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THE ELECTRICAL ALLIANCE
National Electrical Contractors Association and Local 26 IBEW



NFPA Releases 2008 National Electrical Code

Electrical Alliance Contractors Use Safety and Performance Codes to Provide Exceptional Service



The 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) was approved at the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Annual Meeting. The approval was the conclusion of the 19-month revision process that began in November 2005 with the submission of change proposals to revise the NEC.

The NEC establishes requirements for electrical safety in virtually all buildings. Contractors with the Electrical Alliance, a cooperative effort between electrical contractors of the Washington, DC Chapter of The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and skilled electricians of IBEW Local 26 in the Washington area, adhere to the most recently approved Code.

"The purpose of the National Electrical Code is the practical safeguarding of persons and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity," says Michael Toman, President of MEGA Power Electrical Services, Inc and president of the Washington, DC Chapter of NECA.

The NEC is revised every three years. NECA has been a major participant in the process for more than a century.

NECA is one of only a few organizations with representatives on all of the twenty Code-Making Panels. In addition, NECA members chaired six of the 2008 NEC Code-Making Panels. NECA also maintains two NECA representatives on the NEC Technical Correlating Committee, and a NECA representative chaired the NFPA Electrical Section for this code edition.

Locally, Michael Toman and Brooke Stauffer, NECA National Director of Codes and Safety, worked on the NEC revision. Toman is the principle member of the Technical Correlating Committee, which supervises the NEC as well as a member of one of the Code-Making Panels.

NECA members have a unique place on the Code-Making Panels. They have the practical knowledge gained from installing every wiring method and type of equipment in the Code and are considered to be impartial.

"NECA members weigh each issue on its merit," says Toman. "Some Panel members' votes are directed by the organization they represent, but NECA members' votes are their own."

In addition to their work on the NEC, NECA members also adhere to and follow the *National Electrical Installation Standards (NEIS)*. These standards further the NEC by focusing on quality and performance

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NFPA Updates the National Electrical Code



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in electrical construction. They go beyond the minimum safety requirements of the *NEC* to define what is meant by installing electrical products and systems in a “neat and workmanlike manner.”

NEIS are developed and published by NECA, under consensus procedures accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Many *NEIS* are also developed jointly with other expert groups.

Everything in the *NEIS* complies with the *NEC*. But because they are quality and performance standards, most *NEIS* also contain additional requirements that go beyond basic *NEC* safety requirements. With *NEIS*, the electrical installation designed or installed not only meets code – it meets the shared expectations of everyone involved: owner, specifying engineer, electrical contractor and the authority having jurisdiction.

“As electrical contractors, we’ll be looking closely at the revisions to the *NEC*, to make sure we’re utilizing the most current safety procedures we can,” says Bert Winfield, president, Power Services. “The *NEC* is a great tool for promoting safety and NECA’s *NEIS* takes it further by promoting quality for ourselves, our clients and the public.”

The *NEC* is an integral part of the electrical construction industry. The 2008 revisions continue to enhance its effectiveness in providing minimum safety requirements.

“The *NEC* is really a living document which is adaptable in so many ways,” Toman explains. “Such as the creation of new Article 585 ‘Critical Operations Power Systems’ (COPS) which applies to electrical systems that must keep critical operations going in the event of a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or other emergency that causes a power outage. The *NEC* plays an important role in electrical life safety whenever it is applied.”



Revision of the *NEC* is a three-step process:

1. Change proposals are submitted and considered by all Code-Making Panels responsible for different articles (short chapters) of the *NEC*.
2. Public comments are submitted to the Code-Making Panels.
3. A new edition of the Code is approved at an annual meeting of the entire association.

To see a list of the major revisions to the *NEC*,
please visit www.electricalalliance.org.