulation ... 244
B. Properties of span-wire insulators ... 244
1. Material ... 244
2. Insulation level ... 245
3. Mechanical strength ... 245
Section 28. Section number 28 not used in this edition. ... 245
Section 29. Section number 29 not used in this edition. ... 245

Part 3. Safety Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Underground Electric Supply and Communication Lines

Section 30. Purpose, scope, and application of rules ... 247
300. Purpose ... 247
301. Scope ... 247
302. Application of rules ... 247

Section 31. General requirements applying to underground lines ... 248
310. Referenced sections ... 248
311. Installation and maintenance ... 248
312. Accessibility ... 248
313. Inspection and tests of lines and equipment ... 248
A. When in service ... 248
1. Initial compliance with safety rules ... 248
2. Inspection ... 248
3. Tests ... 248
4. Inspection records ... 248
5. Corrections ... 248
B. When out of service ... 249
1. Lines infrequently used ... 249
2. Lines temporarily out of service ... 249
3. Lines permanently abandoned ... 249
314. Grounding of circuits and equipment ... 249
A. Methods ... 249
B. Conductive parts to be grounded ... 249

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section Page
C. Circuits 249
1. Neutrals 249
2. Other conductors 249
3. Surge arresters 249
4. Use of earth as part of circuit 249
315. Communications protective requirements 249
A. Where required 249
1.Lightning 249
2.Contact with supply conductors with voltages exceeding 300 V 249
3.Transient rise in ground potential exceeding 300 V 249
4.Steady-state induced voltage of a level that may cause personal injury 250
B. Means of protection 250
316. Induced voltage 250

Section 32. Underground conduit systems 251
320. Location 251
A. Routing 251
1. General 251
2. Natural hazards 251
3. Highways and streets 251
4. Bridges and tunnels 251
5. Railroad tracks 251
6. Water 252
B. Separation from other underground installations 252
1. General 252
2. Separations between supply and communication conduit systems 252
3. Sewers, sanitary and storm 252
4. Water lines 252
5. Gas and other lines that transport flammable material 252
6. Steam or cryogenic lines 252
321. Excavation and backfill 253
A. Trench 253
B. Quality of backfill 253
322. Conduit, ducts, and joints 253
A. General 253
B. Installation 253
1. Restraint 253
2. Joints 253
3. Externally coated pipe 253
4. Building walls, floors, or roofs 253
5. Bridges 253
323. Manholes, handholes, and vaults 254
A. Strength 254
B. Dimensions 254
C. Manhole access 254
D. Covers 255
E. Vault and utility tunnel access 255
F. Ladder requirements 255
G. Drainage 256
H. Ventilation 256
I. Mechanical protection 256
J. Identification 256

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Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section *Page*

Section 33. Supply cable ... 258
330. General ... 258
331. Sheaths and jackets ... 258
332. Shielding ... 258
A. General ... 258
B. Material ... 258
333. Cable accessories and joints ... 258

Section 34. Cable in underground structures ... 260
340. General ... 260
341. Installation ... 260
A. General ... 260
B. Cable in manholes and vaults ... 260
1. Supports ... 260
2. Clearance ... 260
3. Identification ... 261
342. Grounding and bonding ... 261
343. Number not used in this edition. ... 261
344. Communication cables containing special supply circuits ... 261

Section 35. Direct-buried cable and cable in duct not part of a conduit system ... 263
350. General ... 263
351. Location and routing ... 264
A. General ... 264
B. Natural hazards ... 264
C. Other conditions ... 264
1. Swimming pools (in-ground) ... 264
2. Buildings and other structures ... 265
3. Railroad tracks ... 265
4. Highways and streets ... 265
5. Water ... 265
6. Bridges ... 265
352. Installation ... 265
A. Trenching ... 265
B. Plowing ... 266
C. Boring ... 266
D. Depth of burial ... 266
E. Supply cables shall not be installed in the same duct with communication cables unless all of the cables are operated and maintained by the same utility ... 266
F. Communication cables may be installed together in the same duct provided all utilities involved are in agreement ... 266
353. Deliberate separations—Equal to or greater than 300 mm (12 in) from underground structures or other cables ... 267
A. General ... 267
B. Crossings ... 267
C. Parallel facilities ... 267
D. Steam or cryogenic lines ... 267
354. Random separation—Separation less than 300 mm (12 in) from underground structures or other cables ... 267
A. General ... 267
B. Supply cables or conductors ... 268
C. Communication cables or conductors ... 268
D. Supply and communication cables or conductors ... 268
1. General ... 268

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section *Page*

2. Grounded bare or semiconducting jacketed neutral supply cables 268
3. Insulating jacketed effectively grounded neutral supply cables 269
4. Insulating jacketed grounded neutral supply cables in nonmetallic duct 269
E. Supply and communication cables or conductors and non-metallic water and sewer lines 269
355. Additional rules for duct not part of a conduit system 270

Section 36. Risers 271
360. General 271
361. Installation 271
362. Pole risers—Additional requirements 271
363. Pad-mounted installations 271

Section 37. Supply cable terminations 272
370. General 272
371. Support at terminations 272
372. Identification 272
373. Clearances in enclosures or vaults 272
374. Grounding 272

Section 38. Equipment 273
380. General 273
381. Design 273
382. Location in underground structures 274
383. Installation 274
384. Grounding and bonding 274
385. Identification 274

Section 39. Installation in tunnels 275
391. Environment 275

Part 4. Work Rules for the Operation of Electric Supply and Communications Lines and Equipment

Section 40. Purpose and scope 277
400. Purpose 277
401. Scope 277
402. Referenced sections 277

Section 41. Supply and communications systems—Rules for employers 278
410. General requirements 278
A. General 278
B. Emergency and first aid procedures 279
C. Responsibility 279
411. Protective methods and devices 283
A. Methods 283
B. Devices and equipment 283
C. Inspection and testing of protective devices and equipment 284
D. Signs and tags for employee safety 284
E. Identification and location 284
F. Fall protection 284

Section 42. General rules for employees 285
420. General 285

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section Page

A. Rules and emergency methods ... 285
B. Qualifications of employees ... 285
C. Safeguarding oneself and others ... 285
D. Energized or unknown conditions ... 285
E. Ungrounded metal parts ... 286
F. Arcing conditions ... 286
G. Liquid-cell batteries ... 286
H. Tools and protective equipment ... 286
I. Clothing ... 286
J. Ladders and supports ... 286
K. Fall protection ... 286
L. Fire extinguishers ... 288
M. Machines or moving parts ... 288
N. Fuses ... 288
O. Cable reels ... 288
P. Street and area lighting ... 288
Q. Antennas ... 288
421. General operating routines ... 288
A. Duties of a first-level supervisor or person in charge ... 288
B. Area protection ... 289
1. Areas accessible to vehicular and pedestrian traffic ... 289
2. Areas accessible to employees only ... 289
3. Locations with crossed or fallen wires ... 289
C. Escort ... 289
422. Overhead line operating procedures ... 289
A. Setting, moving, or removing poles in or in the vicinity of energized electric supply lines ... 289
B. Checking structures before climbing ... 290
C. Installing and removing wires or cables ... 290
423. Underground line operating procedures ... 290
A. Guarding manhole and street openings ... 290
B. Testing for gas in manholes and unventilated vaults ... 290
C. Flames ... 290
D. Excavation ... 291
E. Identification ... 291
F. Operation of power-driven equipment ... 291

Section 43. Additional rules for communications employees ... 292
430. General ... 292
431. Approach to energized conductors or parts ... 292
432. Joint-use structures ... 295
433. Attendant on surface at joint-use manhole ... 295
434. Sheath continuity ... 295

Section 44. Additional rules for supply employees ... 296
440. General ... 296
441. Energized conductors or parts ... 296
A. Minimum approach distance to energized lines or parts ... 296
1. General ... 296
2. Precautions for approach—Voltages from 51 V to 300 V ... 296
3. Precautions for approach—Voltages from 301 V to 72.5 kV ... 296
4. Precautions for approach—Voltages above 72.5 kV ... 297
5. Temporary (transient) overvoltage control device (TTOCD) ... 297
6. Altitude correction ... 298

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Section Page

B. Additional approach requirements ... 298
C. Live-line tool clear insulation length ... 299
1. Clear live-line tool length ... 299
2. Live-line conductor support tool length ... 299
442. Switching control procedures ... 309
A. Designated person ... 309
B. Specific work ... 309
C. Operations at stations ... 309
D. Re-energizing after work ... 309
E. Tagging electric supply circuits associated with work activities ... 309
F. Restoration of service after automatic trip ... 310
G. Repeating oral messages ... 310
443. Work on energized lines and equipment ... 310
A. General requirements ... 310
B. Requirement for assisting employee ... 311
C. Opening and closing switches ... 311
D. Working position ... 311
E. Protecting employees by switches and disconnectors ... 311
F. Making connections ... 311
G. Switchgear ... 311
H. Current transformer secondaries ... 311
I. Capacitors ... 311
J. Gas-insulated equipment ... 312
K. Attendant on surface ... 312
L. Unintentional grounds on delta circuits ... 312
444. De-energizing equipment or lines to protect employees ... 312
A. Application of rule ... 312
B. Employee's request ... 312
C. Operating switches, disconnectors, open points, and tagging ... 312
D. Employee's protective grounds ... 313
E. Proceeding with work ... 313
F. Reporting clear—Transferring responsibility ... 313
G. Removal of tags ... 313
H. Sequence of re-energizing ... 313
445. Protective grounds ... 314
A. Installing grounds ... 314
1. Current-carrying capacity of grounds ... 314
2. Initial connections ... 314
3. Test for voltage ... 314
4. Completing grounds ... 314
B. Removing grounds ... 315
446. Live work ... 315
447. Protection against arcing and other damage while installing and maintaining insulators and conductors ... 316

Appendix A—Uniform System of clearances (adopted in the 1990 Edition) ... 317

Appendix B—Uniform clearance calculations for conductors under ice and wind conditions (adopted in the 2007 Edition) ... 323

Appendix C—Example applications for Rule 250C Table 250-2 and Table 250-3 ... 326

Appendix D—Determining maximum anticipated per-unit overvoltage factor (T) at the worksite ... 341

Appendix E—Bibliography ... 342

Index ... 347

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Figure	*Rule*	*Page*
Figure 011-1—Service point—What is covered and not covered by the NESC	011	3
Figure D-1—Communication space	Sec. 2	8
Figure D-2—Sag	Sec. 2	15
Figure D-3—Wind span	Sec. 2	16
Figure D-4—Weight span	Sec. 2	16
Figure D-5—Supply space	Sec. 2	17
Figure 110-1—Safety clearance to electric supply station fences	110A2	42
Figure 110-2—Safety clearance to electric supply station impenetrable fence	110A2	42
Figure 124-1—Clearance from live parts	124A1	50
Figure 124-2—Railings or fences used as guards	124	50
Figure 124-3—Taut-string measurement of vertical clearance to energized parts of equipment or behind barriers	124D	51
Figure 230-1—Clearance zone map of the United States	230B	94
Figure 233-1—Use of clearance envelope and conductor movement envelopes to determine applicable clearance	233A	117
Figure 233-2—Conductor movement envelope (m)	233A1	118
Figure 233-2—Conductor movement envelope (ft)	233B	119
Figure 233-3—Clearance envelope	233B	120
Figure 234-1(a)—Clearance diagram for building	234A3	134
Figure 234-1(b)—Clearance diagram for other structures	239A3	135
Figure 234-1(c)—Transitional clearance when H is greater than V	234	135
Figure 234-2—Clearances of service drop terminating on support mast	234C3d(1)(b)	136
Figure 234-3(a)—Swimming pool clearances	234F2c	136
Figure 234-3(b)—Aboveground swimming pool with deck	234F2a	137
Figure 234-3(c)—Aboveground swimming pool without deck. Required clearance is maintained aboveground.	234E1	137
Figure 234-4(a)—Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevators	234F2c	138
Figure 234-4(b)—Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors, or elevators	234F2a	139
Figure 234-5—Rail car clearances	234I	140
Figure 235-1—Clearance diagram for energized conductor	235D	166
Figure 236-1—Rule 236G, EXCEPTION 3	236G	186
Figure 237-1—Obstruction of working space by buckarm	237D1	189
Figure 250-1—General loading map of United States with respect to loading of overhead lines	250B	206
Figure 250-2(a)—Basic wind speeds	250C	207
Figure 250-2(b)—Basic wind speeds	250C	208
Figure 250-2(c)—Western Gulf of Mexico hurricane coastline	250C	209
Figure 250-2(d)—Eastern Gulf of Mexico and U.S. hurricane coastline	250C	210
Figure 250-2(e)—Mid and northern Atlantic hurricane coastline	250C	211
Figure 250-3(a)—Uniform ice thickness with concurrent wind	250D	212
Figure 250-3(b)—Uniform ice thickness with concurrent wind	250D	213
Figure 250-3(c)—Uniform ice thickness with concurrent wind	250D	214
Figure 250-3(d)—Uniform ice thickness with concurrent wind	250D	214
Figure 250-3(e)—Uniform ice thickness with concurrent wind	250D	215
Figure 250-3(f)—Uniform ice thickness with concurrent wind	250D	216
Figure 279-1—Insulator used for BIL insulation	279A2	245
Figure 323-1—Roadway vehicle load	323A1	256
Figure 323-2—Wheel load area	323A1	257
Figure 350-1—Symbols for identification of buried cables	350G	264
Figure A-1—Clearance at maximum sag		322

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Table	Rule	Page
Table 110-1—Values for use with Figure 110-1	011B2	43
Table 111-1—Illumination levels	111A	44
Table 124-1—Clearances from live parts	124A1	52
Table 125-1—Working space	125A3	60
Table 230-1—Ice thickness for purposes of calculating clearances	230B	95
Table 230-2—Ice, wind pressures, temperatures, and additive constants for purposes of calculating final inelastic deformation	230B	95
Table 232-1—Vertical clearance of wires, conductors, and cables above ground, roadway, rail, or water surfaces	232B1	99
Table 232-2—Vertical clearance of equipment cases, support arms, platforms, braces and unguarded rigid live parts above ground, roadway, or water surfaces	232B2	107
Table 232-3—Reference heights	232D2	113
Table 232-4—Electrical component of clearance in Rule 232D3a	232D3a	114
Table 233-1—Vertical clearance between wires, conductors, and cables carried on different supporting structures	233C1	121
Table 233-2—Clearance between supply wires, conductors, and cables in Rules 233A and 233C3b(1)	233C3b(1)	124
Table 233-3—Reference heights	233C3a	126
Table 234-1—Clearance of wires, conductors, cables, and unguarded rigid live parts adjacent but not attached to buildings and other installations except bridges	234C1a	141
Table 234-2—Clearance of wires, conductors, cables, and unguarded rigid live parts from bridges	234D1a	149
Table 234-3—Clearance of wires, conductors, cables, or unguarded rigid live parts over or near swimming pools	234E1	152
Table 234-4—Electrical component of clearance of buildings, bridges, and other installations	234H3a	155
Table 234-5—Reference distances	234H2	156
Table 234-6—Clearance over roof not readily accessible	234C3d	156
Table 235-1—Horizontal clearance between wires, conductors, or cables at supports	235B1a	167
Table 235-2—Horizontal clearances between line conductors smaller than AWG No. 2 at supports, based on sags	235B1b(1)	168
Table 235-3—Horizontal clearances between line conductors AWG No. 2 or larger at supports, based on sags	235B1b(2)	170
Table 235-4—Electrical clearances in Rule 235B3a(1)	235B3a(1)	172
Table 235-5—Vertical clearance between conductors at supports	235C1	173
Table 235-6—Clearance in any direction from line conductors at or near a support to supports, and to vertical or lateral conductors, service drops, span or guy wires, and to communication antennas attached to the same support	235E1	177
Table 235-7—Clearance in any direction from line conductors to supports	235E3b	182
Table 235-8—Vertical spacing between conductors supported on vertical racks or separate brackets	235	183
Table 236-1— Horizontal clearance between conductors bounding the climbing space	236E	187
Table 238-1—Vertical clearance between supply conductors and communications equipment, between communication conductors and supply equipment, and between supply and communications equipment	238B	190
Table 238-2—Vertical clearance of span wires and brackets from communication lines and equipment	238C	190

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub

Full document details: IEEE C2-2017

Table	Rule	Page
Table 239-1—Clearance of open vertical and lateral conductors	239E1	195
Table 239-2—Clearance between open vertical conductors and pole surface	239E2a(1)	197
Table 242-1— Grades of construction for conductors and cables alone, at crossing, or on the same structures with other conductors and cables	250C	200
Table 250-1—Ice, wind pressures, and temperatures	250C	217
Table 250-2—Velocity pressure exposure coefficient k_z	250C	218
Table 250-3—Structure and wire gust response factors, G_{RF}	250C	219
Table 250-4—Wind speed conversions to pressure	250D	221
Table 251-1—Temperatures and constants	251B3	222
Table 253-1—Load factors for structures, crossarms, support hardware, guys, foundations, and anchors to be used with the strength factors of Table 261-1	253	225
Table 261-1—Strength factors for structures, crossarms, braces, support hardware, guys, foundations, and anchors	261D	235
Table 261-2—Dimensions of crossarm cross section of select Southern Pine and Douglas Fir	261D2	236
Table 263-1—Sizes for Grade N supply line conductors	263D1	237
Table 263-2—Sizes of service drops of 750 V or less	263E1a(1)	238
Table 273-1—Insulation level requirements	273	241
Table 277-1—Allowed percentages of strength ratings	277	242
Table 341-1—Clearance between supply and communications facilities in joint-use manholes and vaults	234B2b(5)	261
Table 352-1—Supply cable, conductor, or duct burial depth	252D2	266
Table 410-1—Clothing and clothing systems (cal/cm2) for voltages 50 V to 1000 V (ac)	410A3	280
Table 410-2—Clothing and clothing systems—voltage, fault current, and maximum clearing time for voltages 1.1 kV to 46 kV ac	410A3	281
Table 410-3—Live-line tool work clothing and clothing systems—voltage, fault current, and maximum clearing time for voltages 46.1 kV to 800 kV ac	410A3	282
Table 431-1—Communication work minimum approach distances	431	293
Table 441-1—AC live work minimum approach distance	441A4	300
Table 441-2—AC live work minimum approach distances for altitudes less than 900 m above sea level, where T has been determined according to Rule 441A	441A4	301
Table 441-3— AC live work minimum approach distances for altitudes less than 900 m above sea level, where T has been determined according to Rule 441A4	441A4	303
Table 441-4— AC live work minimum approach distances for altitudes less than 900 m above sea level, where T has been determined according to Rule 441A4	441A1	305
Table 441-5—DC live work minimum approach distance	441	307
Table 441-6—Altitude correction factor	441	308
Table 441-7—Maximum use voltage for rubber insulating equipment	441	308
Table 444-1—Minimum clearances for open air gaps	441A1	314

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Letter symbols for units

This Code uses standard symbols for units. They have the following meanings:

A	ampere
C	degree Celsius
ft	foot
ft^2	square foot
ft^3	cubic foot
F	degree Fahrenheit
g	gram
Hz	hertz
h	hour
in	inch
in^2	square inch
k	kilo (10^3)
kg	kilogram
kPa	kilopascal
km^2	square kilometer
kV	kilovolt (1000 V)
kVA	kilovoltampere
kW	kilowatt
m	meter
m^2	square meter
m^3	cubic meter
m	milli (10^{-3})
mA	milliampere
mi	mile (international)
mm	millimeter
min	minute (time)
N	newton
Pa	pascal
lb	pound
s	second (time)
V	volt
W	watt

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Section 1.

Introduction to the National Electrical Safety Code®

The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC®) is American National Standard C2. It is a consensus standard that has been prepared by the National Electrical Safety Code Committee under procedures approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The membership of the NESC Committee is composed of national and international organizations and is certified by ANSI as having an appropriate balance of the interests of members of the public, utility workers, regulatory agencies, and the various types of private and public utilities.

The NESC is used in whole or in part by statute, regulation, or consent as the standard (or basis of the standard) of safe practice for public and private utilities in the United States, as well various jurisdictions and industries in other countries.

010. Purpose

A. The purpose of the NESC is the practical safeguarding of persons and utility facilities ~~affected property~~ during the installation, operation, and maintenance of electric supply and communication facilities, under specified conditions.

NOTE: NESC rules are ~~founded upon the fundamental principles used for safety of utility facilities, and the~~ ~~NESC is~~ globally ~~accepted as good engineering practice.~~ ~~NESC rules are~~ recognized and intended to provide a practical standard of safe practices that can be adopted by public utilities, private utilities, state or local utility commissions or public service commissions, or other boards or bodies having control over safe practices employed in the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of electric supply, communication, street and area lighting, signal, or railroad utility facilities.

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B. NESC rules contain the basic provisions, under specified conditions, that are considered necessary for the safeguarding of:

1. The public,

2. Utility workers (employees and contractors), and

3. Utility facilities.

~~4. Electric supply and communication equipment connected to utility facilities, and~~

~~5. Other facilities or premises adjacent to or containing utility facilities.~~

C. This Code is not intended as a design specification or as an instruction manual.

011. Scope

A. Covered

See Figure 011-1.

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The NESC covers:

1. Supply and communication facilities (including metering) and associated work practices employed by a public or private electric supply, communications, railway, trolley, street and area lighting, traffic signal (or other signal), irrigation district or other community owned utility, or a similar utility in the exercise of its function as a utility.

2. The generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity, lumens, communication signals, and communication data through public and private utility systems that are installed and maintained under the exclusive control of utilities or their authorized representatives.

3. Utility facilities and functions of utilities that either (a) generate energy by conversion from some other form of energy such as, but not limited to, fossil fuel, chemical, nuclear, solar, mechanical, wind or hydraulic or communication signals, or accept energy or communication signals from another entity, or (b) provide that energy or communication signals through a delivery point to another entity.

4. Street and area lights that provide a supply of lumens where these facilities are supplied from the line side of the service point by underground or overhead conductors maintained and/or installed under the exclusive control of utilities (including their authorized contractors or other qualified persons).

5. Utility facilities and functions on the line side of the service point supplied by underground or overhead conductors installed and/or maintained under exclusive control of utilities located on public or private property in accordance with legally established easements or rights-of-way, contracts, other agreements (written or by conditions of service), or as authorized by a regulating or controlling body.

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NOTE: Agreements to locate utility facilities on property ~~are~~ may be required where easements are either (a) not obtainable (such as locating utility facilities on existing rights-of-way of railroads or other entities, military bases, federal lands, Native American reservations, lands controlled by a port authority, or other governmental agency), or (b) not necessary (such as locating facilities necessary for requested service to a site).

6. Wiring within a supply station or in an underground facility that is (a) installed in accordance with Part 1 or Part 3 of this Code and maintained under the exclusive control of utilities and (b) necessary for the operation of the supply station or underground facility.

7. Utility facilities installed, maintained, and controlled by utilities on surface or underground mine sites, including overhead or underground distribution systems providing service up to buildings or outdoor equipment locations on the line side of the service point.

8. Similar systems to those listed above that are under the exclusive control of qualified persons and authorized by a regulating or controlling body, including those associated with an industrial complex or utility interactive system.

B. Not covered

See Figure 011-1.

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NESC rules do not cover:

1. Utilization equipment or premises wiring located beyond utility service points to buildings or outdoor installations, or

2. Underground mine wiring or installations in ships, railway rolling equipment, aircraft, or automotive equipment, or

3. Luminaires not installed or maintained under exclusive control by utilities, or

4. Industrial complex or utility interactive systems that are not controlled exclusively under utilities or qualified persons or are located on the premises wiring side of the service point.

NOTE: ~~For installations in ships, refer to Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 110–113.~~ The National Electrical Code® (NEC®) (NFPA 70®, 2011 Edition) covers utilization wiring requirements beyond the service point and luminaires that are not controlled exclusively by utilities.[1]

[1]Information on references can be found in Section 3.

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