



2026 NEC proposed changes (First Draft – prior to comments)

Where are we at in the 2026 NEC code making process?

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First Draft

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Second Draft

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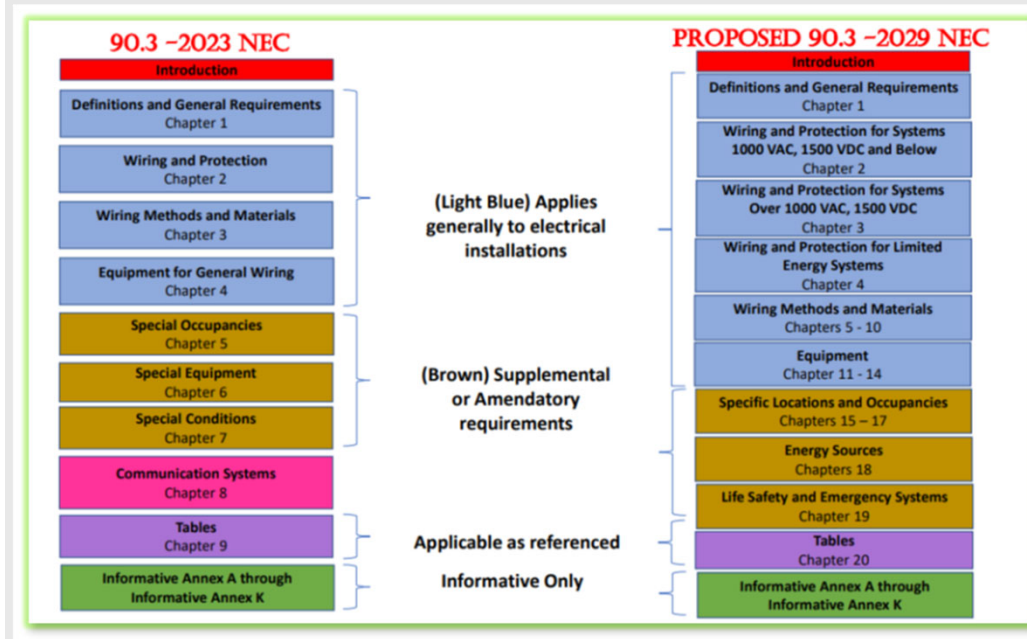
Second Draft Report Posting Date: March 21, 2025

<https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/nfpa-70-standard-development/70>

Code wide items to look for.....

Structure changes to align with the transition to the 2029 NEC

- Article 220 Load Calculations will be relocated to Article 120
- Article 750 Energy Management Systems will be relocated to Article 130
- Removed the Chapter 8 independence
- Added medium voltage and limited energy articles – to assist with the parallel numbering in 2029 NEC



Limited-Energy System.

The equipment and cables of an end-to-end system that are power-restricted to ensure the energy delivered into any fault provides acceptable protection for fire prevention and electric shock. (CMP-3)

Top “10” proposed 2026 NEC changes

1. 210.8(F) Exception No. 2. – Special Purpose Ground Fault Protection will be allowed to be used for HVAC equipment with an effective date of January 1st, 2029. **First Revision No. 7748-NFPA 70-2024 [Section No. 210.8(F)]**
2. 210.52(C)(4) – Receptacle placement below the countertop or work surface. **First Revision No. 8192-NFPA 70-2024 [Section No. 210.52(C)]**

(4) Receptacle Outlet Locations Prohibited.

Required and permitted receptacle outlets shall not be installed on cabinet sides or wall surfaces that are below countertops and work surfaces. Required and permitted receptacle outlets shall not be installed on adjacent walls extending from the base cabinets within 610 mm (24 in.) horizontally and downward from the countertop and work surface edge within 610 mm (24 in.) vertically.

Exception No. 1: Receptacle outlets installed in a drawer shall be permitted to be installed below countertops and work surfaces.

Exception No. 2: Receptacle outlets located in the specified location in 210.52(A)(2) shall not be located within 610 mm (24 in.) of the countertop or work surface.

Top “10” proposed 2026 NEC changes

3. 230.70 – Service equipment disconnecting means. New language to eliminate the confusion around “emergency disconnects” required for single and two-family dwelling units. **First Revision No. 9155-NFPA 70-2024 [Section No. 230.70]**

230.70 General.

Means shall be provided to disconnect all ungrounded conductors in a building or structure from the service conductors.

(A) Service Disconnect Location.

Service disconnects shall be installed in accordance with 230.70(A)(1), 230.70(A)(2), 230.70(A)(3), and 230.70(A)(4).

(1) Readily Accessible Location.

Service disconnects shall be installed at a readily accessible location either outside of a building or structure or inside nearest the point of entrance of the service conductors.

(2) One- and Two-Family Dwellings.

Service disconnects shall be installed in a readily accessible outdoor location on or within sight of the one- or two-family dwelling unit.

4. 300.7(D)(3) (**section changed**) – Service raceways (including direct buried cables), not encased in concrete, will now be required to have a warning ribbon installed. **First Revision No. 8680-NFPA 70-2024 [Section No. 300.5(D)(3)]**

Top “10” proposed 2026 NEC changes

5. 334.19 – NM Cable entries will be limited to 1” of sheathing in the box. **First Revision No. 8085-NFPA 70-2024 [Section No. 334.19]**

334.19 Cable Entries.

The sheath on nonmetallic-sheathed cable shall extend not less than 6 mm (¼ in.) and not greater than 25.4 mm (1 in.) beyond any cable clamp or cable entry in the enclosure .

6. Article 525 rewrite for carnivals, circuses, fairs, and similar events. **First Revision No. 9205-NFPA 70-2024 [Article 525]**

**** Added language for generators and enforceable disconnect requirements for tents.**

Top “10” proposed 2026 NEC changes

7. 547.44, 555.14, and 682.33 – Added language for the equipotential plane. **First Revision No. 8722-NFPA 70-2024 [Section No. 547.44]**

(C) Equipotential Plane Construction.

Equipotential planes shall be constructed as specified in 547.44(C)(1) or 547.44(C)(2).

(1) Structural Reinforcing Steel.

Unencapsulated structural reinforcing steel shall be bonded together by steel tie wires or the equivalent.

(2) Copper Grid.

Copper grids shall be permitted where the following requirements are met:

- (1) They are constructed of minimum 8 AWG bare solid copper conductors bonded to each other at all points of crossing in accordance with 250.8 or other approved means
- (2) They are arranged in a 300 mm (12 in.) by 300 mm (12 in.) network of conductors in a uniformly spaced perpendicular grid pattern with a tolerance of 100 mm (4 in.)

8. 550.32 – Surge protection device requirements for a replacement mobile or manufactured home. **First Revision No. 8514-NFPA 70-2024 [New Section after 550.32(D)]**

Top “10” proposed 2026 NEC changes

9. 555.35(E) – Marina installation coordination and performance testing requirements. **First Revision No. 9038-NFPA 70-2024 [Section No. 555.35]**

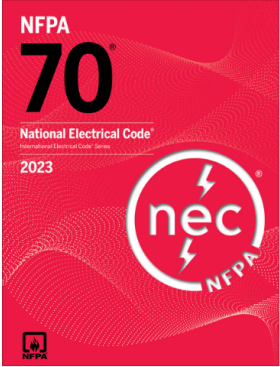
(E) Coordination and Performance Testing.

GFPE protection systems shall be coordinated and performance tested by an approved method when first installed on site. This testing shall be conducted by a qualified person(s) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A written record of this testing shall be made available to the authority having jurisdiction.

10. 625.54 – EVSE GFCI protection for both receptacles and outlets. **First Revision No. 8378-NFPA 70-2024 [Section No. 625.54]**

625.54 Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for Personnel.

All receptacles and outlets installed for the connection of electric vehicle charging shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel.



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Questions?

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