The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Board of Fire Prevention Regulations
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Advisory Committee on the Massachusetts Electrical Code

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THE MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRICAL CODE

527 CMR 12.00

AS VOTED
JANUARY 5, 2026

Note: most of the opening two pages and subsequent appendices, other than Appendix Two on proposals, have not been updated as of this post.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE SECRETARY'S NOTES:

This report is intended to assist users and instructors in locating, reviewing the substantiation, and applying the changes made in the Massachusetts amendments to the 2026 edition of the NEC.

Changes subsequent to March 1, 2023 are indicated with gray highlighting and bullets for revisions and deletions, respectively. The gray highlighting accords with the current NEC style convention. New CMR 12 amendments and full paragraph insertions carry a bold, italicized ***"N"***, also following NEC style.

Numerical designations preceded by the letter "I" indicate changes to the 2023 Code already in effect on an interim basis prior to the above vote, if any, together with their effective dates, and are contained in Appendix One. In this case, no interim changes were made.

Numerical designations preceded by the letter "P" indicate changes accepted by the Advisory Committee in preparation for the above vote, by proposal number, and the Committee report thereon is contained in Appendix Two. The Committee acted on a total of eighty proposals in the current cycle.

Numerical designations preceded by the letter "C" indicate changes accepted by the Advisory Committee after publication of its proposed revisions and in response to public comment received thereon, as recorded in Appendix Three. The Committee acted on a total of ~~ten written comments and six verbal comments~~ (unknown at this writing) such changes in the current cycle.

Numerical designations preceded by the letter "B" indicate changes made by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations at the time of adoption that differ from the Advisory Committee's recommendations to the Board. These changes, in this case supported by subsequent Advisory Committee action, are recorded in Appendix Four. The Board made ~~one~~ (unknown at this writing) such change in this cycle to remove an unintended loophole in a Committee action, as supported by the Committee leadership.

THE MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRICAL CODE, 2026 NEC

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRICAL CODE

PARTICIPATING MEMBERSHIP AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 2023 MEC CYCLE

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(Special Expert)

!!!!NOTE: THIS PAGE NOT YET REVIEWED FOR THE 2026 CYCLE!!!!

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Jeffrey S. Sargent
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(Rep. NFPA, non-voting)

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Community Electric, Inc.
(Special Expert)

The Electrical Code Advisory Committee would like to dedicate this edition of the Massachusetts Electrical Code to Frederic P. Hartwell who marks nearly 40 years of service on the Committee, and over 35 years of service on the National Electrical Code Committee as now the senior member of NFPA CMP 9, for his exemplary service to the Electrical Code Advisory Committee, the Commonwealth and to the electrical industry.

527 CMR 12.00: MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRICAL CODE

The Massachusetts Electrical Code (527 CMR 12.00) of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) shall
P-03> be the 2026 National Electrical Code, as published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as NFPA 70 in the form released by vote of the NFPA Standards
P-03> Council on August 20, 2025, including all modifications made by the BFPR and duly promulgated from time to time in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations. Amendments made by NFPA subsequent to this date have no force or effect until and unless reviewed and promulgated by the BFPR.

Informational Note: The NFPA releases Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) from time to time to its standards, including NFPA 70, (NEC). True to their title, these changes are tentative, they are of an interim nature, and they amend (in this case) the electrical code. They have not been processed through the NFPA normal standards making process. As of the 2020 NEC cycle, these amendments, subsequent to their release, now appear in all renditions of the NEC, both print and electronic, in a form that makes them visually indistinguishable from unamended text.

The NEC version adopted in Massachusetts will be that found in the first printing in book form, and that rendition will include TIAs adopted by the Standards Council at its August, 2025 meeting, but no others. Users of this code are advised to consult the front matter on the first page of the NEC for a list of TIAs issued by NFPA, organized by location and specified dates of issuance. In addition, the inside front cover now includes a clear designation of the printing and the TIAs (by number only) that are included. Specific information for each will be found on the NFPA website (www.nfpa.org/70). The NEC version in effect in Massachusetts will usually vary, increasingly over time, from the version amended by NFPA depending on the timing of BFPR actions subsequent to initial promulgation.

P-03>

NFPA also issues advisories of errata. These reflect errors in printing, and bring the published version of their standards, including the NEC, into agreement with the actual results of the standards development process. Because the legally enforceable standard is the form as developed through that process, errata are considered to be effective as of the original issuance of the standard, and therefore are considered effective in Massachusetts as of the date of the original promulgation of this code.

Insert the following provisions ahead of the body of the Code:

Rule 1. All installations, repairs, maintenance, and removal of electrical wiring and electrical fixtures used for light, heat, power, signaling and communications purposes in buildings and structures subject to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 143 shall be reasonably safe to persons and property.

Rule 2. Conformity of installations, repairs, maintenance and removal of electrical wiring and electrical fixtures used for light, heat, power, signaling and communications with applicable regulations set forth in the Code, which is hereby filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall be considered as complying with these requirements.

Rule 3. Additions or modifications to an existing installation shall be made in accordance with this Code without bringing the remaining part of the installation into compliance with the requirements of this Code. The installation shall not create a violation of this Code, nor shall it increase the magnitude of an existing violation.

Rule 4. Where an actual hazard exists, the owner of the property shall be notified in writing by the authority enforcing this Code. The notification shall contain specifications of the actual hazard that exists, together with a reference to the rule of this Code that is now in violation. (See M.G.L. c. 166, §§ 32 and 33, for enforcement authority.)

Rule 5. References are made in this code to other standards. Those standards, where duly adopted by law or regulation, may be enforced by the appropriate official. They are not considered part of this Code and they are not enforceable under M.G.L. c. 143 § 3L. For Massachusetts Building Code references, see Appendix A.

Rule 6. The approving authority may be guided in his approval of specific items of equipment and materials contemplated by the Code, by proof that such equipment and materials have been tested and conform to suitable recognized industry standards.

Rule 7. 527 CMR 12.00 shall be effective on all installations for which a permit has been granted subsequent to February 28, 2026.

P-03>

Rule 8. In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 143 § 3L, the permit application form to provide written notice of installation of wiring shall be uniform throughout the Commonwealth, and applications shall be filed on the prescribed form. Electronic transmittals of this form may be submitted when done in accordance with the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (M.G.L. c. 110G). After a permit application has been accepted by an Inspector of Wires appointed pursuant to M.G.L c. 166 §32, an electrical permit shall be issued to the person, firm or corporation stated on the permit application. Such entity shall be responsible for the notification of completion of the work as required in MGL 143 §3L.

Permits shall be limited as to the time of ongoing construction activity, and may be deemed by the Inspector of Wires abandoned and invalid if he or she has determined that the authorized work has not commenced or has not progressed during the preceding 12-month period. Upon written application, an extension of time for completion of work shall be permitted for reasonable cause. A permit shall be terminated upon the written request of either the owner or the installing entity stated on the permit application.

Rule 9. Installations, repairs, maintenance, or removals covered by 527 CMR 12.00 shall also comply with M.G.L. c. 141.

Rule 10. Electrical installations, repairs, maintenance, or removals shall not be concealed or covered from view until inspected by the inspector of wires within and not more than 24 hours for exterior or interior excavations nor more than 72 hours for exterior or interior installations after proper notice to the inspector, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excluded.

Rule 11 . Electrical installations that appear incompatible with GFCI protection as covered in 210.8(D) Exception No. 2 of this Code, regardless of the code requirements in effect at the time when the permit as described in Rule 8 was issued, or when the installation was completed, shall be inspected by a qualified person. The inspection shall review all field elements of the branch-circuit equipment grounding return path, and the quality of any field-accessible cord connections if applicable. The inspection shall be documented, subject to audit by the Inspector of Wires, and inspected by him or her as deemed necessary. Installations of listed equipment that, under normal operating conditions, are found to be incompatible with GFCI protective devices as made available by the manufacturer of the circuit protection currently installed shall be excused from providing GFCI protection. If not connected to an individual branch circuit, incompatible equipment shall be directly wired or connected to a single receptacle, and the circuit shall be arranged so required GFCI protection is retained for the remaining outlets. The inspection documentation required by this rule shall constitute the notice required in Rule 8 and no additional notice shall be required for corrections applied accordingly. The location and the date of this determination shall be forwarded to the Department of Fire Services for inclusion in a central registry of such allowances. The report shall also include the appliance manufacturer and model, together with the identity of the GFCI protective device. This rule shall expire on January 1, 2029.

P-05>
P-06>

90.2(D)(5). Delete (d) and revise (c) to read as follows:

(c) Are located in legally established easements, rights-of-way, or by other agreements either designated by or recognized by the public service commissions, utility commissions, or other regulatory agencies having jurisdiction for such installations.

Informational Note: Wiring systems that are maintained by utilities and that operate under this exclusion from coverage by the Massachusetts Electrical Code include, regardless of ownership, luminaires for street and area lighting directly connected to such systems.

90.4. Revise 90.4 by replacing 90.4(A) and 90.4(B), as follows. Sections 90.4(C) and 90.4(D) remain unchanged from the NEC.

90.4 Enforcement. This Code shall be used by the authority enforcing the Code and exercising legal jurisdiction over electrical installations. The authority having jurisdiction of enforcement of the Code shall accept listed and labeled equipment or materials

where used or installed in accordance with instructions included with the listing and labeling. The authority shall have the responsibility for deciding upon the approval of unlisted or unlabeled equipment and materials, and for granting the special permission contemplated in a number of the rules.

90.6. Revise to read as follows:

90.6 Interpretations and Appeals. To promote uniformity of interpretation and application of the provisions of this Code, interpretations may be requested from the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations. Requests for interpretation shall be in the form of a question that can receive a "Yes" or "No" answer. This in no way supersedes the right of any individual who is aggrieved by the decision of an Inspector of Wires to appeal from that decision to the Board of Electricians' Appeals in accordance with M.G.L. c. 143 §3P. The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations shall, upon the request of the Board of Electricians' Appeals, render interpretations to the Board of Electricians' Appeals.

It is customary to revise this Code periodically to conform with developments in the art and the result of experience, and the current edition of the Code shall always be used.

90.10. Add a new section numbered 90.10 to read:

90.10. References to Commonwealth of Massachusetts Codes, Regulations, and Laws. References are included in Appendix A for Building Code, Elevator Regulations, Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code, Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, Division of Industrial Safety, State Sanitary Code, Fire Safety Code, Permit Applications, and Chapters of the General Laws. See Appendix A.

Art. 100. Coordination, Selective (Selective Coordination). Revise this definition to read as follows:

Localization of an overcurrent condition to restrict outages to the circuit or equipment affected for fault current events that extend beyond 0.1 second, and accomplished by the selection and installation of overcurrent protective devices and their ratings or settings for the range of available overcurrents under such conditions, whether originating from overload, ground-fault, or short circuit, and for the full range of overcurrent protective device opening times applicable to such events.

Art. 100. Manufactured Home, Informational Note No. 2. Add the following sentence:

Manufactured housing that is not designed to be transportable on running gear, and that is not produced under regulations that expressly cover such housing, is classified under Article 545.

Art. 100. Occupiable Space. Insert the following definition:

A room or enclosed space designed for human occupancy in which individuals congregate for amusement, educational or similar purposes or in which occupants are engaged for labor, and which is equipped with means of egress and light and ventilation facilities.

110.14(A). Delete the last sentence of the first paragraph and insert the following two sentences in its place:

Connection by means of wire binding screws or studs and nuts having upturned lugs or equivalent shall be permitted for 10 AWG or smaller solid conductors, or conductors with Class B stranding. Where Class C stranded conductors are terminated on and not looped through such terminals, the uninsulated strands shall be completely enclosed within the termination, or the strands at the terminals shall be made solid.

P-11>

110.24(A). Insert an additional informational note as follows:

Informational Note No. 3. The marking required in this section is useful in determining compliance with 110.9, but must be understood as transitory and requiring reconfirmation prior to the performance of additional electrical work. This and numerous other locations in the NEC require field markings of the available fault current. A major component of this current is usually that contributed by the utility through the service. The utility contribution is inherently dynamic in value, particularly on the medium voltage portions of their distributions. Without notice, automatic line sectionalizing can transfer a service from the tail end of one circuit to the head end of an adjacent circuit, with a significant increase in available fault current. In addition, there are numerous sources of on-site contributions to available fault current.

P-12> 110.26(A)(1). Add a third paragraph (c) as follows:

(c) Adequate Accessibility. By special permission, smaller spaces may be permitted where it is judged that the particular arrangement of the installation will provide adequate accessibility.

P-36> 120.40. Insert the following third informational note:

Informational Note No. 3: Beginning on January 1, 2024, cities and towns that have adopted the Specialized Stretch Energy Code will require new one- and two-family homes built with fossil fuel equipment to be pre-wired for future electrification conversion. For heating equipment, this will apply to heat pumps or to resistance heat or to both as applicable. The requirements will also extend to fossil-fueled major appliances. This will effectively require the service, and intermediate feeders if present, to be wired based on the future requirements as if it were an all-electric home at the time the home is built. In addition, where this Energy Code is in effect, the advance installation of branch-circuit wiring for all future electrical equipment that would be required to accomplish the future conversion from fossil fuel applications must be in place, routed to locations that are appropriate to meet this intent.

P-17> ●

210.8. Revise the second paragraph to read as follows:

For the purposes of this section, when determining distances from receptacles the distance shall be measured as the shortest path the supply cord of equipment connected to the receptacle would follow without piercing a floor, wall, ceiling, fixed barrier, or without passing through a cabinet door opening, doorway, or window.

210.8(A)(9). Revise to read as follows:

P-19>

(9) Sinks — where receptacles are installed within 1.8 m (6 ft) from the top inside edge of the bowl of the sink, or where located within a cabinet supporting a sink.

210.8(B)(7). Revise to read as follows:

(7) Sinks — where receptacles are installed within 1.8 m (6 ft) from the top inside edge of the bowl of the sink, or where located within a cabinet supporting a sink.

P-17> P-20> 210.8(D) Insert the following exception:

Exception to 8, 9, and 10: Permanently connected cooking equipment and cord-and-plug connected stationary cooking equipment that is listed, but incompatible with GFCI protective devices as made available by the manufacturer of the circuit protection currently installed, shall be permitted to omit such protection provided it is installed and inspected in accordance with the provisions of Rule 11 of this Code. This exception shall expire on

P- P-6>*January 1, 2029.*

P-22>● (also P-23)

210.12(B) Replace the parent text and list items with the

P- following:

P-27>

All 120-volt, nominal, single-phase, 10-, 15- and 20-ampere branch circuits supplying outlets or devices installed in dwelling units shall be protected by any of the means described in 210.12(A)(1) through (A)(6).

210.21(B). Insert a new fifth paragraph as follows:

(5) Receptacle Outlets on Individual Branch Circuits. A receptacle outlet installed to comply with a requirement for an individual branch circuit shall contain a single receptacle, or a multiple receptacle if, and then only to the extent that, the supplied equipment includes multiple supply cord connections.

210.25(B). Add an exception as follows:

Exception: Branch circuits supplying lighting outlets in common areas on the same floor as a dwelling unit in a new or existing two-family or an existing three-family building shall be permitted to be supplied from equipment that supplies one or more of those dwelling units.

210.52(A)(2)(1). Revise as follows:

Any space 600 mm (2 ft) or more in width (including space measured around corners) and unbroken along the floor line by doorways, fireplaces, stationary appliances, and similar openings

P-29>

210.52(A)(4) and (5). Delete in ~~its~~ their entirety.

P-29>

210.52(C). Delete (C)(4); revise the remainder as follows:

I. Revise the parent language to read as follows:

In kitchens, pantries, breakfast rooms, dining rooms, and similar areas of dwelling units, receptacle outlets for countertop and work surfaces that are 300 mm (12 in.) or wider shall be installed in accordance with 210.52(C)(1) through (C)(3). Receptacle outlets rendered not readily accessible by appliances fastened in place, appliance garages, sinks, or rangetops as covered in 210.52(C)(1), Exception

No. 1, or appliances occupying assigned spaces shall not be considered as these required outlets.

For the purposes of this section, where using multioutlet assemblies, each 300 mm (12 in.) of multioutlet assemblies containing two or more receptacles installed in individual or continuous lengths shall be considered to be one receptacle outlet.

II. Revise 210.52(C)(2) to read as follows:

At least one receptacle outlet shall be installed to serve each island and peninsular countertop of work surface, and shall be located in accordance with 210.52(C)(3). A receptacle in a wall countertop surface that directly faces a peninsular countertop or work surface shall be permitted to serve as the receptacle for the peninsular space.

III. Revise 210.52(C)(3) to read as follows:

Receptacle outlets shall be located in one or more of the following spaces:

(1) On or above, but not more than 500 mm (20 in.) above, a countertop or work surface.
(2) In a countertop or work surface, using a receptacle outlet assembly listed for the location. *N*
(3) Not more than 300 mm (12 in.) below countertops or work surfaces on peninsular or island countertops or work surfaces where the surface is flat across its entire surface (no backsplashes, dividers, etc.) and there are no means to mount a receptacle within 500 mm (20 in.) above the countertop or work surface, such as an overhead cabinet. Receptacles installed below a countertop or work surface shall not be located where the countertop or work surface extends more than 150 mm (6 in.) beyond the face of such receptacles.

Exception to (3): Receptacle outlets shall be permitted below wall-mounted countertops or work surfaces in construction for the physically impaired.

215.15. Barriers. Revise to read as follows:

Barriers shall be placed in panelboards, switchboards, switchgear, and motor control centers such that no uninsulated, ungrounded supply terminal is exposed to inadvertent contact by persons or maintenance equipment while servicing load terminations. This requirement shall be applied to the supply terminals of equipment supplied by feeder taps as covered in 240.21(B) or by transformer secondary conductors as covered in 240.21(C), in all instances where the equipment disconnecting means is located within the same enclosure, or is located remotely and also controls other loads.

225.30(F). Revise to read as follows:

(F) Documented Switching Procedures. Additional feeders or branch circuits shall be permitted to supply large capacity multibuilding industrial or institutional installations under single management where documented safe switching procedures are established and maintained for disconnection.

P-37>

225.31(B) Exception No. 1. Revise to read as follows:

Exception No. 1: For large capacity multibuilding industrial or institutional installations under single management where documented safe switching procedures are established and maintained for disconnection, and where the disconnection is monitored by qualified individuals, the disconnecting means shall be permitted to be located elsewhere on the premises.

P-40>

230.70(A)(1) One- and Two-Family Dwellings. Revise as follows: This section shall apply to one- and two-family dwellings, or new buildings of double occupancy, at least one of which is a dwelling unit. It shall also apply to two-family dwelling units or buildings of double occupancy, at least one of which is a dwelling unit and newly created by subdivision of an existing one-family dwelling. Service disconnects shall be installed in a readily accessible outdoor location in accordance with one of the following:

P-41>

230.70(A)(1). Identify the existing exception as Exception No. 1. Insert a second exception to read as follows:

Exception No. 2: A service disconnect located inside a dwelling and supplied by a service lateral or by underground service conductors shall be permitted to be capable of disconnection from a readily accessible location outside of the dwelling by using a method providing remote control of the service disconnecting means, and marked: EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL DISCONNECT and NOT SERVICE EQUIPMENT. The control wiring shall be enclosed in a raceway.

P-43>

230.70(E) Revise 230.70(E) Exception to read as follows:

Exception: If only meter sockets, service entrance conductors, service overcurrent protection main

breakers, or related raceways and fittings are replaced, the requirements of 230.70(A)(l) and 230.70(B)(2) shall not apply.

P-44>●

250.130(C). Delete this subsection.

P-50>

250.140(B)(5). Insert the following additional text:

N . The branch circuit shall be provided with GFCI protection.

●<P-52

300.5(A). Add an informational note to this subsection as follows:

Informational Note: Cables suitable for direct burial are often sleeved in various raceways for design reasons. If such cable is installed with sufficient cover for direct burial, then the characteristics of that raceway need not be evaluated. Other rules of this Code that apply to raceways generally may apply. See 300.5(H).

P-55>: >

N> **300.13(B). Wiring Systems Installed Above Suspended Ceilings.**

Revise to read as follows:

Support wires that do not provide secure support shall not be the sole support. Where independent support wires are used, they shall be secured at both ends. The ceiling system shall be permitted to support branch-circuit wiring and associated equipment if installed in accordance with the ceiling system manufacturer's instructions. Cables and raceways shall not be supported by ceiling grids.

(1) Fire-Resistance Rated Assemblies. Wiring located within the cavity of a fire-rated floor-ceiling or roof-ceiling assembly shall not be secured to, or supported by, the ceiling assembly, including the ceiling support wires. An independent means of secure support shall be provided and shall be permitted to be attached to the assembly. Where independent support wires are used, they shall be distinguishable by color, tagging, or other effective means from those that are part of the fire-rated design.

Exception: Ceiling support systems shall be permitted to support wiring and equipment that have been tested as part of the fire-rated assembly.

(2) Non-Fire-Resistance Rated Assemblies. Branch-circuit wiring associated with equipment that is located within, supported by, or secured to a suspended ceiling that is not an integral portion of a fire-rated floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assembly shall be permitted to be supported by the ceiling support wires.

P-56>

300.18(A). Add a second paragraph as follows:

Where different raceway wiring methods are joined together without a pull point at the transition, there shall not be more than the equivalent of four quarter bends (360 degrees total) between pull points, e.g., conduit bodies and boxes.

P-57>●

310.12. Delete the second paragraph.

310.15(C)(1). Delete the fourth itemized adjustment provision (d) covering AC and MC cable.

310.15(C)(1). Revise Table 310.15(C)(1) to read as follows:

Number of Conductors[1]	Percent of Values in Tables 310.16 through 310.19 as Adjusted for Ambient Temperature if Necessary
4 through 6	80
7 through 24	70
25 through 42	60
43 and above	50

[1]Number of Conductors is the total number of conductors in the raceway or cable, including spare conductors. The count shall be adjusted in accordance with 310.15(E) and (F), and shall not include conductors that are connected to electrical components but that cannot be simultaneously energized.

Informational Note: Overheating may occur where continuous, fully loaded conductor diversity is less than 50 percent and the number of current-carrying conductors exceeds nine. See 310.15(C).

P-58>

314.29(A)(1) Exception: Reidentify the content of the exception as being paragraphs (2) through (5). Insert a new first paragraph as follows:

(1) The outlet box that supplies the device is nonmetallic, or the box is metallic and the equipment grounding connection to the box is accessible through the opening.

P-59>

320.80(A)(1). Delete the last sentence of the first paragraph, which reads: "The 90°C (194°F) rating shall be permitted to be used for ampacity and correction calculations; however, the ampacity shall not exceed that for a 60°C (140°F) rated conductor."

334.10. Insert an exception to follow (3) to read as follows:

Exception to (2) and (3): For buildings or structures required to be of Type I or Type II construction, Type NM or Type NMC cables shall be permitted to be

used, provided that where so applied in buildings or structures exceeding three stories above grade, circuits run in Type NM or NMC cable shall not leave the floor or dwelling unit from which the circuits originate. Cables shall be installed within walls, floors, or ceilings that provide a thermal barrier of material that has at least a 15-minute finish rating as identified in listings of fire-rated assemblies.

334.12(A)(2)**.** Revise to read as follows:

(2) In dropped or suspended ceilings in other than one- and two-family and multifamily dwellings, unless run so as to closely follow the surface of framing members, running boards, or the equivalent, or unless connected to luminaires or other pieces of electrical equipment in accordance with 334.30(B)(2).

334.17. Revise to read as follows:

334.17 Through or Parallel to Framing Members and Furring Strips. Types NM and NMC cable shall comply with 300.4 where installed through studs, joists, rafters, and similar members. Grommets or bushings shall be used in metal studs as required in 300.4(B)(1), shall remain in place during the wall finishing process, shall cover the complete opening, and shall be listed for the purpose of cable protection.

In both exposed and concealed locations, where the cable is installed parallel to framing members, such as joists, rafters, or studs, or is installed parallel to furring strips, the cable shall be secured so that the nearest outside surface of the cable is not less than 19 mm (¾ in.) from the nearest edge of the framing member or furring strip where nails or screws are likely to penetrate. Where this distance cannot be maintained, the cable shall be protected from penetration by nails or screws by a steel plate, sleeve, or equivalent at least 1.6 mm ($^1/_{16}$ in.) thick. A listed and marked steel plate less than 1.6 mm ($^1/_{16}$ in.) thick that provides equal or better protection against nail or screw penetration shall be permitted for this purpose.

Exception: For concealed work in finished buildings, or finished panels for prefabricated buildings where such supporting is impracticable, it shall be permitted to fish the cable between access points.

334.30. Revise 334.30 as follows [(A), (B), and (C) unchanged from the NEC]:

P-60>

334.30 Securing and Supporting. Nonmetallic-sheathed cable shall be secured by listed staples, cable ties, straps, or similar fittings so designed and installed as to not damage the cable. The cable length between the cable entry and the closest cable support shall not exceed 450 mm (18 in.) Where staples are used for cable sizes smaller than three 8 AWG conductors, they shall be of the insulated type, or listed noninsulated staples driven by staple guns shall be permitted. Cable shall be secured in place at intervals not exceeding 1.4 m (4½ ft) and within 300 mm (12 in.) from every cabinet, box, or fitting. Where the cable is run diagonally behind strapping of a nominal 19 mm (¾-in.) thickness it shall be considered supported, secured, and in compliance with 334.17 where it is not pulled taut. For other than within 300 mm (12 in.) of a cable termination at a cabinet, box, or fitting, cables passing through successive holes in adjacent framing members no more than 600 mm (24 in.) apart shall be considered to be secured.

Sections of cable protected from physical damage by raceway shall not be required to be secured within the raceway.

P-61>

334.80. Delete 334.80(B) and retitle 334.80(A), the resulting full text reading as follows:

(A) General. Type NM and NMC cable shall have conductors rated at 90°C (194°F). Where installed in thermal insulation, the ampacity of conductors shall be that of 60°C (140°F) conductors. The ampacity of Types NM and NMC cable installed in cable tray shall be determined in accordance with 392.80.

338.10(B)(4). Insert an informational note as follows:

Informational Note: This section includes service entrance cables with a round configuration commonly known as SER cable. The interior installation of this cable is governed by the same rules as apply to nonmetallic sheathed cable.

338.10(B)(4)(a)(3). Revise to read as follows:

Where installed in thermal insulation, the ampacity shall be in accordance with the 60°C (140°F) conductor temperature rating. The maximum conductor temperature rating shall be permitted to be used for ampacity adjustment and correction purposes, if the final derated ampacity does not exceed that for a 60°C (140°F) rated conductor.

P-62>

344.2. Add an exception as follows:

Exception: Rigid metal conduit made from nonferrous metals other than aluminum shall be permitted to be approved.

352.12. Add a new (F) to read as follows:

(F) High-Rise Buildings. Where used in buildings more than 21 m (70 ft) above mean grade, rigid nonmetallic conduit shall not be used unless the building is protected by an approved fire sprinkler system(s) installed on all floors as a complete system, or the conduit is concealed behind a thermal barrier as described in 362.10(2) or 362.10(5), or the conduit is encased in not less than 50 mm (2 in.) of concrete.

368.8. Insert a new Section 368.8 in Part I of Article 368 as follows:

368.8 Tests Prior to Energizing. Busway system joint tightness, phasing and insulation resistance shall be verified by test prior to energizing the system for the first time. Joint resistance shall be evaluated by a qualified person using equipment identified for the specific function. A written record of these tests shall be made available to the authority having jurisdiction.

368.14. Insert a new Section 368.14 in Part II of Article 368 as follows:

368.14 Protection from Liquids, Moisture and Other Contaminants. Busway shall be protected from liquids, moisture, and other contaminants or corrosion which may result in electrical failure.

(A) During Construction. Indoor busways shall be protected from moisture during storage as well as during or after installation. Special consideration shall be given to riser busways to protect them from moisture from uncompleted roofs, walls, etc.

Outdoor busways shall be treated the same as indoor busways until after busway is properly installed, as it is not weather resistant until completely and properly installed.

Busway shall have the exposed ends of uncompleted runs protected to prevent accidental contamination during the construction period.

(B) Protection from Snow Buildup. Outdoor busway shall be mounted in such a manner as to prevent snow or ice buildup forcing water into the busway through weep holes. This may require that consideration be given to horizontal snow or ice buildup or drifting of snow.

(C) Protection from Falling Liquids. Slant shields, drip pans, or other approved protective shields shall be installed to protect indoor busway in locations where there is a possibility of water spillage or dripping condensate from roof drains, water pipes, and the like.

P-63>Insert the following additional section:

N **368.18. Personnel Doors:** Where busway rated 800 A or more is installed or plug-in equipment or both are installed in electrical rooms or spaces equipped with entry doors, and the rating of the busway system itself or provisions for the installed plug-in equipment is 800 amperes or more, the requirements of 110.26(C)(3) Personnel Doors shall apply.

368.56(B). Revise the rule in list item (2) and the exception to (B)(2) to read as follows:

(2) The length of the cord or cable from a busway plug-in device to a suitable tension take-up support device shall not exceed 2.5 m (8 ft).

Exception to (B)(2): By special permission in industrial establishments only, where the conditions of maintenance and supervision ensure that only qualified persons will service the installation, flexible cord suitable for hard usage or extra hard usage or bus drop cable shall be permitted to extend horizontally greater lengths than 2.5 m (8 ft) where the longer length is essential for periodic repositioning of equipment. The flexible cord or bus drop cable shall be supported at intervals not to exceed 2.5 m (8 ft), and suitable tension take-up device(s) shall be installed at the end of the horizontal run to relieve strain in both the horizontal and vertical directions.

372.23. Revise this section to read as follows:

372.23. Ampacity of Conductors. The ampacity adjustment factors in 310.15(C)(1) shall not apply where 30 or fewer current-carrying conductors occupy no more than 20 percent of the interior cross-sectional area of cellular concrete floor raceways.

374.23 Revise this section to read as follows:

374.23. Ampacity of Conductors. The ampacity adjustment factors in 310.15(C)(1) shall not apply where 30 or fewer current-carrying conductors occupy no more than 20 percent of the interior cross-sectional area of cellular metal floor raceways.

390.23. Revise this section to read as follows

390.23 Ampacity of Conductors. The ampacity adjustment factors in 310.15(C)(1) shall not apply

where 30 or fewer current-carrying conductors occupy no more than 20 percent of the interior cross-sectional area of underfloor raceways.

400.5. Revise Table 400.5(A)(3) to read as follows:

Number of Conductors	Percent of Values in Tables 400.5(A)(1) and 400.5(A(2))
4 through 6	80
7 through 24	70
25 through 42	60
43 and above	50

Informational Note: Overheating may occur where continuous, fully loaded conductor diversity is less than 50 percent and the number of current-carrying conductors exceeds nine. See 310.14(A)(3).

400.12(4) Revise the existing exception as follows:

Exception to (4): Flexible cord and cable shall be permitted to be installed in accordance with 368.56(B) and 590.4. For other applications, where the length of the cord from the supply termination to a suitable tension take-up device is limited to 2.5 m (8 ft), flexible cord shall be permitted to have one connection to the building surface.

400.17. Revise the second paragraph to read as follows:

Flexible cord shall be permitted to be installed in raceways not longer than 15 m (50 ft) in length where required to protect the flexible cord or cable from physical damage. The ampacity of the conductors within a raceway shall be adjusted in accordance with Table 400.5(A)(3) based on the total number of current-carrying conductors within the raceway, and then further derated by a factor of 0.8, or the ampacity shall be calculated in accordance with 310.14(B). The raceway shall be exposed over its entire length.

P-64> ●

P-67> 406.9(C)(1). Replace the entire content to read as follows:

Receptacles shall not be installed within or directly over a bathtub or shower stall.

410.16(D). Revise items (1) through (4) to read as follows:

(1) 300 mm (12 in.) for surface-mounted incandescent luminaires with a completely enclosed light source, or for LED luminaires not covered in (2) following, that are installed on the wall above the door or on the ceiling.

(2) 150 mm (6 in.) for surface-mounted fluorescent luminaires, or for surface-mounted LED luminaires that are factory wired with their drivers, and that are installed on the wall above the door or on the ceiling.

(3) 150 mm (6 in.) for recessed incandescent luminaires, or for LED luminaires not covered in (4) following, with a completely enclosed light source, and that are installed in the wall or the ceiling.

(4) 150 mm (6 in.) for recessed fluorescent luminaires, or for recessed LED luminaires that are factory wired with their drivers, and that are installed in the wall or the ceiling.

410.36(B). Add a second paragraph as follows:

In addition to, or lieu of, the mechanical fastening means, luminaires equaling or exceeding 1.8 kg (4 lb) shall be directly supported to the building structure or to approved intermediate supports rigidly secured to the building structure. The luminaire support shall be by wire, chain, or threaded rod of sufficient strength to carry the luminaire. Luminaires equal to or greater than 600 mm (2 ft.), nominal, on a side shall be supported at each end of a diagonal axis regardless of weight

440.14. Insert a second informational note as follows :

Informational Note No. 2: Article 440 generally only applies to equipment that incorporates hermetic refrigerant motor-compressors. See also 430.109(B) for specific provisions governing the disconnecting requirements for such equipment, wherever located, that uses a motor that is 1/8 hp or less.

517.13. Delete the exception.

P-70&P-71>

517.26. **Application of Other Articles.** Revise as follows:

(A) General. Other than as specified in 517.26(B), the requirements of Article700 shall not apply.

(B) Life Safety Branch. The Life Safety Branch of the Essential Electrical System shall comply with 700.10(D).

680.4. Delete this requirement.

680.8 Insert an informational note ahead of 680.8(A) as follows:

Informational Note: Unlisted swimming pool pump motors have been observed in the field as having been supplied by their manufacturer with undersized cords, cords of excessive length, cord connectors on outdoor applications that are unsuitable for wet locations, and other violations of this Code. The fact that a manufacturer may supply them in this form does not excuse compliance with the rules of this Code.

Listed storable swimming pool pump motors with long factory-supplied cords are prominently marked as such and are not covered in Part II of Article 680. They are not manufactured for use with permanently installed pools and they need not be bonded where used as intended. See 680.31.

680.23(B)(2)(a). Amend this provision to read:

"(a) *Metal Conduit.* Metal conduit shall be listed stainless steel or approved red brass."

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680.23(F)(1). Wiring Methods. Revise the requirement to read as follows:

Branch circuit wiring on the supply side of enclosures and junction boxes connected to underwater luminaires and running in corrosive, wet, or below-grade locations shall comply with 680.14 or shall be liquidtight flexible nonmetallic conduit. Wiring methods in dry, noncorrosive locations within or on buildings shall be selected and run in accordance with the applicable requirements in Chapter 3. Wiring in all locations shall include an insulated or covered equipment grounding conductor of a wire type, sized in accordance with 250.122 but not smaller than 12 AWG.

(Exception unchanged from the NEC.)

● **P-75**

680.74(A). Delete numbered paragraphs (3), (4), and (5). Delete Exception No. 1 and Exception No. 3, and designate Exception No. 2 as Exception.

690.31(D)(2). Revise the second sentence of the second paragraph to read as follows:

The labels shall be reflective, all letters shall be capitalized, and the letters shall have a minimum height of 9.5 mm (⅜ in.) in white on a red background.

690.56. Insert the following Informational Note after the section title and before 690.56(A):

Informational Note: The Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Code, 527 CMR 1.00, requires signage adjacent to the building or service disconnect that provides contact information and identifies the party responsible for the operation of the PV system.

Article 691. Delete this article.

700.10(D). Revise as follows:

I. Insert the following title and parent wording:
Fire Protection: Emergency systems shall meet the additional requirements in 700.10(D)(1) through (D)(3).
II. Delete (D)(1); renumber (D)(2) through (D)(4) as (D)(1) through (D)(3).
III. In the resulting (D)(3) change "700.10(D)(2)" to read "700.10(D)(1).".

P-78>

700.12(G)(2)(2)**.** In the third sentence, delete the word "also". Then delete the second sentence that reads::

Flexible cord- and plug-connection shall be permitted for unit equipment provided that the cord does not exceed 900 mm (3 ft) in length.

NOTE:

This version of 527 CMR 12.00, the Massachusetts Electrical Code, has been reformatted to closely parallel the style conventions of the 2026 NEC. Its content is a verbatim transcription of the text in the official version. The type size is the same as in the NEC.

*Revised content from the 2023 edition is noted with highlighting on the revised text, and deleted material with a bullet. Entirely new section amendments are identified with an "**N**" as in the NEC. All changes indicated in this printing have an effective date of March 1, 2026.*

REGULATORY AUTHORITY:
527 CMR 12.00
M.G.L. c. 22D, §4; c. 143, §3L; c. 148, §10.

APPENDIX A TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRICAL CODE†

780 CMR MASSACHUSTTS STATE BUILDING CODE
Tenth Edition

Based on the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC) 2021 editions
[Citations bracketed are amended from the model code]

Chapter 1 Scope and Administration (*Unique to Mass.*)

Referenced Codes ..... [R101.4]
Gas and Fossil Fuel Burning Appliances ..... [R101.4.1]
Mechanical ..... [R101.4.2]
Plumbing ..... [R101.4.3]
Property Maintenance ..... [R101.4.4]
Fire Prevention (References) ..... [R101.4.5]
Energy ..... [R101.4.6]
Architectural Access ..... [R101.4.7]
Environmental Protection ..... [R101.4.8]
Elevators ..... [R101.4.9]
Electrical ..... [R101.4.10]
International Residential Code ..... [R101.4.11]
Residential Contracting ..... [R101.4.12]
Permit, General) ..... [R105]
Permit, (Required) ..... [R105.1]
Work Exempt from Permit (IBC) ..... [105.2 (15)]
Fire Department Review (IBC) ..... [107.1.2]
Fire Protection System Shop Drawings (IBC) ..... [107.2.2]
Fire Department Review (IRC) ..... [R107.3.4]
Violation penalties ..... MGL c. 143 §94a……[114.4]

Basic/Commercial based on 2021 edition of the International Building Code (IBC)

[Citations bracketed are amended from the model code]
10th Edition effective date 10/11/2024

Chapter 3 Use Groups and Occupancy Classification

Various revisions to Use-Groups [307.1.1; 308.3.4; 308.6; 310.5; 310.6]

Chapter 4 Special Detailed-Requirements Based on Use and Occupancy

High rise buildings (complete) 403
Atriums (complete) 404
Underground buildings (complete) 405
Motion picture & projection room lighting control 409.4
H P M (Hazardous Production Materials) use facilities, emergency alarms 415.5.11.1.1
H (Hazardous) emergency alarms 415.5.4
H (Hazardous) automatic fire detection systems 415.3 (903.2.5)

Chapter 6 Types of Construction ..... Complete

Chapter 7 Fire and Smoke Protection Features

Smoke activation closing protection devices 716.2.6.6
Penetrations through wall 714.4
Penetrations membranes (outlet boxes) 714.4.2
Penetrations ceiling & floors 714.5.2

Chapter 9 Fire Protection Systems

Smoke activation closing protection devices 711.5.3

International Existing Buildings Code (IEBC)
2021 edition

International Mechanical Code (IMC)
2021 edition

International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC)
2021 edition

International Fire Code (IFC)

2021 edition

Construction documents (security gates) 501.3
Fire protection and utility equipment identification and access (complete) 509
Standby power 510.4.2.3
Fire and smoke protection features (walls, partitions) 703.1.2

780 CMR: MASSACHUSETTS STATE BUILDING CODE
1 + 2 Family Residential based on the 2021 edition of the International Residential Code (IRC)

[Citations bracketed are amended from the model code]
10th Edition effective date 10/11/2024

Violation penalties ..... MGL c. 143 §94a R114.4
Fire resistant construction R302.4
Penetrations, membrane (outlet boxes) R302.4.2
Bathrooms (mechanical ventilation) ..... [R303.3]
Stairway illumination ..... R303.7 & 8
Automatic fire sprinkler system ..... [R313]*
Smoke alarms (listings, location and type) ..... [R314 & AJ 102.3]*
Adding or creating one or more sleeping rooms ..... AJ102.3.1]
Complete reconstruction ..... [AJ102.3.2]
Adding an attached garage (heat detector) ..... [AJ102.3.3]
Carbon monoxide alarms ..... [R315]
Adding or creating one or more sleeping rooms ..... [AJ102.3.1]
Complete reconstruction ..... [AJ102.3.2]
Flood resistant construction (Specialized Codes) ..... [R322.1.6]
Photovoltaic Systems (general design and install) ..... [R324]
General *(International Swimming Pool and Spa Code* ..... [R326.1]
Energy storage system ..... [R328]
Stationary fuel cell ..... [R330]
Drilling & notching wood structural floor members R502.8
Drilling & notching engineered wood products R502.8.2
Alteration of wood trusses ..... R502.11.3 & R802.10.4
Cutting & notching metal studs & headers R603.3.4
Cutting and notching metal floor framing R505.3.5
Drilling & notching studs R602.6
Drilling & notching top plate R602.6.1
Drilling & notching (SIP) walls R610.7
Appliance access M1305.1
Appliance access electrical requirements M1305.1.2.1
Water level detection device M1411.3.1.1
clothes dryer exhaust M1502.4.4
Range hoods make up air M1503.6
Electrical service, reserved space for photovoltaic systems ..... U 103.7

780 CMR 51.00: MASSACHUSETTS STATE BUILDING CODE
Chapter 13 Energy Efficiency
[based on 2021 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)]

"N" referenced articles are found in 2021 IRC and are the same text
[Citations bracketed are amended from the model code]
Effective date 1/1/2023

Residential

Air leakage N1102.4 (R402.4, Table R402.4.1.1) recessed lighting N1102.4.5 (R402.4.5)
Programmable thermostat N1103.1.1 (R403.1.1)

Mechanical ventilations ..... [N1103.6.6 (R403.6)]
Snow melt system control N1103.9 (R403.8)
Pool heaters ..... N1103.10.2 &3(R403.9.1&2)
Lighting equipment N1104.1 (R404.1)
Interior lighting controls N1104.2 (R404.2)
Exterior lighting controls N1104.3 (R404.3)
Electric vehicle power (service) equipment (EVSE) ready (mandatory) ..... (R404.4)]
Hot water boiler, outdoor temperature setback control N1103.2 (R403.2)
Additions, lighting N1110.3.4 (R502.3.4)
Alterations, lighting N1111.1.4 (R503.1.4)
Solar-Ready Roof Access ..... (R324.6)4
Solar-Ready Provisions-– Detached One- and Two-Family Dwellings, Multiple Single-Family Dwellings (Townhouses) ..... (R324.3.1 to R324.7.1) APPENDIX RB

Energy Storage Systems One- and Two-Family Dwellings ..... Chapter 15 NFPA 855

Commercial

Rooftop solar readiness ..... [Appendix CA]
Air leakage (mandatory) C402.4
Recessed lighting C402.5.10
HVAC system controls C403.4
Snow melt system controls C403.13.2
Hot water boiler outdoor temperature setback C403.4.1.5
Electrical power & lighting systems (power density- complete) C405
Lighting controls ..... [C405.2]
Electric vehicle power (service) equipment capable (mandatory) ..... [C405.10]
Voltage Drop Feeders and Branch Circuits ..... [C405.10]
On-site renewable energy ..... [C406.5]
Additional efficiency package options new commercial buildings use ..... [C406]
New residential portions of mixed use buildings, use ..... N1106 of 2015 IRC

STRETCH ENERGY CODE

The Stretch Energy Code is the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)
with Massachusetts Amendments: (225 CMR 22 Residential and 225CMR23 Commercial)
2021 edition
Effective dates: Residential: January 1, 2023; Commercial: July 1, 2023

International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)

Residential energy efficiency (various sections) ..... Chapter 4
Air barrier and insulation installation ..... Table R402.4.1.1
Programmable Thermostat R403.1.1*
Recessed Lighting 402.4.5
Snow and Ice Melt Systems R403.9
Pools and permanent spa energy consumption (complete) ..... R403.10.1 –R403.10.3
Electrical power and lighting systems (complete) R404
Electric Vehicle Wiring R404.4
Solar Ready Provisions Residential ..... Appendix RB

Specialized Stretch Code*
Must be Voted on to Opt-In by Cities and Town
Vote to Take Effect after a 6 Month Phase in Period

527 CMR 1.00: COMPREHENSIVE MASSACHUSETTS FIRE SAFETY CODE based on 2021 edition of NFPA 1

The (*) indicates that explanatory material is located in Annex A.

DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

454 CMR 10.00 Construction Industry Rules and Regulations
Tunnels and Shafts, Caissons, Cofferdams, and Compressed Air
10.175 Tunnels and Shafts
Electrical Equipment ..... Section 12
10.178 Compressed Air
Electricity ..... Section 11

ELEVATOR REGULATIONS

524 CMR 15.00 THROUGH 35.00

BOARD OF STATE EXAMINERS OF PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS

248 CMR 5.00: NATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE (NFPA 54)

9.4.3.3: Permanent lighting shall be provided at the roof access. The switch for such lighting shall be located inside the building near the access means leading to the roof.

248 CMR 8.00: LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GAS CODE (NFPA 58)

6.4.4.4: The distance measured in any direction from the point of discharge of a container pressure relief valve, vent of a fixed maximum liquid level gauge on a container, and the container filling connection to external sources of ignition, openings into direct-vent (sealed combustion systems) appliances, and mechanical ventilation air intakes shall be in accordance with Table 6.4.4.3. [Notes: This distance is 10 ft for cylinders refilled on-site at the point of use. Air-conditioning compressors are considered sources of ignition for the purposes of applying this rule.

105 CMR 410: MINIMUM STANDARDS OF FITNESS FOR HUMAN HABITATION (STATE SANITARY CODE, CHAPTER II)

†General Footnote: *The provisions of the regulations cited in this appendix have been compiled by Massachusetts Department of Fire Services staff members, members of the Electrical Code Advisory Committee, and other volunteers. They are noted to assist the users of the Massachusetts Electrical Code in properly considering various electrical design constraints of other building systems. They are generally unenforceable by an Inspector of Wires. See Rule 5 of the Massachusetts Electrical Code. This appendix has not been promulgated by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations because it does not contain requirements within the scope of the Massachusetts Electrical Code (527 CMR 12.00), and therefore it will not appear in the versions available in Law Libraries and State Bookstores.*

APPENDIX ONE
RECORD OF INTERIM CHANGES TAKING EFFECT AFTER MARCH 1, 2023

No such changes were made after the effective date of the 2023 Massachusetts Electrical Code until the promulgation of current edition of the Massachusetts Electrical Code. Based on prior recent history given the costs of advertising and other obstacles, the regulatory process in the state is now so hostile to any such activity that the Advisory Committee avoided other efforts.

I-01. Insert a new CMR 12 revision as follows:
Submitter: Massachusetts Electrical Code Advisory Committee:

APPENDIX TWO
RECORD OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS ON ALL PROPOSALS MADE FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRICAL CODE, 2026 NEC EDITION

26-01 [Mass. Rule 3]
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: ..... installation shall be "permitted to" be made ..... adding the words in parenthesis (underline not available in this program)
Substantiation: This is a great rule in defining that the contractor can do his work without bringing the rest of the wiring into compliance with the
code. However, the way it is written, it actually FORBIDS the contractor from bringing the remaining part of the installation into compliance with the code. It actually says," Additions or modifications SHALL be made ..... WITHOUT bringing the remaining part ..... What if you wanted to fix the violation while you were at it? I do not believe that it was ever the intent to prohibit the repair and adding the above two words makes it right.
Committee Action: Reject
Committee statement: The code sets a minimum standard. It does not prohibit improvements beyond that minimum, and it also prohibits the AHJ from insisting on such improvements.

26-02 [Mass. Rule 5]
Submitter: Peter Diamond
Proposal: References are made in this Code to other standards. Those standards, where duly adopted by law or regulation, may be enforced by the appropriate official. They are not considered part of this Code. ~~and they are not enforceable under M.G.L. c. 143, § 3L.~~ For Massachusetts Building Code references, see Appendix A.
Substantiation: There are installations of wiring systems in buildings not included in the MEC or NEC that an Inspector of Wires appointed under M.G.L. c. 166 § 32, has authority to regulate and inspect per M.G.L. c. 143 § 3L.
Some examples I have encountered are:
1. “Lightning Protection Systems” installed according to NFPA 780 and listed according to UL 96A. One system was installed at a 911 emergency call center and another at a Fire Station.
2. “Static Electricity” grounding systems installed according to NFPA 77 in a paint production facility.
Committee Action: Reject
Committee statement: Although an electrical inspector has plenary authority to carry out inspections as described in the proposal, those inspections are controlled only by M.G.L. c. 166 § 32.

26-03 [Mass. Rule 7]
Submitter: Frederic P. Hartwell
Proposal: Set the effective date to February 28, 2026.
Substantiation: The adoption of the 2026 NEC edition will be delayed.
Committee Action: Accept. Also correct the dates in the first paragraph of this report to those appropriate for this edition.

26-04 [Mass. Rule 10]

Submitter: Peter Diamond
Proposal: Change 24 hours to 48 hours to give the Inspector of Wires reasonable time to perform the inspection.
Electrical installations, repairs, maintenance, or removals shall not be concealed or covered from view until inspected by the inspector of wires within and not more than ~~24~~ 48 hours for exterior or interior excavations nor more than 72 hours for exterior or interior installations after proper notice to the inspector, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excluded.
Substantiation: As a "part-time" Inspector of Wires, I do NOT work on Friday due to my employer's hours of operation. If a contractor notifies me on a Thursday morning after I have already gone out for inspections, I will not be able to do that inspection until the following Monday. This would place me in violation of the 24-hour rule. Changing the time will give reasonable time to do the inspection. There are many "part-time" Inspector of Wires that are unable to meet the 24-hour rule. Let's remember that an Inspector of Wires appointed per M.G.L. c. 166 can ONLY do inspections when their employer (City or Town) allows them to.
Also, this rule has been construed to mean that the Inspector must give notice of approval or disapproval according to the Rule 10 timelines (24hr & 72hr) when in fact the Inspector has 5 days per M.G.L. c. 143 § 3L
Committee Action: Reject
Committee statement: Municipalities have an affirmative responsibility to provide sufficient working time for their employees to carry out their responsibilities under this rule. The proposed change would decrease safety (open trenches) and also inconvenience electrical contractors.

26-05 [Mass. Rule 11]
Submitter: Jack Lyons (NEMA)
Proposal: Modify Rule 11 to align with a proposed change to 210.8(D) and Cooking appliances

Rule 11. Electrical installations that appear incompatible with GFCI protection as covered in 210.8(D) Exception of this Code, regardless of the code requirements in effect at the time when the permit as described in Rule 8 was issued, or when the installation was completed, shall be inspected by a qualified person. The inspection shall review all field elements of the branch-circuit equipment grounding return path, and the quality of any field-accessible cord connections if applicable. The inspection shall be documented, subject to audit by the Inspector of Wires, and inspected by him or her as deemed necessary. Installations of listed equipment that, under normal operating conditions, are found to be incompatible with GFCI protective devices as made available by the manufacturer of the circuit protection currently installed shall be excused from providing GFCI protection .If not connected to an individual branch circuit, incompatible equipment shall be directly wired or connected to a single receptacle, and the circuit shall be arranged so required GFCI protection is retained for the remaining outlets. The inspection documentation required by this rule shall constitute the notice required in Rule 8 and no additional notice shall be required for corrections applied accordingly. The location and the date of this determination shall be forwarded to the Department of Fire Services for inclusion in a central registry of such allowances. The report shall also include the appliance manufacturer and model, together with the identity of the GFCI protective device. This rule shall expire on January 1, 2027.
Substantiation: This modification of the original Rule 11 aligns with a proposed amendment to 210.8(D) to allow any cooking appliance in an occupancy to forgo GFCI protection due to incompatibility. The justification to limit to 210.8(D) is cited in the proposal to modify and move the current exception to 210.8. Being that Rule 11 is an administrative rule, we maintain the original intent of the rule by keeping the current requirement to use the proposed exception to 210.8(D) but only limiting it to Cooking appliances.

Committee Action: Accept in Principle. Reset the sunset date as covered in Proposal 26-06.

26-06 [Rule 11]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Change the initial reference to 210.8 Exception to read 210.8 Exception No. 2.
Substantiation: The 2026 NEC will have more than one exception to 210.8.
Committee action: Accept in Principle. Move the exception to 210.8(D) as covered in Proposal 26-5. In addition, change the sunset date to January 1, 2029.
Committee statement: The revised sunset time reflects the delayed effective date of changes in product standards as well as the expected timing for inventory depletion.

26-07 [Art. 100 Definitions: Basement (new)]
Submitter: Mark Rochon
Proposal:
Basement. An area located within the foundation partially or entirely underground.
Substantiation: Article 210.8(A)(5) requires GFCI protection. This is an old issue that has resurfaced due to the Accessory Dwelling Units and the like. Finished or unfinished basements, where determined during inspection wether [sic] the floor had a finish of tile, rug, wood etc. and the wall coverings could persuade judgment. There are four types of basements listed a cellar type, daylight type, walkout type and a sub basement type.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The Committee prefers to leave this decision to the building official.

26-08 [Art. 100 Definitions: Coordination, Selective (Selective Coordination)
Submitter: Christy McElhinny, Eaton
Proposal: Delete Amendment to Article 100, Coordination, Selective (Selective Coordination) definition.
Substantiation: The current amendment puts Massachusetts residents at risk in the event of an arc fault or short circuit in their critical systems. Take the example of a building with multiple elevators (a hotel, an office building, a dormitory, etc.). The way the MEC amends the definition of Selective Coordination now, if a short occurred on any elevator circuit, they risk the possibility that all of the elevators could lose power due to a cascading opening of multiple OCPDs. Now imagine that an arc fault occurs in your emergency system, and multiple feeders cascade open. Now your fire alarm circuit and emergency lighting may not have power when they are needed most.
Amending selective coordination to 0.1s eliminates the coordination requirement for more than just bolted faults, but also low and moderate levels of fault currents, including arcing faults. While these types of faults may not occur frequent, they do occur. And by purposely amending the definition of selective coordination to exclude them, you are significantly reducing the reliability of your most critical systems. This is why I'm proposing deleting this amendment entirely and retaining the NEC definition of selective coordination in the MEC.
In the years since the current definition was adopted in the 2014 NEC, electrical manufacturers have released new circuit breaker trip units that can selectively coordinate to higher fault currents. This has provided engineers with more choices for how to achieve a selectively coordinated design and has reduced the cost of a selectively coordinated system.
Committee action: Reject

Committee statement: The Committee agrees that the established NEC parameter for medical applications as established in NFPA 99 [see 517. 31(G)] is appropriate and workable generally.

26-09 [Art. 100 Definitions: Coordination, Selective (Selective Coordination)
Submitter: Jack Lyons, NEMA
Proposal: Add an I.N. to the amended definition of "Coordination, Selective"
I.N. The amended definition for Selective Coordination (implies) reflects that Fault Levels below 0.1 seconds are not common and impracticable to address in system design.
Substantiation: Having an explanation on why the Advisory Committee changes the definition to Selective Coordination will highlight what the difference to limited coverage and full coverage is to industry personnel outside the State. An Emergency System should be reliant upon in any emergency situation and by limiting the exposure to necessary systems we should state out technical reason for doing so in an informational note.
Or at least have an ongoing statement from the Advisory Board on why we continue with our amendment, i.e. an Informational Note.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The Committee is not persuaded that the explanation is accurate or necessary.

26-10 [Art. 100 Definitions: Work Area (new) and 210.8(G) Work Area]
{Secretary's Note: This Proposal was received in essentially two duplicate forms, one of which created the definition of a work area, and the companion imposed a GFCI requirement on such areas. Both were rejected. For ease of processing in this report, the submitter's substantiation and the committee statement on both is reported only once, at this location.}
Submitter: Charles Kennedy
Proposal: Work Area - The area (s) or spaces within a building where maintenance, construction, and fabrication activities take place using electrical hand tools, portable lighting equipment and temporary use of electricity as part of the normal operation of this space. This includes maintenance and construction areas, educational vocational shop spaces and similar locations.
210.8(G) Work Area
All 125-volt 15- and 20-ampere receptacles supplied by single phase branch circuits rated 150 volts or less to ground shall have Type A Ground Fault Circuit-Interrupter protection for personnel. See definition in Article 100 for Work Area.
Substantiation: My intent is to identify spaces within buildings where conditions of the space and use of the space would require GFCI protection for personnel. By defining these spaces with a definition in Article 100, we can have a means to recognize them and then require GFCI protection for permanently installed receptacles for use within these defined spaces in 210.8 (B), Other than Dwelling Units (new part 210.8(B) (G) Work Areas).

We have long recognized the need for GFCI protection for construction and maintenance type activities as required in Article 590.6. These rules apply specifically to temporary construction and maintenance activities, but do not cover areas within a building where these activities take place as part of the normal operation of the space.

Here is a reference to OSHA's 1926.404(b)(1)(ii) regarding GFCI protection on construction sites.

1926.404(b)(1)(ii)

Ground-fault circuit interrupters. All 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacle outlets on construction sites, which are not a part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure and which are in use by employees, shall have approved ground-fault circuit interrupters for personnel protection. Receptacles on a two-wire, single-phase portable or vehicle-mounted generator rated not more than 5kW, where the circuit conductors of the generator are insulated from the generator frame and all other grounded surfaces, need not be protected with ground-fault circuit interrupters.

Furthermore, OSHA does not provide a single "definition of a construction area," but rather defines "construction work" to include the construction, alteration, and/or repair of any building or work, encompassing activities like new construction, significant repairs, and complex maintenance involving large-scale or complex projects. The context of the activity, its scale, complexity, and whether it involves improvements beyond simple one-for-one replacements, are key factors in determining if an activity qualifies as construction work under OSHA regulations.
My training and education to date has always depicted to me that as soon as I provide an extension cord to extend electricity for 120 volt use for tools or equipment for construction and maintenance activities; I must ensure that I am either connected to a GFCI or I provide myself with portable GFCI protection. As an Authorized OSHA 10 and 30 hour construction trainer, I have provided this same education as portrayed within my OSHA presentations to many vocational and technical school students in over 20 years of teaching.

Within many industrial and commercial buildings today there are designated maintenance areas where maintenance personnel typically perform construction and maintenance activities on a daily basis. Many of these spaces are located on the ground floor where contact with the earth is well established by the concrete floor. These spaces currently do not require GFCI protection for personnel by the NEC.

As a vocational electrical teacher for over 20 years, I have long recognized the need to provide GFCI protection for receptacles in vocational shop spaces. The NEC covers areas in automotive, agricultural buildings, etc., and recently added requirements for welding in 630.8, but does not have requirements for GFCI protection in vocational shop areas like electrical, carpentry, HVAC, plumbing, etc., where there is prevalent use of temporary electrical power for everyday use in shop related project work. In most vocational schools, these construction type shop spaces are typically located on the ground floor of the building where students are working in shop spaces in contact with the earth.

In both vocational schools where I have taught, I’ve been involved with doing electrical projects within the schools with my students as part of their hands-on educational experience. In all that time I’ve been installing GFCI protection within these spaces because I’ve recognized the hazards involved and know that I can provide GFCI protection for a safer installation for personnel.
For the 2025 school year, the state of Massachusetts has 36 vocational public schools serving 39,052 students.

I used some of the language from the newly (2023) added 630.8, Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter for Personnel as it best describes the intent of use for my definition. The use of the words maintenance, and construction is to define the types of normal activities that define this space. The intent is to cover spaces where something is constructed or built ; a construction space, a stage set, a metal fab shop, a maintenance area where items may be built or assembled, etc.
Through the years, the NEC has made vast improvements in providing GFCI protection for personnel in both Dwelling and Other than Dwelling locations. We have long recognized the hazards involved with the

use of electricity in construction areas and areas where a connection to earth is readily available. This definition will identify areas within buildings where construction and maintenance activities regularly take place and require permanently installed GFCI protection for personnel use.

I remember a remark made by the Chair of the Code Making Panel 2 (Mark Hilbert) at an IAEI meeting in Concord, NH, a few years ago. " If there is a safety device that can be installed to protect people and property, we're going to require its use.
I've attached some photos of vocational shop spaces and a designated maintenance area.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The Committee prefers to leave such a far-reaching expansion of GFCI applicability to an initiative on the national level.

26-11 [110.24]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Insert "(A)" after the section reference.
Substantiation: This corrects an erroneous reference.
Committee action: Accept

26-12 [110.26(A)(1)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Change the reference from the fourth paragraph (d) to the third paragraph (c)
Substantiation: The NEC text has been reorganized.
Committee action: Accept

26-13 [200.6(A) and (B)]
Submitter: Paul Kennedy, Jr.
Proposal: Amend NEC 200.6(A) and 200.6(B) to permit the use of #10 AWG white or gray insulated conductor, provided it is properly identified as the grounded conductor where required, and used consistently throughout the system.

Specifically, add the following sentence to 200.6(A)(4) and 200.6(B)(4):
"Where conductors are readily available in #10 AWG with white or gray insulation, they shall be permitted to be used for identification as the grounded conductor."
Substantiation: This proposed change is intended to address field practicality and availability. In many jurisdictions and job sites, contractors and electricians carry #10 AWG white or gray insulated conductors as part of their standard material stock for grounding and bonding purposes. This size and color are readily available, cost-effective, and on nearly every service vehicle, reducing material waste and improving job efficiency.

Allowing the re-identification of only #6 conductors or # 4 conductors (as currently required dose not align with common industry practice.)
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The presently required insulation colors are readily available in both supply houses and home stores.

26-14 210.5(C)]
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: Add a sentence to the end of the first paragraph. ..... shall be permitted to use the same identification. "Systems with ungrounded conductors that are 208 volt phase to phase and 120 volt phase to neutral, shall be identified as Black, Red, and Blue for phase conductors and White for the neutral conductor, and ungrounded conductors that are 480 volt phase to phase and 277 volt phase to neutral, shall be identified as Brown, Orange, and Yellow for phase conductors and Gray for the neutral conductor. Other color schemes may be permitted with the approval of the Authority Having Jurisdiction." is added.
Substantiation: The colors above have been used as a standard for a generation. This just makes it official. As currently written, the colors could change from building to building, in any combination from one customer to another in the same industrial park. Even with Black Red and Blue being the 480/277 Volt system as long as it is posted at the panelboard. The last sentence is to recognize that there are still delta systems out there that have the center tapped 120 volt with the high leg orange, by necessity. These, of course, would not be 208 volt but 240 volt phase to phase, so AHJ approval of a different combination, posted as required, is an option.
Committee Action: Reject
Committee statement: The Committee understands the prevalence of this convention, but is unpersuaded that it must be mandated.

26-15 [210.5(C)(2)]
Submitter: Paul Kennedy
Proposal: Revise as follows:
210.5(C)(2) Branch Circuits Supplied from DC Systems.
Where ungrounded conductors of direct-current systems are installed, the identification of ungrounded conductors shall comply with 210.5(C)(1), or shall be permitted by one of the following means:

(a) Conductors #10 AWG and larger shall be identified by the color of the insulation. The following colors shall be used for identification:

Positive (or Line 1): Red
Negative (or Line 2, if applicable): Black

(b) Conductors larger than #10 AWG shall be permitted to be identified by permanent markings at termination points, color coding via tape, or other approved means.
Substantiation: This proposed change updates the minimum conductor size requiring insulation color identification from #4 AWG to #10 AWG for DC systems.

#10 AWG copper conductors with color-coded insulation (e.g., red, black) are widely available and commonly used in the industry for DC installations.
#4 AWG and larger conductors with full-color insulation are often special order, more expensive, and not readily stocked.
This change would make compliance with color-coding requirements more practical and reduce cost for installers and end users.
It aligns with the common use of #10 AWG in photovoltaic, energy storage, and control system DC circuits, improving adoption and code adherence.
This proposal maintains safety and clarity while reflecting actual field practices and available materials.

Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The presently required insulation colors are readily available in both supply houses and home stores.

26-16 [210.8]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Designate the existing exception after the first paragraph as (Exception No.1). Insert "(A)" after the section reference, and designate the inserted text as Exception No. 2.
Substantiation: This corrects a reference that requires correction in the 2026 edition.
Committee action: Accept in part. Move the reference, but only as covered in Proposal 26-17.

26-17 [210.8(A)]
Submitter: Jack Lyons (NEMA)
Proposal: Revise and move the MA amendment to "210.8 Ex 2"
Move it to 210.8(D) to cover Cooking appliances only and have it apply to only those items in 210.8(D) 8,9,10
Modify the amendment to include a sunset date of January 1, 2027

This will also relate to a proposed change to Rule 11 which will be submitted concurrently

Exception to 8, 9, and 10: Permanently connected Cooking equipment and cord-and-plug connected stationary cooking equipment that is listed, but incompatible with GFCI protective devices as made available by the manufacturer of the circuit protection currently installed, shall be permitted to omit such protection provided it is installed and inspected in accordance with the provisions of Rule11 of this Code. This exception shall expire on January 1, 2027.
Substantiation: This modification of the original amendment is that current in-stock ranges that leak current through their heating elements are replaced with properly designed elements that through the new revised UL Standard for Cooking appliances that are compatible with GFCI tripping levels. the January 1, 2027 date is enough time for the Manufacturers of appliances to meet the new Standard revision.

The UL Standard for Cooking appliances have a new tolerance of leakage that is below the minimum level of 4mA. The reports of other appliances that shows signs of incompatibility are so few as seen in the number of reports received by the BFPR and have never been technically evaluated by any manufacturer, it doesn't justify the blanket allowance of removing GFCI technology. The electrical industry has worked on solving many issues of interoperability of equipment and appliances with GFCI technology.

The introduction of HF and HF+ GFCI technology has further advanced the industry in dealing with the interoperability with the high frequency leakage currents that occur in any appliance using Power Conversion equipment (Frequency Drives). These HF frequency filters allow the higher frequencies current above the 4-6 mA levels of a Class A GFCI at the 60 cycle range. These higher current levels have a weighted average of current compared to the 60 cycle levels. During the initial testing of GFCI currents it was determined that these higher levels would be comparable to the 4-6 mA at 60 cycles.

The note inserted into 210.8 regarding the HF style breakers is an option the industry can take to protect appliances that use drives, i.e. Refrigerators.
Committee action: Accept in Principle. Change the sunset date to 2029

Committee statement: Refer to the date set and the Committee Statement in Proposal 26-06.

26-18 [210.8(A)]
Submitter: John J. Ambrosino
Proposal: Add new Exception (Amendments)
Exception No. 6
GFCI protection shall not be required for a single receptacle outlet that is:
1. Dedicated solely to supply power to an HVAC condensate pump,
2. Permanently labeled as "Not GFCI Protected - For HV AC Condensate Pump Only," and
3. Located within three feet of a GFCI-protected receptacle in the same area.
The non-GFCI receptacle shall not be of the duplex type, shall not be used for general-purpose outlets, and shall not be considered as meeting the requirements of 210.52(C) or (G).
Substantiation: Nuisance tripping of GFCI receptacles supplying HV AC condensate pumps has resulted in unintended shutdowns of heating and cooling equipment, leading to:
• Exposure to extreme temperatures, particularly affecting vulnerable occupants,
• Risk of injury during attempts to troubleshoot inaccessible equipment,
• Disabling of HV AC blower systems critical to dispersing refrigerant vapors when A2L refrigerants are used.
Revised 10/1/2020
• This amendment mirrors approaches taken by at least five states (NC, ND, OH, OR, WI) to address similar concerns.
• Oregon's code already includes similar equipment-specific exemptions.
Safety Mitigation:
• Limits the exception to a single, dedicated, labeled receptacle (not duplex).
• Requires nearby GFCI-protected alternative to discourage misuse.
• Provides a safe operational path while maintaining shock protection in general-purpose outlets.
Committee Action: Reject
Committee Statement: Recent changes in the product standards have made continuation of exceptions for this equipment no longer necessary.

26-19 [210.8(A)(7)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Change the reference from 210.8(A)(7) to 210.8(A)(9).
Substantiation: This corrects a reference that is shifting in the 2026 edition.
Committee action: Accept

26-20 [210.8(D)]
Submitter: Jack Lyons, NEMA
Proposal: Revise and move the MA amendment to "210.8 Ex 2"
Move it to 210.8(D) to cover Cooking appliances only and have it apply to only those items in 210.8(D) 8,9,10.
Modify the amendment to include a sunset date of January 1, 2027.
This will also relate to a proposed change to Rule 11 which will be submitted concurrently

Exception to 8, 9, and 10: Permanently connected Cooking equipment and cord-and-plug connected stationary cooking equipment that is listed, but incompatible with GFCI protective devices as made available

by the manufacturer of the circuit protection currently installed, shall be permitted to omit such protection provided it is installed and inspected in accordance with
the provisions of Rule11 of this Code. This exception shall expire on January 1, 2027.

Substantiation: This modification of the original amendment is that current in-stock ranges that leak current through their heating elements are replaced with properly designed elements that through the new revised UL Standard for Cooking appliances that are compatible
with GFCI tripping levels. the January 1, 2027 date is enough time for the Manufacturers of appliances to meet the new Standard revision.

The UL Standard for Cooking appliances have a new tolerance of leakage that is below the minimum level of 4mA. The reports of other appliances that shows signs of incompatibility are so few as seen in the number of reports received by the BFPR and have never been technically evaluated by any manufacturer, it doesn't justify the blanket allowance of removing GFCI technology. The electrical industry has worked on solving many issues of interoperability of equipment and appliances with GFCI technology.

The introduction of HF and HF+ GFCI technology has further advanced the industry in dealing with the interoperability with the high frequency leakage currents that occur in any appliance using Power Conversion equipment (Freguency [sic] Drives). These HF frequency filters allow the higher frequencies current above the 4-6 mA levels of a Class A GFCI at the 60 cycle range. These higher current levels have a weighted average of current compared to the 60 cycle levels. During the initial testing of GFCI currents it was determined that these higher levels would be comparable to the 4-6 mA at 60 cycles.

The note inserted into 210.8 regarding the HF style breakers is an option the industry can take to protect appliances that use drives, i.e. Refrigerators.

Committee action: Accept in Principle. Change the sunset year to 2029
Committee statement: Refer to the date set and the Committee Statement in Proposal 26-06.

26-21 [210.8(D)]
Submitter: Paul Kennedy
Proposal: Add a new subsection to 210.(D) as follows:

210.(D) Remote Appliance Disconnect — Locking Requirement.
- Where a branch-circuit disconnecting means for an appliance is located remotely and is not within sight of the appliance served, the disconnecting means shall be capable of being secured in the open (OFF) position by a lock or other approved means in accordance with 110.25.
- Where a multi-pole circuit breaker is used as the remote disconnecting means, the breaker shall be listed and marked for use with a padlock or shall be provided with an approved padlock adapter to permit locking in the open (OFF) position.
- Portable or temporary disconnecting means shall not be considered compliant unless provided with an approved method of securing in the open (OFF) position.
- Exception: Where the disconnecting means is secured by an approved centralized lockout system that provides equivalent personal protection and is documented in the facility's lockout/tagout procedures and available to the AHJ.

Substantiation: - Workers performing servicing or maintenance on an appliance with the branch-circuit disconnect open are vulnerable if the remote disconnect can be reclosed by others unaware that maintenance is in progress. Reclosing a circuit on a worker can cause electric shock, arc flash, or injury from energized equipment.
- Requiring the remote disconnect to be lockable in the open position provides a simple, low-cost engineering control that preserves energy isolation and prevents inadvertent re-energization by third parties.
- The requirement aligns electrical-code safety principles that reduce inadvertent energization risks and harmonizes with electrical safe work practices and lockout/tagout methodology used in other safety programs.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The Committee is unpersuaded that this far-reaching requirement has been adequately substantiated.

26-22 [210.8(F)]
Submitter: Jack Lyons (NEMA)
Proposal: Delete the Massachusetts amendment for 210.8(F).
Remove this amendment: (210.8(F). Delete this requirement).
Substantiation: The electrical industry has worked on solving many issues of interoperability of equipment and appliances with GFCI technology.
The introduction of HF and HF+ GFCI technology has further advanced the industry in dealing with the interoperability with the high frequency leakage currents that occur in HVAC using Power Conversion equipment (Freguency Drives). These HF frequency filters allow the higher frequencies current above the 4-6 mA levels of a Class A GFCI at the 60 cycle range. These higher current levels have a weighted average of current compared to the 60 cycle levels. During the initial testing of GFCI currents it was determined that these higher levels would be comparable to the 4-6 mA at 60 cycles. There were actions to extend the implementation date of HVAC equipment and it was determined by the Standards Council during the development stage of the 2026 NEC to keep the Sept 1, 2025. The insertion of SPGFCI into 210.8(F) for outdoor outlets is another method to use when protecting people for the Shock Hazards that are present in most equipment that do not require constant maintenance or are inspected over the years in Dwellings. Attached is an article written based on work from CPSC on electrocution of outdoor equipment.
Electrocution-Fatalities-Linked-to-Residential-Appliances-and-HVAC-Systems-R1.docx
Committee action: Accept

26-23 [210.8(F)]
Submitter: George Fournier
Proposal: Delete Mass amendment 210.8(F).
Substantiation: I'm proposing restoring the language in 2026 NEC 210.8(F).
Deleting 210.8(F) for the 2023 code created additional situations that were not considered. Although not the original reason for deletion Massachusetts residents benefitted when it became problematic that GFCI protection created problems for HVAC equipment installed outdoors. NFPA issued a TIA and added changes for 2026 NFPA 70.
Situations have surfaced since the deletion of 210.8(F) in Massachusetts.
Example: a receptacle for charging electric vehicles in a residential garage must be GFCI protected, the same receptacle installed outdoors a few feet away would not be required to be GFCI protected, although 2026 NFPA 70 625.54 "all receptacles installed for the connection for electric vehicle charging shall have ground fault protection for personnel".

Committee action: Accept

26-24
[210.8(F)]
Submitter: Manuel J. Chaves
Proposal: Adopt NEC 210.8(F) - Outdoor Outlets, with the following Massachusetts Amendment:
Exception No. X (Amendment - Effective through September 1, 2029):
GFCI protection shall not be required for receptacle outlets that supply power to listed outdoor HVAC equipment (including air conditioners, heat pumps, condensing units, and similar listed equipment). This exception shall remain in effect until September 1, 2029, after which the requirements of 210.B(F) shall apply unless otherwise amended.
Substantiation: Massachusetts has historically deleted NEC 210.8(F) from its adoption. However, nuisance tripping of GFCI devices supplying outdoor HVAC equipment remains a national issue. Unintended loss of heating and cooling leads to occupant discomfort, high service costs, and safety concerns.
Justification:
- NFPA Standards Council recognized these problems and delayed enforcement nationally until Sept. 1, 2026. - This amendment allows Massachusetts to adopt 210.S(F) but provide a state-specific exception until Sept. 1, 2029.
- Aligns Massachusetts with national code framework while protecting contractors and consumers from unresolved compatibility issues.
Safety Mitigation:
- Exception applies only to receptacles serving listed outdoor HVAC equipment.
- All other outdoor receptacles remain GFCl-protected.
- Maintains overall shock protection while ensuring HVAC system reliability.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: Recent changes in the product standards have made continuation of exceptions for this equipment no longer necessary.

26-25
[210.8(F)]
Submitter: Peter Diamond
Proposal: Remove the MEC amendment that deletes 210.8(F) and change the expiration date of *Exception No. 2* until January 1, 2029 as shown below:
Exception No. 2: GFCI protection shall not be required for listed HVAC equipment. This exception shall expire ~~September 1, 2026~~ January 1, 2029.
Substantiation: Removal of the MEC deletion of 210.8(F) provides protection of "Persons and Property" inline with 90.2(B), the Purpose of this Code.

Extend the date of *Exception No. 2* regarding HVAC equipment until January 1, 2029. To give the Massachusetts Electrical Code Advisory Committee time to consider the need for the exception for the 2029 MEC Code. See the comment below by the NEC task group in Public Input #1582-NFPA 70-2023:

With respect to the extension of the date, the Task Group understands that there may not be a resolution to the incompatibility associated with listed Class A GFCIs and the leakage current permitted for listed HVAC equipment. However, the Task Group has included the date so that the exception is not continued

for an undefined period of time and to encourage the affected parties to work together to resolve the incompatibility issue. The Task Group acknowledges that the date may need to be reevaluated in the future if the incompatibility issues are not resolved.
Committee action: Reject.
Committee Statement: Recent changes in the product standards have made continuation of exceptions for this equipment no longer necessary.

26-26 [Article 210.12]
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: Delete the above article in its entirety.
Substantiation: The simple reason is that they are expensive, troublesome, and they do not work. These AFCI breakers have been required in ever increasing areas of dwelling units since 2002 when they were first required in bedroom circuits. In Massachusetts, they are now required for ALL 120 volt branch circuits, 15 or 20 amp, installed in dwelling units. In the past 23 years, nationwide, there may close to a billion of these devices installed. With this many of these devices installed throughout the country, you would think that the number of electrical fires would be going down measurably. According to the statistics provided by the U.S. Fire
Administration's website, https://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/residential-fires/electrical.html, in the ten years between 2014 and 2023, fires are up 2%. The cost of damage by electrical fires is up 28%. Why is this happening? Because they do not work. Go ahead and try to find a case where it is PROVEN that the AFCI saved a fire. You will soon feel like you are looking for a fly poop in a billion grains of pepper.
History:
The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), in the course of recreating electrical fires to study, noticed that when they produced arcing, it would put spikes on the the electrical waveform on the oscilloscope. They went to the circuit breaker manufacturers and asked them if they could produce circuit breakers that could recognize these spikes and shut off, then maybe it would prevent, or at least cut down on, electrical fires. A noble cause for sure. This gave birth to the AFCI circuit breaker.
Problem:
There was a flaw in the way that these circuit were tested, the way AFCI's are tested by the manufacturer and UL, and even the way that these are presented at trade shows. Everyone knows that the sparks produced in an electrical circuit is molten metal of the conductors involved flying off. This is true whether it is a short circuit to ground or the sparking of a "make and break" connection when a loose connection is in series with a load. In the real world, the molten metal burns off leaving a gap. Generally, possibly after the first sparking incident but no more than 3 times turning it on and having a short circuit throw out sparks, it will have burned off and there will be a gap. In all of the testing, they are continually feeding the conductor into the short. The world in [sic] not a TIG welder. There is no force that continually feeds fresh wire into the short. That means that if an AFCI breaker has been reset 3 times, you have gained nothing over a regular circuit breaker.
Additionally, if you are reacting to the sparks, the fire may very well be off and running. Trying to prevent a fire by reacting to the sparks is like trying to prevent a car accident with the air bag. I feel like the kid at the parade yelling out that the emperor is naked.
Let's not forget, not requiring them does not outlaw them. Anyone who thinks that their lives can be improved by using these devices can have them. We would be happy to install them. But since all facts point to the fact that they do not work, they should not be required.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The Committee does not agree with the major premise of this proposal, namely, that AFCI protection does not work.

26-27 [210.12(B)]
Submitter: Charles Palmieri
Proposal: Insert “10-,“ after “single phase” and ahead of “15- and “
Substantiation: 10-Ampere branch circuits are now recognized.
Committee action: Accept. Also insert “nominal,” after “120-volt” as per current NEC text.

26-28 [Article 210.12(E)
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: 210.12(E)
(2) {A listed outlet branch-circuit-type AFCI located at the first receptacle outlet of the existing branch circuit.} Delete this (strike through not available on this program)
Substitute with: (2) An AFCI device located at the point where the extension receives its supply or the point where the conductors making the extension first terminate.
Substantiation: The existing requirement is that the AFCI receptacle be located at the first receptacle of the existing branch circuit. In 2026, this changes to "receptacle or switch" with the coming of AFCI switches, but the requirement is still at the first one of the existing branch circuit. This is burdensome. The problem is that this requires extensive dismantling and testing of the existing circuit to determine how the circuit runs and where the first receptacle (or switch) is. It also assumes that the first box that the home run comes to is a switch or a plug. What if you found that the feed comes to 3 overhead lights, one after the other, and 2 wires dropped from each one to 2 plugs in each of the rooms? You would have 6 plugs that are equally the first receptacle of the circuit.
The above change would let the AFCI device (receptacle or switch) be either at the point where the tap is made, or at the point where the tap first terminates. If the tap is made at a light, the AFCI could be at a plug or switch and everything downstream from that point is AFCI protected.
Note: If my previous proposal is accepted, disregard this one.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: Refer to the statement on Proposal 26-23.

26-29 [210.52(C) and 210.52(A)(5)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell and Charles Palmieri
Proposal: In the parent language of the current MEC amendments here, include the deletion of (C)(4), as well as the deletion of 210.52(A)(5).
Substantiation: These subsections, new in the 2026 edition, directly contradict the intent of the existing MEC amendments in 210.52(C).
Committee Action: Accept (Action assumed, not yet voted; consider this as a draft accordingly.)

26-30 [210.52(G)(1)]
Submitter: Paul Kennedy
Proposal: Proposed Code Text (Revision to 210.52(G)
Revise 210.52(G) as follows (add underlined text shown here as plain text for submission):

210.52(G) Garage — At least one readily accessible 120-volt, 20-ampere receptacle outlet shall be installed in each attached or detached garage and in each attached carport. The required receptacle outlet(s)

shall be located not more than 5.5 ft (1.7 m) above the finished floor. No lighting outlet or other receptacle outlet shall be connected to the circuit(s) that supply the required garage receptacle outlet(s). No other outlets of any kind shall be installed on the required garage 20-ampere circuit(s).
Substantiation: - The required garage 20-ampere circuit was intended to serve general-purpose portable tools, battery chargers, and garage door openers while maintaining capacity for motor starting and intermittent high-demand loads. Permitting additional outlets and lighting on the same circuit dilutes available capacity, increases likelihood of nuisance tripping, and can create unsafe loading conditions when multiple motors or charging devices operate simultaneously.
- Experience in multi-bay and workshop garages shows that combining fixed lighting, exterior outlets, permanently wired equipment, or additional receptacles on the required circuit frequently leads to overloaded conductors and repeated breaker trips, interfering with essential equipment such as garage door openers and creating potential safety and operational hazards.
- The kitchen small-appliance branch circuit model in 210.52(B)(2) effectively preserves circuit capacity by forbidding other outlets; applying the same principle to required garage circuits aligns installation practice with the intended purpose of the circuit and simplifies enforcement and labeling.
- Clarifying that no other outlets are permitted reduces ambiguity for designers, installers, and AHJs, and prevents overloading by ensuring permanently installed loads are placed on dedicated circuits
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The Committee is unpersuaded that current requirements result in overloaded circuits.

26-31 [210.63]
Submitter: Paul Kennedy
Proposal: Proposed Code Text (Revision to 210.63)
Revise 210.63 by adding the following sentence at the end of the section:

Where a receptacle is provided to serve an appliance or other equipment for the purpose of servicing, the receptacle shall be installed at the same elevation and within reach of the service connection point of the appliance or equipment so that the appliance or equipment can be safely connected to the receptacle without the use of step stools, ladders, or extension cords. The receptacle location shall be readily accessible from the normal work position required to service the equipment.
Substantiation: Receptacles placed significantly higher or lower than the equipment being serviced (for example, a receptacle on an elevated deck 5 ft above the appliance, or recessed below a rock wall 7 ft below the appliance) prevent safe, direct connection by repair technicians and commonly lead to unsafe work practices including use of step stools, ladders, or extension cords.
- Service tasks require stable footing and unobstructed access to the equipment and the servicing receptacle to allow safe handling of tools and to reduce risk of falls, abrupt disconnection, or load-related faults during testing or diagnosis.
- Locating the service receptacle at the same elevation and within reach of the equipment reduces the likelihood of temporary or improvised wiring, decreases service time, and improves safety and reliability of maintenance operations.
- The proposed requirement preserves the intent of 210.63 to provide a convenient, accessible receptacle for service while adding a practical installation constraint that aligns receptacle location with the realities of maintenance work and appliance design.
Committee Action: Reject.
Committee statement: The NEC requirements are sufficient.

26-32 [210.63(A)]
Submitter: Lawrence Forshner
Proposal: Create new 2026 MEC Amendment to read:
REPLACE WITH: 210.63(A) HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING, AND REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT.
The required receptacle outlet shall be located on the same level as the heating, air-conditioning, and refrigeration equipment that's located on rooftops, attics, crawl spaces and exterior areas where equipment is serving one and two family dwellings. Receptacles required by section 210.52(E)(1) could also meet the requirements of 210.63(A).

Substantiation: See NFPA-70 May 2001 ROC Page 85 Comment 2-120 (210-63). The comment "2-120 (210-63) wrote a lengthy compelling substantiation that only referred to the outdoor A/C Compressor unit. There was no reason to delete anything. Just add the requirement for a receptacle at the outdoor A/C Compressor. By stating the locations it helps define the equipment the rule is talking about.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: Extension cords of a suitable length are readily available.

26-33 [210.63(A)]
Submitter: Chris Polny
Proposal: Exception #2 In one and two family dwellings the receptacle for service of equipment installed on the exterior of the dwelling shall [sic] be permitted to be on a different level if all of the following apply:
The receptacle is readily accessible and with 25 feet
The distance shall be measured as a cord would run without passing through solid barriers including doors and windows
The receptacle is accessible without the need to enter the interior of the dwelling

Substantiation: Many times during replacement of exterior AC equipment there is a receptacle located within the 25 foot distance but is located on a deck or porch. Adding an additional receptacle may not be feasible, wanted the home owner. It would eliminate unneeded penetrations into the structure.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The 25-ft parameter is sufficient for this application.

26-34 [210.70(A)(2) and (A)(3)]
Submitter: Paul Kennedy
Proposal: Proposed Code Text (Revision to 210.70(A)(2) and (3))
Revise 210.70(A)(2) and (3) as follows (added text shown inline):

210.70(A) Interior Lighting — Habitable Rooms. At least one wall switch–controlled lighting outlet shall be installed in every habitable room, kitchen, and bathroom. Such lighting outlets shall be controlled as follows:
(2) Hallways and Stairways. At least one wall switch–controlled lighting outlet shall be installed in every hallway and stairway. A permanently wired switching device, or other listed control (for example, a hardwired occupancy sensor or switchable control), shall be provided at each floor or level where the stairway is entered or exited so that the stairway lighting can be directly controlled from every level of

entry. Where a stairway provides access to an attic, loft, or other attic-type space, a permanently wired switching device shall be provided at the top of the stairway or attic access opening to control the stairway lighting.
(3) Landing Areas. Where a landing or intermediate level provides an entry or exit to a stairway, a permanently wired switching device or listed control shall be installed at that landing to control the stairway lighting.

Substantiation: Stairways are a primary path of egress and a common site for fall injuries when not adequately illuminated at the point of entry. Requiring a permanently wired switching device at each level where the stairway is entered ensures immediate, reliable control of lighting without searching for remote controls or relying on portable lamps or extension cords.
- Controls placed far from the stairway entry (for example, 10–20 ft away or in an adjacent room) create delays or unsafe behavior (carrying items while walking in darkness to find the switch, leaving the stair unlit, or using temporary lighting methods). Locating a control at each entry eliminates confusion and reduces risk during routine and emergency use.
- Hardwired controls guarantee function regardless of battery failure, misplaced remote controls, or occupant error; they provide consistent operation for residents, guests, and service personnel and simplify inspection and maintenance.
- Attic and attic-type accesses commonly use pull-down ladders or folding stairs where a switch located only at the bottom or well away from the access point is not usable; a switch at the top access location allows safe illumination before descent or ascent.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: A stairway running in two directions from a landing with a door, such as for a split-level house, is two stairs (up and down) from the landing, and the top and bottom switch placement requirements apply from the landing for both. The NEC covers this as written. Pull-down ladders are adequately lit by ambient lighting, and the spaces they serve can have remote switches because they are not habitable; their entry lighting can be turned off and on from any habitable space from which they connect.

26-35 [Article 215.18 (Mass., new)]
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: Delete this section.
Substantiation: Article 90.2 (A) & (B) define the purpose of the code as the proper safeguarding of persons and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity. It contains provisions that are considered necessary for safety. It is not intended to safeguard the general public from inconveniences.
In the 2020 Code, we got Article 230.67 requiring that SPD type surge protection be installed at each service. This expanded in 2023 to feeders (Article 215.18) and outside feeders (Article 225.42). The argument for surge protectors is that “dirty power” coming from the utility may damage sensitive electronics. My problem with this requirement is that it flies in the face of the intent of the code. Spikes from the utility don’t affect one customer, they would affect potentially hundreds of them at a time. If this were really a problem, we electricians would be getting flooded with calls about this. It would be very high and prominent on our radar screens. This has not been a problem. Nobody I have quizzed on this has received any calls. No citizens have ever complained about this. More to my point, if the citizens were to have electronics damaged due to a surge, it doesn’t explode. It doesn’t burst into flame. Nobody gets hurt. It is an inconvenience. This is not a hazard and in keeping with Article 90.2, it should not be in the codebook.
Committee action: Reject.
Committee statement: The substantiation offered does not address the reason for the requirement. Continuity of power is increasingly relied upon to preserve power to sensitive equipment that threatens health

and safety if the power supply fails. The assertion that such outages are widespread is not necessarily true. A lightning strike on a power line in the street with overhead distribution will frequently only affect a handful of occupancies, or even a single residence.

26-36 [220.40]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Change the location to 120.40.
Substantiation: This article is being relocated.
Committee action: Accept

26-37 [225.31 Exception No. 1)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Change the location reference to 225.31(B).
Substantiation: This material is being relocated.
Committee action: Accept

26-38 [Article 225.41]
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: Location. The disconnecting means shall be installed in an accessible outdoor location on or within sight of the dwelling unit.
(Delete the word "readily".)
Substantiation: In 2005, meter disconnects came into the code. These were non-fused disconnects that some utilities were requiring to be installed ahead of the meter sockets so that their metering workers could change a meter in a de-energized state and avoid the hazards incurred from working on it live. Language was changed/added in 2008 and again in 2014 but the installation was the same. There was no mention of a height restriction or being readily accessible versus just accessible. This restriction was not needed because if they needed to open it, they could.
The same holds true for the disconnects now required by 230.85. In fact, if you live in an area where the meter disconnect has already been required, you're done. It could be 12' or higher off of the ground, if the fire department or the utility needed to operate it, they will have no trouble doing so. This is not like the switch at the top and bottom of the stairs, or on the wall as you enter the room. These switches are operated all the time, possibly thousands of times in a year. The only time the disconnect required by 230.85 will be operated is if the dwelling unit has a fire substantial enough to require that the electricity be shut off. This will undoubtedly result in some level of structural damage that will be at least enough that the structural integrity will have to be scrutinized. We all hope that, in our lifetime and the lifetime of the property, that it never happens, and this switch will never have to be operated.
According to research, about 25% of homes will receive some type of smoke damage in their lifetime, and 35% of these will have structural damage. Let's assume that a lifetime for a dwelling unit is 100 years. That means that in 25% of 100,000 homes, 25,000 homes will have smoke damage, and 35% of those will have to operate that switch, which is 8,750 homes that will have a structural fire needing the power shut off in 100 years. It could be 15' off of the ground, the utility or the fire department will have no trouble quickly operating it. I am not saying that the ability to shut off the power isn't a good idea, I think that it is, it just does not need to be readily accessible.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The fire services have made it clear that they want to be able to operate the disconnect without requiring special equipment.

26-39 [Article 230.67 (Mass., new)]
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: Delete this section.
Substantiation: Article 90.2 (A) & (B) define the purpose of the code as the proper safeguarding of persons and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity. It contains provisions that are considered necessary for safety. It is not intended to safeguard the general public from inconveniences.
In the 2020 Code, we got Article 230.67 requiring that SPD type surge protection be installed at each service. This expanded in 2023 to feeders (Article 215.18) and outside feeders (Article 225.42). The argument for surge protectors is that "dirty power" coming from the utility may damage sensitive electronics. My problem with this requirement is that it flies in the face of the intent of the code. Spikes from the utility don't affect one customer, they would affect potentially hundreds of them at a time. If this were really a problem, we electricians would be getting flooded with calls about this. It would be very high and prominent on our radar screens. This has not been a problem. Nobody I have quizzed on this has received any calls. No citizens have ever complained about this. More to my point, if the citizens were to have electronics damaged due to a surge, it doesn't explode. It doesn't burst into flame. Nobody gets hurt. It is an inconvenience. This is not a hazard and in keeping with Article 90.2, it should not be in the codebook.
Committee action: Reject
Committee Statement: Many households today have sensitive equipment that pose serious life-safety issues if they unexpectedly fail to operate.

26-40 [230.70(A)(1)]
Submitter: Peter Diamond
Proposal: (1) One- and Two-Family Dwellings. This section shall apply to one- and two-family dwellings, or new buildings of double occupancy, at least one of which is a dwelling unit. It shall also apply to two-family dwelling units or buildings of double occupancy, at least one of which is a dwelling unit and newly created by subdivision of an existing one-family dwelling. Service disconnects shall be installed in a readily accessible outdoor location in accordance with one of the following:
Substantiation: 230.85 is deleted in the 2026 NEC. This proposed amendment brings the 2023 MEC amendment language into the 2026 Massachusetts Electrical Code.
Committee Action: Accept

26-41 [230.70(A)(1) Exception]
Submitter: Peter Diamond
Proposal: In 230.70(A)(1) identify the existing exception as Exception No. 1. Insert an additional exception to read as follows:
Exception No. 2: A service disconnect located inside a dwelling and supplied by a service lateral or by underground service lateral conductors shall be permitted to be capable of disconnection from a readily accessible location outside of the dwelling by using a method of providing remote control of the service disconnect(s), and marked: EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL DISCONNECT and NOT SERVICE EQUIPMENT. The control wiring shall be enclosed in a raceway.
Substantiation: 230.85 is deleted in the 2026 NEC. This proposal brings part of the 2023 MEC amendment language into the 2026 Massachusetts Electrical Code.
Committee action: Accept

26-42 [230.70(E)]
Submitter: Chris Polny

Proposal: This section shall apply to one- and two-family dwellings if the service(s) is (are) entirely replaced. This section shall also apply to one- and two-family dwellings if the service(s) is (are) increased in capacity in terms of its (their) rating in amperes. This section shall not apply to service equipment repairs that consist exclusively of replacement of one or more of the following components of the service equipment:
(1) Meter socket(s)
(2) Service entrance conductors
(3) Service entrance or other related raceways and fittings
(4) Main overcurrent device
Substantiation: Requiring a disconnect during a panel change or main disconnect replacement will require rewiring of older three circuits such as for electric dryers and cooking appliance. This additional cost will likely prevent people from making necessary repairs to damaged, compromised, and hazardous equipment. For example an older home with a FPE panel the additional cost to run new circuits and of the disconnect may make the cost of replacement out of reach leaving the home owner no choice but to not proceed with necessary repairs.
Committee action: Accept in principle. Refer to the action on Proposal 26-40.
Committee statement: The Committee prefers the format of Proposal 26-40.

26-43 [230.70(E)]
Submitter: Charles Palmieri
Proposal: Edit exception to include service equipment OCPD and read as follows (E) Replacement. To read as:
Exception:
If only meter sockets, service entrance conductors, service over current protection main breaker, or related raceways and fittings are replaced, the requirements of 230.70(A)(l) and 230.70(B)(2) shall not apply.
Substantiation: It is not uncommon to have dwelling distribution panels which often includes the Service Equipment (Main Breaker) located in areas that contribute to decreased the breaker service life. Failure of main breakers which is not prolific is not uncommon either. It is a minimal expense to replace the failed breaker for a substantially minor const Vs replacing the entire load center. We included this provision through the 2023 edition of 527 CMR 12.00 to prevent confusion in the field as wither a failed (replaced main breaker causes an extensive repair requiring compliance with the provisions of an exterior emergency disconnect in 230.70 (A)(l) and 230.70 (8)(2).
Committee action: Accept

26-44 (230.85 (Mass.)]
Submitter: Peter Diamond
Proposal: Delete MEC amendment to 230.85 entirely.
Substantiation: The NEC has removed this section in its entirety from the 2026 Code.
Committee action: Accept

26-45 [Article 230.85]
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: Location. The disconnecting means shall be installed in an accessible outdoor location on or within sight of the dwelling unit.

(delete the word "readily")
Substantiation: In 2005, meter disconnects came into the code. These were non-fused disconnects that some utilities were requiring to be installed ahead of the meter sockets so that their metering workers could change a meter in a de-energized state and avoid the hazards incurred from working on it live. Language was changed/added in 2008 and again in 2014 but the installation was the same. There was no mention of a height restriction or being readily accessible versus just accessible. This restriction was not needed because if they needed to open it, they could.
The same holds true for the disconnects now required by 230.85. In fact, if you live in an area where the meter disconnect has already been required, you're done. It could be 12' or higher off of the ground, if the fire department or the utility needed to operate it, they will have no trouble doing so. This is not like the switch at the top and bottom of the stairs, or on the wall as you enter the room. These switches are operated all the time, possibly thousands of times in a year. The only time the disconnect required by 230.85 will be operated is if the dwelling unit has a fire substantial enough to require that the electricity be shut off. This will undoubtedly result in some level of structural damage that will be at least enough that the structural integrity will have to be scrutinized. We all hope that, in our lifetime and the lifetime of the property, that it never happens, and this switch will never have to be operated.
According to research, about 25% of homes will receive some type of smoke damage in their lifetime, and 35% of these will have structural damage. Let's assume that a lifetime for a dwelling unit is 100 years. That means that in 25% of 100,000 homes, 25,000 homes will have smoke damage, and 35% of those will have to operate that switch, which is 8,750 homes that will have a structural fire needing the power shut off in 100 years. It could be 15' off of the ground, the utility or the fire department will have no trouble quickly operating it. I am not saying that the ability to shut off the power isn't a good idea, I think that it is, it just does not need to be readily accessible.
Committee action: Reject.
Committee statement: Refer to the statement on Proposal 26-36.

26-46 [250.68(C)(1)]
Submitter: Paul Kennedy
Proposal: Proposed Code Text (Addition / Revision to 250.68(C)(1))
Add the following language to 250.68(C)(1) (or insert a new 250.68(C)(1) as applicable):

250.68 Connection to Underground Metal Water Pipe.

(C) Bonding Location and Sequence. Where the grounding electrode connection or bonding connection to the underground metal water pipe is made within 5 ft (1.52 m) of the point where the pipe enters the building, the bonding conductor or bond clamp shall be attached to the water pipe at a location that is not on removable plumbing equipment and shall be located upstream (toward the source) of any removable device or assembly, including but not limited to meters, meter valves, curb stops, service shutoffs, meter bypass assemblies, and removable couplings. The connection point shall be accessible for inspection and maintenance without removal of the removable plumbing equipment.

Substantiation: Bonding to removable plumbing equipment permits loss of the grounding/bonding connection when the removable device is serviced or replaced, creating an open or high-impedance path between the electrical grounding system and the underground water pipe electrode. When clamps are removed during meter exchange or valve servicing, the electrical continuity to the underground water pipe can be lost, leaving the grounding electrode system incomplete and increasing the risk of elevated touch potentials and improper fault clearing.

- Locating the bond upstream of removable devices preserves the continuity of the connection to the underground water pipe regardless of routine plumbing service operations. An upstream attachment prevents inadvertent disconnection when a technician accesses or removes a meter or valve.
- Requiring the attachment to be accessible ensures AHJs and electricians can inspect the bond without disturbing plumbing components and reduces the likelihood of concealed or inaccessible bonds that degrade over time.
- The 5 ft placement criterion aligns with typical utility entrance and service space layouts and with current practice in many jurisdictions while making explicit the sequence requirement (attachment ahead of removable equipment) to avoid the conditional failures observed in the field.
Committee action: Reject
Committee Statement: The concerns raised in the substantiation are adequately addressed in 250.68(B).

26-47 [250.119]
Submitter: Paul Kennedy, Jr.
Proposal: Proposed Code Language Article 250.119 (Grounding Electrode Conductor Identification)
- The grounding electrode conductor sized #10 AWG shall have continuous green insulation or be green-colored throughout its length for clear identification.
- For grounding electrode conductors larger than #10 AWG, the conductor shall be re-identified as grounding conductor by green tape, paint, or other effective means applied at all accessible points along the conductor.
Substantiation: **Standardization of Grounding Conductor Identification:**
Using #10 AWG with continuous green insulation ensures immediate visual recognition of grounding electrode conductors, reducing installation errors and improving safety during maintenance or troubleshooting.

- **Consistency Across Applications:**
Service vehicles, supply houses, and general industry commonly stock and use #10 AWG grounding conductors.

- **Effective Re-identification for Larger Conductors:**
Larger conductors often come with insulation colors not green by default. Allowing re-identification by tape, paint, or other effective means provides flexibility while maintaining clear identification, consistent with NEC 200.7 and 250.119 provisions.

- **Improved Safety and Code Compliance:**
Clear and consistent conductor identification reduces the risk of improper connections and enhances safety for electricians and inspectors.

- **Industry Practice and Material Availability:**
Green-insulated #10 AWG grounding conductors are widely available from suppliers, and re-identification methods are standard practice in the field, making this proposal practical and implementable.
Committee action: Reject
Committee Statement: The presently required insulation colors are readily available in both supply houses and home stores.

26-48 [250.140]

Submitter: Vincent Lee
Proposal: 250.140(B)(5) add the following:

1. The Type SE cable must terminate in a non-metallic enclosure.
2. From that enclosure, insulated conductors, including an insulated grounded (neutral) conductor, shall be installed in a non-metallic raceway (e.g., a PVC nipple, LFNC) to the panelboard or other distribution equipment.
3. The non-metallic enclosure must be permanently marked with a warning such as:
"Do Not Add Additional Conductors – Contains Isolated Grounded Conductor."
4. The installation must ensure that the uninsulated grounded conductor is isolated from all normally non–current-carrying metal parts throughout the system.

Substantiation: The current Massachusetts amendment to NEC 250.140 removes the NEC allowance under 250.140(B)(5) for field covering (e.g. insulating tape or sleeving) of an uninsulated grounded conductor inside a supply enclosure.

That removal leaves no permitted method under the Massachusetts code for many existing Type SE cable installations that include an uninsulated neutral conductor and do not originate at service equipment, forcing costly and invasive full cable replacement in many retrofit situations.

This issue has become even more common because NEC 230.85 now requires an outdoor emergency disconnect. When services are upgraded to meet this requirement, the existing indoor panel almost always becomes a subpanel. At that point, the existing SE cable with an uninsulated neutral is no longer permitted under the Massachusetts amendment, leaving no practical compliance option other than full replacement.
Committee action: Reject.
Committee statement: See the action on Proposal 26-50.

26-49 [250.140(B)]
Submitter: Charles Flynn
Proposal: Eliminate amendment to "Delete list item (5). Add new wording to limit feeder length to Ten Feet for this exception.
Substantiation: In the 2023 code our solution to label the disconnect outside as emergency disconnect, not service equipment to comply with 230.85 did not work out. I agree using the grounded neutral for equipment ground is not a good practice. The danger is if a voltage drop along the neutral between the grounding electrode system connection and the load exists, this creates for instance a voltage between the clothes drier and washing machine, etc. The fewer connections and the shorter the neutral the less risk. There could be conductive items with only an earth reference and not on the same plane as the system bonding jumper creating a shock hazard. We allow the grounding electrode system to connect to the grounded conductor at any point from the service disconnect and as far away as the service drop, 250.24(A)(1). We are effectively using the grounded conductor for an equipment ground between the electrode system connection and the service disconnect main bonding jumper. If we install a new meter main service disconnect outside during a typical residential service upgrade and bring the electrode system into that enclosure, then locate a new panel immediately inside where the service disconnect used to be located, we have a functionally equivalent or better job. We need language to limit the distance between the equipment suppling the existing NEMA 10 receptacle and the electrode system connection. The current 2026 NEC would not prevent someone from moving the service location and refeeding the existing service panel

with a long feeder. This would not be a safe situation in my opinion. Limiting the feeder length to Ten Feet for this exception would provide a functional equivalent to the original installation.
Thank you.
Committee action: Reject.
Committee statement: See the action on Proposal 26-50.

26-50 [250.140(B)(5)
Submitter: Peter Diamond
Proposal: Add the underlined text to the section.
(5) The grounded conductor is part of Type SE service-entrance cable that originates in equipment other than a service. The grounded conductor shall be insulated or field covered within the branch-circuit distribution ~~supply~~ enclosure with listed insulating material that complies with 200.4(A)(1) and identified in accordance with 200.7(A)(1) or 200.7(A)(2) ~~such as tape or sleeving~~ to prevent contact of the uninsulated grounded conductor with any grounding conductors or normally non-current-carrying metal parts. The branch circuit shall be provided with GFCI protection.
Substantiation: The use of these 3-wire branch circuits originating at service equipment dates back to World War II in an effort to direct resources to the war effort. These branch circuits were permitted to be installed up to the 1996 NEC when the CMP's recognized the war was long over and change was needed. Earlier editions of the Code required grounding of metallic junction boxes that were part of the branch circuit with the grounded conductor (neutral) that was part of the circuit. (See 250.60 1990 NEC)
I have been an inspector for over 20 years and I have seen installations where the 4 11/16 metal junction box for the relocated appliance is grounded with the neutral and is mounted in the basement ceiling in contact with metallic piping or ductwork which established a parallel path for the neutral current. (See 250.6 Objectional Current)
I have also had reports of owners being shocked when touching a sink and the range due to a faulty neutral connection in the branch circuit.
Then there is the widespread problem of unqualified appliance delivery personnel that install the appliance cord incorrectly.
With the addition of GFCI protection to the branch circuit, many of these hazards related to the use of 3-wire branch circuits for appliances could protect "persons and property" which is in line with 90.2(B) the Purpose of this Code.
The grounded conductor is part of Type SE service-entrance cable that originates in equipment other than a service. The grounded conductor shall be insulated or field covered within the branch-circuit distribution enclosure with listed insulating material that complies with 200.4(A)(1) and identified in accordance with 200.7(A)(1) or 200.7(A)(2) to prevent contact of the uninsulated grounded conductor with any grounding conductors or normally non-current-carrying metal parts. The branch circuit shall be provided with GFCI protection.
Committee action: Accept in Part. Accept only the additional sentence regarding GFCI protection as 250.140(B) in its entirety
Committee Statement: The Committee agrees that 250.140(B) needs to be restored, however, it views the other changes as inadequately supported once GFCI protection is in place.

26-51 [250.140(B) Exception List item (5)]
Submitter: Charles Palmieri
Proposal: (5) The grounded conductor is part of a Type SE service-entrance cable that originates in equipment other than a service. The grounded conductor shall be insulated or field covered within the supply

enclosure, and all metal enclosures that the branch circuit supplies with listed insulating material, such as tape or sleeving to prevent contact of the uninsulated conductor with any normally non-current-carrying metal parts.
Substantiation: This language is provided for discussion.
Inclusion of list item (5) of the NEC exception provides a cost savings to consumers during modifications and upgrades.
I understand that this use of a neutral as a EGC came to light in the 1996 NEC adoption cycle and was restricted with the exception (list items 1-4). The NFPA adopted list item (5) during the 2023 cycle and our committee deleted it for valid concerns regarding elevation of touch potential on appliance frames. I have not been able to find concerns regarding elevation of the use of a grounded conductor for grounding under specific situations. It might be a good time for our committee to reevaluate our concerns.
I am also suggesting the expansion of the parent text's requirement to provide some level of insulation on the typically bare grounded conductor to downstream metal enclosures.
Committee action: Accept in Principle.
Committee statement: See the action on Proposal 26-50.

26-52 [300.4(D)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Delete this amendment.
Substantiation: This material is being incorporated into the 2026 NEC.
Committee action: Accept

26-53 [300.5(L) (New)]
Submitter: Jonathan Tottora
Proposal: Insert new language as follows:
300.5 Underground Installations [Secretary's Note: In the 2026 NEC, the pertinent first level subdivision would be (7)]. (L) Clearance. All underground electrical wiring/conduit shall have a minimum 12" safe working clearance from any other underground utility or similar structure within the trench.
Substantiation: As an inspector, I have come across many standby generator installs where the gas and electric for the machine are contiguous in the trench. It is my feeling that this creates a potential hazard due to the proximity of gas and an ignition source. Because neither installation is marked by "digsafe" any future excavation in the area for landscaping, sewer, drainage etc. could damage both gas and electric and create an unsafe situation. However, I could not find anything to cite in the current electrical code that would allow me to enforce a safe working clearance for underground installations. Therefore, I am proposing this MA amendment and also asking if there has been any previous ruling/interpretation on this matter? In my research I did discover article 7.1 in the fuel gas code NFPA 54 (attached). I also attached some example photos of generator installs in question.
Committee action: Reject.
Committee statement: The Committee has concerns about practicality, and also with respect to the lack of any cited loss experience.

26-54 [300.5 D, 306 D, 680.6 (2), 680.23 (B) (2),]
Submitter: Gerhard Fandreyer

Proposal: "In outdoor junction boxes and outdoor continuously wet locations, including ground-rods, wire connections shall use a wet-location filler substance, or wet location splice product, at connections, designed for the purpose.

Note: the intent is to allow connections longevity in delaying patina, in damp and wet locations. squeeze tube application is acceptable."
Substantiation: In regards to the issue I keep finding here in the North-East that rotted ground and Neutral connections in damp and wet conditions (like to signs, post lights, ground-rods, etc.) can cause some real strange and terrifying finds, since they are a serious safety hazard: I started filling wire-nuts with an anti-oxidant for outdoor splices, long before real products came out. Years later they proved to have been a good move. Therefore, I also request that field-made connectors, the type that has a gel, antioxidant, or similar reusable substance in it still be allowed to be used, as the substance fills the void where moisture too quickly invades. There may be other articles this could apply to. I still do use an antioxidant on ground-rods, etc., due to the moisture in the earth ruining the connection.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The listing protocols for the cited equipment adequately address the exposures covered in the substantiation.

26-55 [300.13(B)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell and Charles Palmieri
Proposal: Revise to read as follows
Support wires that do not provide secure support shall not be the sole support. Where independent support wires are used, they shall be secured at both ends. The ceiling system shall be permitted to support branch-circuit wiring and associated equipment if installed in accordance with the ceiling system manufacturer's instructions. Cables and raceways shall not be supported by ceiling grids.
(1) Fire-Resistance Rated Assemblies. Wiring located within the cavity of a fire-rated floor-ceiling or roof-ceiling assembly, they shall not be secured to, or supported by, the ceiling assembly, including the ceiling support wires. An independent means of secure support shall be provided and shall be permitted to be attached to the assembly. Where independent support wires are used, they shall be distinguishable by color, tagging, or other effective means from those that are part of the fire-rated design.

Exception: Ceiling support systems shall be permitted to support wiring and equipment that have been tested as part of the fire-rated assembly.

(2) Non-Fire-Resistance Rated Assemblies. Branch-circuit wiring associated with equipment that is located within, supported by, or secured to a suspended ceiling that is not an integral portion of a fire-rated floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assembly shall be permitted to be supported by the support wires.
Substantiation: The 2026 NEC is reorganizing this section, and in so doing is effectively making the wiring requirements for above fire-rated and nonfire-rated ceilings virtually identical. This amendment preserves the long-standing and entirely appropriate distinctions.
Committee action: Accept

26-56 [300.17]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Relocate this amendment to 300.18(A)
Substantiation: This material is being reorganized in the 2026 NEC.
Committee action: Accept

26-57 [305.15(A)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Delete this amendment.
Substantiation: This material is being incorporated into the 2026 NEC.
Committee action: Accept

26-58 [314.29(A)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Revise this MEC amendment by relocating it as being to 314.29(A)(1) Exception, and restating it as follows:
Reidentify the content of the exception as being paragraphs (2) through (5). Insert a new first paragraph of the exception that reads as follows:
(1) The outlet box that supplies the device is nonmetallic, or the box is metallic and the equipment grounding connection to the box is accessible through the opening.
Substantiation: This material is being incorporated into the 2026 NEC, but without a metal box requirement. The manufacturer has expressed agreement with this principle, and is including the appropriate instructions with the equipment, and these instructions are also incorporated in the listing protocol. The equipment grounding connection to a metal box is essential for safety, and without this provision, these connections would be unable to be seen, worked on, or inspected.
Committee action: Accept

26-59 [320.80(A)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Relocate this as 320.80(A)(1).
Substantiation: This material is being reorganized in the 2026 NEC.
Committee action: Accept

26-60 [334.30)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: In the first sentence, insert the word “listed” ahead of the word “staples”.
Substantiation: This correlates with a listing requirement for staples that is being incorporated into the 2026 NEC.
Committee action: Accept

26-61 [334.80]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Revise the first sentence to read: “Delete 334.80(B) and retitle 334.80(A), the resulting full text reading: (A) General. (Insert the exact text of the 2023 MEC).”
Substantiation: This material is being reorganized in the 2026 NEC. No substantive change is being made.
Committee action: Accept

26-62 [344.6]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell

Proposal: Change the location to 344.2.
Substantiation: This material is being relocated in the 2026 NEC.

26-63 [368.17(C)]
Submitter: Paul Kennedy
Proposal: Proposed Code Text (Amendment to 368.17(C) — Feeder and Branch Circuits)
368.17 Marking of Busways and Bus Ducts.

(C) Feeder and Branch Circuits. Where busway, bus duct, or plug-in devices are used to supply feeders or branch circuits, the requirements of 368.17(C) shall apply. In addition, the requirements of 110.26(C)(3) Personal Doors shall be followed for electrical rooms and spaces containing busway, bus duct, or plug-in equipment where the sum of the installed or potential plug-in ampacity of the busway system is greater than 800 amperes or the rating of the busway itself. Personal doors serving such rooms shall comply with the following:

- Doors shall be of the swing type and shall swing outward, away from the equipment.
- Door clear width shall be not less than 2 feet (610 mm).
- Door clear height shall be not less than 6 feet 6 inches (1.98 m).
- Doors shall be equipped with listed panic/exiting hardware or listed fire-exit hardware that permits immediate unlatching under load conditions without requiring fine manipulation.

Substantiation: Busway systems with installed or potential ampacity exceeding 800 A store and distribute substantial electrical energy; a high-energy arc fault in such systems can produce arc-blast pressures, flying fragments, intense thermal radiation, and rapid propagation of debris into an egress path. These phenomena can jam inward-swinging doors or render fine motor operation of latches impractical for an injured or disoriented person.
- Outward-swinging doors reduce the likelihood that equipment ejection, thermal expansion, debris, or transient pressure waves will block egress. An outward swing enables occupants to push the door open away from the hazard without stepping back into the path of debris.
- Listed panic/exiting or fire-exit hardware that unlatches with a continuous push or crash-bar action minimizes the need for fine manipulation and reduces egress time when dexterity is compromised by heat, burns, smoke, or shock.
- Minimum door dimensions ensure a predictable, unobstructed exit opening sized to allow a rapid single-person egress even when protective clothing or tools are being used; the proposed minimums (2 ft wide by 6 ft 6 in high) set a clear baseline for small rooms while allowing designers to specify larger door sizes where required by building egress codes or anticipated traffic.
- The requirement applies even when plug-in units are not currently installed because empty cubicles or frames represent potential ampacity; future installation or the presence of empty rated positions means the busway can still present high available fault energy and arc-blast hazards.
Committee action: Accept in Principle. Insert the following new Section 18:

368.18. Personnel Doors: Where busway rated 800 A or more is installed or plug-in equipment or both are installed in electrical rooms or spaces equipped with entry doors, and the rating of the busway system itself or provisions for the installed plug-in equipment is 800 amperes or more, the requirements of 110.26(C)(3) Personnel Doors shall apply.

Committee statement: The Committee agrees that such installations present an equivalent exposure to those addressed in 110.26(C)(3). The Committee prefers a location within Article 368.

26-64 [406.4(D)(3)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Delete this amendment.
Substantiation: This issue is being fully addressed in the 2026 NEC.
Committee action: Accept

26-65 [406.4(D)(4) to become 406.12(D)(4) in 2026]
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: Delete this paragraph
Substantiation: This requirement is a copy and paste of 406.4(D)(3) for GFCI receptacles. In 28 years as wiring inspector, I have never met an electrician that would not provide GFCI protection for such receptacles. It almost did not need to be written. I suppose, that if you didn't write it, someone at some time would try to not do it. The same cannot be said for AFCI protection.

The best example that I can give is in an elderly housing apartment. A plug is broken and has to be replaced. By this 406.4(D)(4), I need to give it AFCI protection. I cannot use an AFCI receptacle because it is behind the couch and would not be readily accessible. This is the only place in the room to put the couch. I cannot use an AFCI circuit breaker because the circuit breaker panel is an older brand and is in the closet, which was legal prior to 1981 (as I recall), and now I cannot add overcurrent protection in a closet. To use a breaker, I would have to relocate the panel out of the closet. I cannot flip the panel around because behind it is the bathroom. I would have to use the panel as a splice box, remove the ceiling in the closet, relocate all of the circuits to a panel at an appropriate location, replace the panel because it is an older brand, and since the extended circuits are over 6', I have to AFCI everything. Factor in the displaced tenant, sheetrock the closet wall and ceiling, patch, paint, and you might be up to $5,000 just to replace a broken plug.

Back to back with this broken tenant plug is another broken plug. No problem, just replace it, $75. It is in the common hallway, not in a dwelling unit. What good does it do, in an apartment with 40 plugs, in a building with 8 units plus common areas, for a total of 330 plugs, to have this one plug in this one unit, have AFCI protection? How does this make any sense? It doesn't. Delete the paragraph.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: Electricians are constantly confronted with the need to address shortcomings in existing wiring in order to provide code-compliant solutions. In the case discussed, there are undoubtedly locations where a compliant feed-through protecting device could be installed ahead of the receptacle needing replacement.

26-66 [Article 406.4(D)(5) in 2026 to become 406.12(D)(5).]
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: Delete this paragraph
Substantiation: Tamper Resistant (TR) receptacles came to us in the 2008 Code by way of Article 406.11. A child raised in a house born after this date will be about 17 years old today. He will have known nothing but TR receptacles. He will know the you have to hit both sides of the plug at the same time for the

doors to open. If he choses to do something stupid, like teenagers sometimes do, and poke a paperclip into the outlet, he may know that he has to use two paperclips and push into both sides at the same time. Prior to TR, he might have poked one clip into the hot side and received a shock between his fingers holding the paperclip and the plate screw that he accidently touched. With two paperclips, he is now getting the shock down each arm and across the chest. What was before, literally a shocking surprise, may now be fatal. This is a concept regarding the use of TR receptacles in general, and doesn't directly address replacements.

This replacement paragraph is basically a "copy and paste" of the requirement for GFCI receptacles. In 28 years as an inspector, I have never met an electrician that would NOT provide GFCI protection in areas where it is required. It almost did not have to be written, but I suppose that if you didn't, there would be someone who would try to save a little money and say that it is not required. The same argument cannot be made for TR. What good does it do, in a house with 150 readily accessible plugs that are not TR, to have this one TR? The argument that, "they will all eventually be replaced, so this one is done already", really doesn't fly. Think of your own house. How many broken plugs have been replaced? One in twenty years? Do the math, at this pace, they will all be done in 3,000 years.

This paragraph came to us in the 2011 Code, one cycle after TR came into the code. In that short time, most of us carried nothing but TR receptacles on the truck anyway, so there was very little pushback against it. I have done quite a bit of repair work at elderly housing units and the elderly have a problem with TR. You know that nobody at their units is sticking a paperclip into the plugs.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: Listed TR receptacles are evaluated for suitability for a range of strength limitations relative to these applications. In addition, elderly occupancies frequently include visitations from toddlers.

26-67 [406.9(C)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Relocate this amendment as 406.9(C)(1)
Substantiation: This material is being relocated in the 2026 NEC.
Committee action: Accept

26-68 [422.16(B)(4).]
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: Delete 422.16(B)(4)(3).
Substantiation: There is no reason why this has to be on an individual branch circuit. We have Article 210.23 governing permissible loads. The outlet for the gas stove draws nothing appreciable. That is why it is permissible to put it on with the small appliance branch circuits for the kitchen in Article 210.52(B)(2) exception 2. It was common to come up from below, feed the gas range plug, and continue up the same bay to the microwave hood plug. It has been done for years without incident. The most common microwave is 1000 watts. That is 8.33 amps. There is no justifiable reason to make it an individual branch circuit.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: Although a fan-only hood is not much of a load, they are often replaced with microwave-oven equivalents, and these are sufficiently substantial to compromise the intended capacity of the small-appliance branch circuits to which they would likely be otherwise connected.

26-69 [Article 440.14.]
Submitter: David Zinck
Proposal: Add Exception No. 3: A disconnect for the indoor unit of a ductless mini-split system shall not be required if the disconnect that feeds the indoor unit is lockable in the open position in accordance with 110.25.
Substantiation: This more aligns with 430.87 Exc., 430.112 Exc., and 430.109(B) for motors of 1/8 HP or less. Arguably, 430.109(B) would not
require anything more than the circuit breaker. Article 422.31 used to work in concert with 430.109(B) in that it stated that if the the appliance was not over 300 watts or 1/8 HP than the circuit breaker could serve as the disconnect. Now 422.31(A) requires the circuit breaker to be within sight of the appliance or lockable in the open position in compliance with 110.25. I believe that 430.109(B) is more correct. Can you imagine being required to install a circuit breaker lock on any circuit with a paddlefan? By 422.31, the answer is yes. By 430.109(B) the answer is no. Which is correct? The above exception is basically the same as the amendment EL-23-17-24 in New Hampshire, except that I didn't include the requirement that the indoor unit had to be fed from the outdoor condenser unit, even though this is correct 99.999% of the time. This is because there are systems that utilize a refrigerant switching device, sometimes referred to as a Tracker, that switches the refrigerant from one place to another. This unit is fed with 120 volt and the indoor units are fed from the Tracker. Allowing this circuit to use a circuit breaker lock complies with 422.31, even though it is not required by 430.109(B).
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The substantiation does not address the option of a cord-and-plug disconnection as allowed in Exception No. 2 at this location.

26-70 [MEC 517.26]
Submitter: Lawrence Forshner
Proposal: Delete 2023 MEC Amendment: "517.26 (Delete (2), which would otherwise read "Section 700.10(D) shall not apply."
Substantiation: The text referenced in the 2023 MEC amendment to 517.26 NEC text, is not included in the 2026 NEC.
Committee action: Accept. See also the action on Proposal 26-71

26-71 [517.26]
Submitter: Lawrence Forshner
Proposal: Create new 2026 MEC Amendment to read "517.26 Application of Other Articles. The Life Safety Branch of the Essential Electrical System shall meet the requirements of Article 700.10(D)." Delete existing 2026 NEC Text in Article 517 HEALTHCARE FACILITIES Section 517.26 which reads "517.26 Application of other Articles. The Requirements of Article 700 shall not apply."
Substantiation: The companion text to 700.10(D) rules is required to add clarity and eliminate confusion with the NEC text in 517.26.
Committee action: Accept in Principle. The MEC version of 517.26 will read as follows:
517.26. Application of Other Articles. Revise as follows:

(A) General. Other than as specified in 517.26(B), the requirements of Article700 shall not apply.

(B) Life Safety Branch. The Life Safety Branch of the Essential Electrical System shall comply with 700.10(D).

Vote on Committee Action: Unanimous

26-72 [590.7(B)]
Submitter: George Fournier
Proposal: 2026 NEC Delete 590.7 (B)(2)
Substantiation: The wording will not support the requirements in 590.7 "Ground fault protection for personnel for all temporary wiring installations"
It is contradictory to the requirement to provide GFCI protection for personal in 590.7.
Committee action: Reject.

26-73 [590.7(B)(2)(a)(1)(2)(3)a.b.c.d.(b)]
Submitter: George Fournier
Proposal: 2026 NEC Delete 590.7(B)(2)(a)(1)(2)(3) a.b.c.d.(b)
Substantiation: Deleting this article would provide the much-needed GFCI protection for personnel on construction sites and other temporary wiring locations for 15,20,30-amp outlets.
also 590.7 (B)(2) is not requiring a qualified person to perform the assured equipment grounding conductor program.
Equipment grounding is already covered in Article 250 part V.
Article 400.7 Cord sets, require EQGC suitable for conditions of use and location.
GFCI protection for personnel is available for all locations in590.7 (B)(2)
Construction tool usage has moved from extension cords to Handheld battery powered tools.
Committee action: Reject.
Committee statement: Although it is true that battery-powered equipment is the preponderant tooling used on today's construction sites, the substantiation does not invalidate the existing NEC allowances for qualified supervision of equipment grounding connections. If applied as stated, they provide equivalent safety.

26-74 [680.4 (Mass.)]
Submitter: George Fournier
Proposal: Delete Mass amendment 680.4
Substantiation: Deleting this Massachusetts amendment would restore 2026 NEC 680.4.
*In addition, add an exception for single family residential.
Restoring 2026 NEC article would allow AHJ to make periodic inspections for commercial installations such as Public and private schools, YMCA, Hotel pools, etc.
Commercial pool installations experience a greater amount of usage and should be examined periodically.
Committee action: Reject.
Committee statement: The scope of the MEC is dictated by c. 143 §3L, which provides in part the "no person shall install for hire any electrical wiring …" and as such precludes coverage of maintenance. The Committee agrees that the proposal has merit, and suggests submittal to other agencies within state government that have jurisdiction.

26-75 [680.26(B)(2)(b)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Delete this amendment.

Substantiation: The 2026 NEC has fully incorporated the intentions of this requirement into a comprehensive redraft of the bonding requirements, including severe limitations on the usage of single-wire bonding.
Committee action: Accept.

26-76 [680.26(B)(8) (new)]
Submitter: George Fournier
Proposal: Add to Mass Amendments a new 680.26(B) (8) Commissioning Permanently Installed Pools. and add exception: Permanently installed residential pools.
Substantiation: Adding testing in addition to visual inspections will provide information as how the installation is performing.
The bonding test results will help the AHJ before commissioning the installation.
Article 680.26 had added additional requirement to 680.26 but the question is How will these changes perform the answer lies in my adding testing as proof
a 2-year study by CPSC reports 357 children's fatalities under the age of 15 in pool-or spa related incidents.

The long-term benefit for Massachusetts residents. Safer installation will save lives.
Committee action: Reject.
Committee statement: Refer to the action and statement on Proposal 26-71.

26-77 [690-31(D)(2) (Mass.)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Delete this amendment.
Substantiation: This text is now incorporated into the NEC.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The substantiation is incorrect. The NEC wording continues to lack the requirement for reflective labeling.

26-78 [700.12(H)(2)(2)]
Submitter: Frederic Hartwell
Proposal: Relocate this amendment as 700.12(G)(2)(2), and insert the words “for unit equipment” after the words “shall be permitted”.
Substantiation: This material is being relocated and slightly reworded in the 2026 NEC.
Committee action: Accept.

26-79 [702.4(A)(2) / First paragraph.]
Submitter: Charles Flynn
Proposal: After second sentence add "Equipment requiring manual intervention to restart after loss of the normal source may be omitted from the load calculation."
Substantiation: The problem is providing a generator large enough to supply the calculated load. A typical single family home with a whole house transfer switch will have a calculated load in excess of typical generator with a rating of 20KW. Many newer appliances such as clothes dryers and kitchen cooking equipment require manual intervention to restart after a power outage. These loads could be considered manual since they cannot overload the generator without a manual operation. These loads are usually

large and would have a significant reduction in the calculated load eliminating load shed devices or excessively large generators. Choosing a larger than necessary generator also creates a fuel supply storage problem in the case of propane. Running generators below 25% load is not ideal for the generator either, especially diesel units. This exception would likely not apply to multimode inverters with ESS that provide seamless transition. Wording could be normal source or power outage?
Committee action: Reject.
Committee statement: The NEC requires capability of energizing the entire load "that is automatically connected." Loads that are manually started are not literally included. However, it would be wise for owners to provide posted instructions regarding electrical usage while running on the alternate source. The Peter Principle would hold that those happening to be present during an outage will be the least qualified to make such decisions.

26-80 [705.11(C)(1)(1)]
Submitter Peter Diamond
Proposal: Delete NEC section 705.11(C)(1)(1) and renumber 705.11(C)(1)(2) as 705.11(C)(1)(1) and 705.11(C)(1)(3) as 705.11(C)(2).
Substantiation: 230.70(A) does not permit 10-feet of unprotected utility conductors in a dwelling and requires the service disconnect outside of one- and two-family dwellings. In other than one- and two-family dwelling units in 230.70(A)(2) the utility conductors terminate "nearest" the point of entrance. Allowing 10-feet of unprotected utility conductors inside a dwelling may present a hazard to first responders who think there are no live utility conductors "in" that dwelling with this allowance.
Committee action: Reject
Committee statement: The Committee notes that 705.2 requires interconnecting equipment to have been evaluated for the interactive function, and is reluctant to further interfere with these requirements.

APPENDIX THREE
RECORD OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS ON ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED ON ACTIONS PROPOSED FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRICAL CODE, 2026 NEC EDITION

[Secretary's Note on the 2023 enactment, to be rewritten for this cycle:] Due to the bureaucratic challenges to achieving a timely adoption of the MEC in this cycle, a conventional comment period was not able to be scheduled. Instead, the Committee relied on the opportunity for public comments directed to the BFPR as part of the statutory provisions requiring advertisement of all proposed changes ahead of the scheduled public hearing. This hearing occurred during the first part of the BFPR meeting to promulgate the next Code edition. Several such comments were received, all of which did address actions on public proposals received in this cycle. It should be noted that any comment on 527 CMR 12.00 would have been in order because the enabling statute affords the public the opportunity to comment on any text proposed for promulgation during or following the hearing provided for this purpose.

In fact, the overwhelming majority of comments were exactly that, due to the late emergence of an exceptionally problematic issue regarding incompatibilities between product standards governing appliances and product standards governing GFCI protective devices. The Advisory Committee met virtually the week prior to the BFPR meeting, but was unable to reach a consensus on a recommendation to the BFPR as to the preferred disposition such comments received. The BFPR recognized the difficulties involved and deferred action until its January meeting. The Advisory Committee met in person on January 5, 2023, and recommended the solution written by the Secretary and recorded in this report as interim amendment I-02. This had the status of both an interim amendment because it amended the 2020 MEC and was advanced as an emergency action with immediate effect. It is also being included in the 2023 MEC because it does not require any changes in wording to properly apply in the forthcoming cycle,

The actions described as Committee Actions on Comments C-05 and higher that follow are as extracted and summarized in this report by the Secretary, based on letters received by DFS staff and as reported by staff from notes taken at the December meeting of the BFPR. The intent is to provide a coherent framework for the reader that follows from the development of Interim Amendment I-02. The timing of this discussion did not allow for the usual forms and ballots on this subject.

APPENDIX FOUR

RECORD OF BOARD OF FIRE PREVENTION REGULATIONS (BFPR) ACTIONS TO MODIFY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ELECTRICAL CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DURING THE PROCESS OF FINAL ADOPTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRICAL CODE, 2026 NEC EDITION

This appendix is a placeholder tor BFPR actions at the end of a cycle. In this cycle, the BFPR made no amendments to the recommendations of the Electrical Code Advisory Committee as recorded in Appendices Two and Three, with the exception of adding a four-word phrase, and correlating sentence in the substantiation, to the Interim action being carried forward as permanent code. Refer to 23-I02 in Appendix One for complete information.