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Significant Changes to the 2026 National Electrical Code

The following is a summary of significant changes to the 2026 National Electrical Code as identified by NAHB. This list focuses on the changes which most affect home builders and does not include all the changes that were approved.

Headings in the list are linked to the change shown in legislative text.

January 2026

Contact codes@nahb.org for questions and visit the [Code Adoption Kit page](#) for more.

Reorganization of the National Electrical Code

NFPA has been working on a long-term plan for the 2029 edition of the NEC to reorganize existing content and add new chapters. Work began with the 2023 edition and continues with the 2026 edition. Visit [NFPA's reorganization](#) website for more information.

1. Dwelling Load Calculations – 120.82(B)

This change applies to the optional dwelling unit load calculations. It reduces the amount of the general loads calculated at 100 percent from the first 10 kVA to the first 8 kVA, and the general lighting load was reduced by one third as well.

2. Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Load Calculations – 120.57 & 120.82(D)

This change allows the electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) load to be calculated at its nameplate rating even if it is less than 7200 watts. Previously, the minimum load for the calculation had to be at least 7200 watts. New text requires the load to be calculated at 100 percent because it is not considered a general load.

3. GFCIs for Outdoor Outlets – 210.8(F)

This change increases the amperage of covered outdoor outlets to include those supplied by a single-phase branch circuit rated 60 amperes or less. Previously, only circuits rated up to 50 amperes were covered. In addition, special purpose GFCIs (SPGFCIs) are permitted to provide GFCI coverage on listed HVAC equipment.

4. Receptacles on Kitchen Islands and Peninsulas – 210.52(A)(5) & 210.52(C)(4)

This change prohibits receptacle outlets from being installed within 24 inches below a countertop or work surface. There is an exception for receptacle outlets installed in a drawer. Note: Where receptacles are required under 210.52(A)(2)(3), the NEC limitations on locating the receptacle conflict with accessibility regulations. Installing a receptacle 24 inches below a 36-inch-high counter will place it lower than the reach range of someone in a wheelchair.

5. Service Disconnect Location – 225.41(A)(1) & 230.70(A)

This change intends to clarify that a service disconnect can function as an emergency disconnect for one- and two-family dwellings where located in a readily accessible outdoor location, on or within sight of the dwelling unit.

6. Service Disconnect Markings – 230.70(B)

This change adds requirements for the labeling of service disconnect enclosures to correlate with the requirements for emergency disconnects.

7. Boxes at Ceiling Fan Outlets – 314.27(B)

This change reduces the number of ceiling outlet boxes where fan-rated boxes are required to those centrally located in the ceilings of living and sleeping areas and in locations that are typical for the installation of a ceiling-suspended fan and where indicated by the installer, designer, or building owner.

8. Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Markings – 625.5

This change requires permanent markings to be applied to all equipment enclosures with electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). The markings must include information about the supply circuit and the short-circuit current rating of the EVSE.

9. Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Disconnecting Means – 625.43

This change requires multifamily buildings to identify which disconnecting means corresponds to the electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) or wireless power transfer equipment (WPTE) where multiple EVSE or WPTE are each served through individual disconnecting means. It also expands the requirement for disconnecting means to all permanently connected EVSE and WPTE regardless of amperage or voltage. Provisions for emergency disconnects are added for multifamily dwellings applying to permanently connected EVSE and WPTE and include location and marking requirements.

10. Receptacles Supplying Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment – 625.44

This change requires all 30-, 50-, and 60-ampere receptacles used for EV charging to be listed for EVSE use.

Topic

Dwelling Load Calculations

Code Section

120.82(B)

Description

This change applies to the optional dwelling unit load calculations. It reduces the amount of the general loads calculated at 100 percent from the first 10 kVA to the first 8 kVA, and the general lighting load was reduced by one third as well.

Change Shown in Legislative Text

~~220.82(B)~~ 120.82(B) General Loads.

The general calculated load shall be not less than 100 percent of the first ~~10~~8 kVA plus 40 percent of the remainder of the following loads:

- (1) ~~33~~22 volt-amperes/m² or ~~3~~2 volt-amperes/ft² for general lighting and general-use receptacles. The floor area for each floor shall be calculated from the outside dimensions of the dwelling unit. The calculated floor area ~~shall not include open porches, garages, or unused or unfinished spaces not adaptable for future use~~ is determined in accordance with 120.5(C).
- (2) 1500 volt-amperes for each 2-wire, 20-ampere small-appliance branch circuit and each laundry branch circuit covered in 210.11(C)(1) and 210.11(C)(2).
- (3) The nameplate rating of the following:
 - a. All appliances that are fastened in place, permanently connected, or located to be on a specific circuit
 - b. Ranges, wall-mounted ovens, counter-mounted cooking units
 - c. Clothes dryers that are not connected to the laundry branch circuit specified in ~~220.82(B)(2)~~ 120.82(B)(2)
 - d. Water heaters
- (4) The nameplate ampere or kVA rating of all permanently connected motors not included in ~~220.82(B)(3)~~ 120.82(B)(3).

Topic

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Load Calculations

Code Section

120.57 & 120.82(D)

Description

This change allows the electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) load to be calculated at its nameplate rating even if it is less than 7200 watts. Previously, the minimum load for the calculation had to be at least 7200 watts. New text requires the load to be calculated at 100 percent because it is not considered a general load.

Change Shown in Legislative Text

~~220.57~~ 120.57 Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Load.

~~The EVSE~~ For each EVSE served, the load shall be calculated at ~~either 7200 watts (volt-amperes)~~ or the nameplate rating of the equipment, whichever is larger if available, or at 7200 watts (volt-amperes) if the nameplate is not available.

120.82(D) EVSE Loads.

The total load of an EVSE shall be calculated at 100 percent in accordance with 120.57.

Topic

GFCIs for Outdoor Outlets

Code Section

210.8(F)

Description

This change increases the amperage of covered outdoor outlets to include those supplied by a single-phase branch circuit rated 60 amperes or less. Previously, only circuits rated up to 50 amperes were covered. In addition, special purpose GFCIs (SPGFCIs) are permitted to provide GFCI coverage on listed HVAC equipment.

Change Shown in Legislative Text

210.8(F) Outdoor Outlets.

For dwellings, all outdoor outlets, other than those covered in 210.8(A), Exception No. 1, including outlets installed in the following locations, and supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts or less to ground, 50-60 amperes or less, shall be ~~provided with GFCI protection~~ GFCI protected:

- (1) Garages that have floors located at or below grade level
- (2) Accessory buildings
- (3) Boathouses

If equipment supplied by an outlet covered under the requirements of this section is replaced, the outlet shall be supplied with GFCI protection.

Exception No. 1: GFCI protection shall not be required on lighting outlets other than those covered in 210.8(C).

Exception No. 2: GFCI protection shall not be required for listed HVAC equipment. This exception shall expire September 1, 2026.

Exception No. 3: Listed Class C SPGFCI protection shall be permitted for listed HVAC equipment. If a Class C SPGFCI is provided, the disconnect serving the HVAC equipment shall be marked "Warning: Class C SPGFCI Protection Provided for HVAC Unit."

Informational Note: See UL 943C, Outline of Investigation for Special Purpose Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters, for further information. SPGFCIs marked "HF" or "HF+" do not trip when the frequency weighted differential current is less than the specified value for a Class C, Class D, or Class E SPGFCI.

Topic

Receptacles on Kitchen Islands and Peninsulas

Code Section

210.52(A)(5) and 210.52(C)(4)

Description

This change prohibits receptacle outlets from being installed within 24 inches below a countertop or work surface. There is an exception for receptacle outlets installed in a drawer. Note: Where receptacles are required under 210.52(A)(2)(3), the NEC limitations on locating the receptacle conflict with accessibility regulations. Installing a receptacle 24 inches below a 36-inch-high counter will place it lower than the reach range of someone in a wheelchair.

Change Shown in Legislative Text

210.52(A)(1) Spacing.

Receptacles shall be installed such that no point measured horizontally along the floor line of any wall space is more than 1.8 m (6 ft) from a receptacle outlet.

210.52(A)(2) Wall Space.

As used in this section, a wall space shall include the following:

- (1) Any space 600 mm (2 ft) or more in width (including space measured around corners) and unbroken along the floor line by doorways and similar openings, fireplaces, stationary appliances, and fixed cabinets ~~that do not have countertops or similar work surfaces~~
- (2) The space occupied by fixed panels in walls, excluding sliding panels
- (3) The space afforded by fixed room dividers, such as freestanding bar-type counters or railings

210.52(A)(5) Receptacle Outlet Locations Prohibited.

Where receptacle outlets are installed in spaces covered in 210.52(A)(2)(3) and the outlets are below countertops or work surfaces, they shall not be installed within 610 mm (24 in.) of the countertop or work surface.

210.52(C)(4) Receptacle Outlet Locations Prohibited.

Required and permitted receptacle outlets installed in a location that is accessible outside cabinet or wall surfaces that are below countertops and work surfaces shall comply with the following:

- (1) Receptacle outlets shall not be installed on adjacent walls extending from the base cabinets within 610 mm (24 in.).

(2) Receptacle outlets beneath countertops shall not be located within 610 mm (24 in.) of the countertop or work surface.

Exception: Receptacle outlets installed in a drawer shall be permitted to be installed below countertops and work surfaces.

Topic

Service Disconnect Location

Code Section

225.41(A)(1) & 230.70(A)

Description

This change intends to clarify that a service disconnect can function as an emergency disconnect for one- and two-family dwellings where located in a readily accessible outdoor location, on or within sight of the dwelling unit.

Change Shown in Legislative Text

225.41 Emergency Disconnects.

For one- and two-family dwelling units, an emergency disconnecting means shall be installed.

225.41(A) General.

225.41(A)(1) Location.

The disconnecting means shall be installed in a readily accessible outdoor location ~~on or within sight of the dwelling unit.~~ in accordance with one of the following:

- (1) On the dwelling unit
- (2) Within sight of the dwelling unit in accordance with 110.29

Exception: If the service disconnecting means complies with 230.70(A)(1) or the disconnecting means in accordance with 225.31 is in a readily accessible outdoor location, on or within sight of the one- and two-family dwelling unit, an additional emergency disconnect shall not be required.

230.70(A) Service Disconnect Location.

~~The service disconnecting means~~ Service disconnects shall be installed in accordance with 230.70(A)(1), ~~(A)(2), and~~ through 230.70(A)(3).

230.70(A)(1) ~~Readily Accessible Location~~ One- and Two-Family Dwellings.

~~The service disconnecting means shall be installed at a readily accessible location either outside of a building or structure or inside nearest the point of entrance of the service conductors.~~ Service disconnects shall be installed in a readily accessible outdoor location in accordance with one of the following:

- (1) On the dwelling unit
- (2) Within sight of the dwelling unit in accordance with 110.29

Exception: The service disconnect shall not be required to be installed on or within sight of the dwelling unit when an emergency disconnect is installed in accordance with 225.41.

Topic

Service Disconnect Markings

Code Section

230.70(B)

Description

This change adds requirements for the labeling of service disconnect enclosures to correlate with the requirements for emergency disconnects.

Change Shown in Legislative Text

230.70(B) Service Disconnect Marking.

~~Each service disconnect shall be permanently marked to identify it as a service disconnect.~~
Service disconnects shall be marked in accordance with 230.70(B)(1) and 230.70(B)(2).

230.70(B)(1) Marking.

Service disconnects shall be marked "SERVICE DISCONNECT." The marking shall be on or adjacent to the service disconnect and comply with 110.21(B).

230.70(B)(2) One- and Two-Family Dwellings.

Enclosures of disconnects for one- and two-family dwellings shall be marked "EMERGENCY DISCONNECT." Markings shall comply with 110.21(B) and both of the following:

- (1) The markings shall be located on the outside front of the disconnect enclosure with a red background and white text.
- (2) The letters shall be at least 13 mm (½ in.) high.

Topic

Boxes at Ceiling Fan Outlets

Code Section

314.27(B)

Description

This change reduces the number of ceiling outlet boxes where fan-rated boxes are required to those centrally located in the ceilings of living and sleeping areas and in locations that are typical for the installation of a ceiling-suspended fan and where indicated by the installer, designer, or building owner.

Change Shown in Legislative Text

314.27(~~C~~ B) Boxes at Ceiling-Suspended (Paddle) Fan Outlets.

~~Outlet boxes or outlet box systems used as the sole support of a ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan shall be listed, shall be marked by their manufacturer on the interior of the box as suitable for this purpose, and shall not support ceiling-suspended (paddle) fans that weigh more than 32 kg (70 lb). For outlet boxes or outlet box systems designed to support ceiling-suspended (paddle) fans that weigh more than 16 kg (35 lb), the required marking shall include the maximum weight to be supported.~~

~~Outlet boxes mounted in the ceilings of habitable rooms of dwelling occupancies in a location acceptable for the installation of a ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan shall comply with one of the following:~~

- ~~(1) Listed for the sole support of ceiling-suspended (paddle) fans~~
- ~~(2) Installed so as to allow direct access through the box to structural framing capable of supporting a ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan without removing the box~~

314.27(B)(1) General.

Outlet boxes or outlet box systems used as the sole support of a ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan shall be listed and meet all of the following conditions:

- (1) Be marked by their manufacturer on the interior of the box as suitable for this purpose
- (2) Be marked with the maximum weight to be supported if supporting more than 16 kg (35 lb)
- (3) Support no more than 32 kg (70 lb)

314.27(B)(2) Required Locations.

Ceiling outlet boxes mounted centrally in the ceilings of living and sleeping areas within dwelling units in locations that are typical for the installation of a ceiling-suspended (paddle)

fan and in locations that are indicated by the installer, designer, or building owner for the installation of a ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan shall meet one of the following:

- (1) Be listed for the sole support of ceiling-suspended (paddle) fans
- (2) Be installed to allow direct access through the box to structural framing capable of supporting a ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan without removing the box

Topic

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Markings

Code Section

625.5

Description

This change requires permanent markings to be applied to all equipment enclosures with electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). The markings must include information about the supply circuit and the short-circuit current rating of the EVSE.

Change Shown in Legislative Text**625.5 Field Markings.**

Electric vehicle supply equipment shall have the following permanent markings on the outside of the equipment enclosure that are visible after installation:

- (1) Supply voltage, number of phases, frequency, and full-load current for each incoming supply circuit
- (2) Short-circuit current rating of the electric vehicle supply equipment based on one of the following:
 - a. Short-circuit current rating of a listed and labeled assembly
 - b. Short-circuit current rating established utilizing an approved method

Informational Note: See UL 2594, *Standard Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment*, for an example of an approved method.

Topic

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Disconnecting Means

Code Section

625.43

Description

This change requires multifamily buildings to identify which disconnecting means corresponds to the electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) or wireless power transfer equipment (WPTE) where multiple EVSE or WPTE are each served through individual disconnecting means. It also expands the requirement for disconnecting means to all permanently connected EVSE and WPTE regardless of amperage or voltage. Provisions for emergency disconnects are added for multifamily dwellings applying to permanently connected EVSE and WPTE and include location and marking requirements.

Change Shown in Legislative Text

625.43 Disconnecting Means.

~~For EVSE and WPTE rated more than 60 amperes or more than 150 volts to ground, the disconnecting means shall be provided and installed in a readily accessible location. If the disconnecting means is installed remote from the equipment, a plaque shall be installed on the equipment denoting the location of the disconnecting means. The disconnecting means shall be lockable open in accordance with 110.25.~~

625.43(A) General.

EVSE and WPTE shall be provided with one or more disconnecting means in accordance with 625.43(B) through 625.43(D), as applicable.

625.43(B) Multifamily Dwellings.

For multifamily dwellings where multiple EVSE or WPTE are each served through individual disconnecting means, a plaque or directory shall be attached to each EVSE or WPTE and its corresponding disconnect clearly identifying which disconnect serves which EVSE or WPTE.

625.43(C) Equipment Disconnects.

For permanently connected EVSE and WPTE, a disconnecting means shall be provided and installed in a readily accessible location. If the disconnecting means is installed remote from the equipment, a plaque or directory shall be installed on the equipment denoting the location of the disconnecting means. For cord- and plug-connected EVSE and WPTE, with a rating not exceeding 60 amperes or not exceeding 150 volts to ground, the cord and plug shall be permitted to serve as the disconnecting means. The disconnecting means shall be lockable open in accordance with 110.25.

625.43(D) Emergency Shutoff.

625.43(D)(1) Emergency Disconnect Devices.

For other than one- and two-family dwellings, all permanently connected EVSE and WPTE shall be provided with one or more clearly identified emergency disconnect devices or electrical disconnects that meet all of the following:

- (1) Be installed in a readily accessible location not less than 6.0 m (20 ft) nor more than 30.0 m (100 ft) from the equipment and in sight from the equipment
- (2) Disconnect power to all EVSE and WPTE within sight of emergency shutoff
- (3) Be marked “EVSE EMERGENCY DISCONNECT” and “WARNING: ELECTRIC VEHICLE(S) WILL REMAIN ENERGIZED” in accordance with 110.22(A)
- (4) Be a manual reset type
- (5) Disconnect all ungrounded conductors of the circuits simultaneously from the source of supply

625.43(D)(2) Disconnecting Means Serving as Emergency Shutoff.

The disconnecting means required in accordance with 625.43(C) shall be permitted to serve as the emergency disconnect if it complies with all the requirements of 625.43(D).

Topic

Receptacles Supplying Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment

Code Section

625.44

Description

This change requires all 30-, 50-, and 60-ampere receptacles used for EV charging to be listed for EVSE use.

Change Shown in Legislative Text

625.44 Equipment Connection.

EVSE and WPTE that is connected to the premises wiring shall be connected ~~to the premises wiring system~~ in accordance with one of the methods in 625.44(A) through 625.44(C).

Cord- and plug-connected equipment shall be provided with an attachment plug rated not less than 125 percent of the maximum rating of the equipment.

A 50-ampere rated receptacle shall not be installed on a 40-ampere branch circuit as permitted in 210.24.

625.44(A) Portable Equipment.

Portable equipment shall be connected to the premises wiring system by one or more of the following methods:

- (1) A nonlocking, 2-pole, 3-wire grounding-type receptacle outlet rated at 125 volts or 250 volts, single phase, ~~15 or 20 amperes~~ in accordance with one of the following:
 - a. 15 or 20 amperes
 - b. 30 or 50 amperes listed for EVSE and WPTE use
- (2) A nonlocking, 3-pole, 4-wire grounding-type receptacle outlet rated at 125/250 volts, single phase in accordance with one of the following:
 - a. 15 or 20 amperes
 - b. 30, 50, or 60 amperes listed for EVSE and WPTE use
- (3) ~~(2)~~ A nonlocking, 2-pole, 3-wire grounding-type receptacle outlet rated at ~~250~~ 277 volts, single phase, ~~15 or 20 amperes~~ in accordance with one of the following:
 - a. 15 or 20 amperes
 - b. 30 or 50 amperes listed for EVSE and WPTE use
- ~~(3) A nonlocking, 2-pole, 3-wire or 3-pole, 4-wire grounding-type receptacle outlet rated at 250 volts, single phase, 30 or 50 amperes, or 125/250 volts, single phase, 30, 50, or 60 amperes~~
- (4) A nonlocking, 2-pole, 3-wire grounding-type receptacle outlet rated at 60 volts dc maximum, 15 or 20 amperes

- (5) A locking, pin-and-sleeve, 3-pole, 4-wire grounding type receptacle outlet rated 277/480 volts, three-phase 60 amperes or 100 amperes

625.44(B) ~~Fastened-in-Place~~ Hand Fastened Equipment.

Equipment that is hand fastened ~~in-place~~ shall be connected to the premises wiring system by one of the following methods:

- (1) A nonlocking, 2-pole, 3-wire grounding-type receptacle outlet rated 125 volts or 250 volts, single phase, ~~up to 50 amperes~~ in accordance with one of the following:
 - a. 15 or 20 amperes
 - b. 30 or 50 amperes listed for EVSE and WPTE use
- (2) A nonlocking, 3-pole, 4-wire grounding-type receptacle outlet rated 250 volts, three phase, ~~up to 50 amperes~~ in accordance with one of the following:
 - a. 15 or 20 amperes
 - b. 30, 50, or 60 amperes listed for EVSE and WPTE use
- (3) A nonlocking, 3-pole, 4-wire grounding-type receptacle outlet rated 125/250 volts, single phase, ~~30, 50, or 60 amperes~~ in accordance with one of the following:
 - a. 15 or 20 amperes
 - b. 30, 50, or 60 amperes listed for EVSE and WPTE use
- (4) A nonlocking, 3-pole, 4-wire grounding-type receptacle outlet rated at 120/208 volts, three phase in accordance with one of the following:
 - a. 15 or 20 amperes
 - b. 30, 50, or 60 amperes listed for EVSE and WPTE use
- (5) ~~(4)~~ A nonlocking, 2-pole, 3-wire grounding-type receptacle outlet rated 60 volts dc maximum, 15 or 20 amperes
- (6) A locking, pin-and-sleeve, 3-pole, 4-wire grounding type receptacle outlet rated 277/480 volts, three phase 60 amperes or 100 amperes

625.44(C) ~~Fixed-in-Place~~ Securely Fastened in Place Equipment.

All other EVSE and WPTE shall be permanently wired and ~~fixed-in-place~~ securely fastened in place to the supporting surface.