

Chapter 120: ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION STANDARDS

SUMMARY: Pursuant to authority in 32 M.R.S. §§ 1153 and 1153-A, this chapter adopts the current edition of the *National Electrical Code* to which all installations must conform.

SECTION 1. All installations of electrical equipment commencing on or after ~~July 1, 2024~~ July 1, 2026 must comply with the ~~2023~~ 2026 National Electrical Code as adopted by the Board in this Chapter, as well as with all applicable statutes or rules of the State and this Board and all applicable ordinances, orders, rules and regulations of local municipalities.

SECTION 2. The Board hereby adopts and incorporates into this chapter by reference the NFPA standard 70, National Electrical Code (~~2023~~ 2026 edition), Copyright © ~~2022~~ 2025 National Fire Protection Association, effective September 9, 2025, subject to the following amendments and exclusions:

1. The Board adopts Article 90.4(D) as amended below:

(D) New Products, Constructions or Materials. This ~~code~~ Code may require new products, constructions, or materials that may not yet be available at the time the ~~Code~~ code is adopted. In such event, the authority having jurisdiction may permit the use of the products, constructions, or materials that comply with the previous two (2) editions of this ~~Code~~ code adopted by the jurisdiction.

2. The Board adopts Article 100, excepting the definition of Dormitory ~~Unit~~, which the Board adopts as amended below:

ARTICLE 100
Definitions . . .

Dormitory ~~Unit~~. A building or a space in a building in which group sleeping accommodations are provided for any number of persons who are not members of the same family in one room, or a series of closely associated rooms, under joint occupancy and single management, with or without meals, but without individual cooking facilities.

- 2-A. The Board does not adopt Article 110.16, and adopts Article 110.16 of the 2023 National Electrical Code as specified below:

110.16 Arc-Flash Hazard Warning.

(A) General. Electrical equipment, such as switchboards, switchgear, enclosed panelboards, industrial control panels, meter socket enclosures, and motor control centers, that is in other than dwelling units, and is likely to require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance while energized, shall be field or factory

marked to warn qualified persons of potential electric arc flash hazards. The marking shall meet the requirements in 110.21(B) and shall be located so as to be clearly visible to qualified persons before examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance of the equipment.

(B) Service Equipment and Feeder Supplied Equipment. In other than dwelling units, in addition to the requirements in 110.16(A), a permanent arc flash label shall be field or factory applied to service equipment and feeder supplied equipment rated 1000 amperes or more. The arc flash label shall be in accordance with applicable industry practice and include the date the label was applied. The label shall meet the requirements of 110.21(B).

Informational Note No. 1: See ANSI Z535.4-2011 (R2017), *Product Safety Signs and Labels*, for guidelines for the design of safety signs and labels for application to products.

Information Note No. 2: See *NFPA 70E-2021, Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace*, for applicable industry practices for equipment labeling. This standard provides specific criteria for developing arc-flash labels for equipment that provides nominal system voltage, incident energy levels, arc-flash boundaries, minimum required levels of personal protective equipment, and so forth.

3. The Board adopts Article 210.8(A)(7)(6) as amended below:

(A) Dwelling Units. All 125-volt through 250-volt receptacles installed in the following locations and supplied by single-phase branch circuits raised 150 volts or less to ground shall have ~~ground-fault-circuit-interrupter~~ GFCI protection for personnel:

* * *

~~(7)(6)~~ Kitchens, except for those specific appliances listed in 210.8(D)(8), (9) and (10).

4. The Board adopts Article 210.8(B)(2) as amended below:

(B) Other than Dwelling Units. All 125-volt through 250-volt receptacles supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts or less to ground, 50 amperes or less, and all receptacles supplied by three-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts or less to ground, 50 amperes or less, installed in the following locations shall be provided with GFCI protection:

* * *

(2) Kitchens, except for those specific appliances listed in 210.8(D)(8), (9) and (10).

5. The Board adopts Article 210.8(F) as amended below:

210.8 Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for Personnel . . .

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

- (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: ~~GFCI protection shall not be required for sewer pumps. 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."~~

Exception No. 4: GFCI protection shall not be required for water pumps.

Exception No. 5: GFCI protection shall not be required for sewer pumps.

6. The Board adopts Article 230.2(4)(E) as amended below:

230.42 Number of Services . . .

(E) Identification. Where a building or structure is supplied by more than one service, or any combination of branch circuits, feeders, and services, a permanent plaque or directory shall be installed at each service disconnect location and at each outside electrical meter location denoting all other services, feeders, and branch circuits supplying that building or structure and the area served by each. See 225.37.

7. ~~[deleted] The Board adopts Article 230.85(B) as amended below:~~

~~**(B) Disconnects.** Each disconnect shall be a service disconnect.~~

8. The Board adopts Article 334.10(3) as amended below:

334.10 Uses Permitted. . .

(3) Other structures permitted to be of Types III, IV, and V construction. In buildings or structures with interior finished walls and/or ceilings, cables shall be installed ~~concealed~~ 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.

9. The Board does not adopt Article 334.12(A)(2).
10. The Board adopts Article 338.12(B)(1) and (2) as amended below:

338.12 Uses Not Permitted. . .

(B) Underground Service-Entrance Cable. Type USE cable shall not be used under the following conditions or in the following locations:

- (1) For interior wiring
- (2) For aboveground installations except where USE cable emerges from the ground and is terminated in an enclosure at an outdoor location and the cable is protected in accordance with 300.75(D)
- (3) As aerial cable unless it is a multiconductor cable identified for use aboveground and installed as messenger-supported wiring in accordance with 225.10 and ~~Part II~~ of Article 396 Part II

Exception: This provision does not apply to USE cable that is dual-rated for interior wiring.

11. The Board adopts Article 400.12(4) as amended below:

400.12 Uses Not Permitted. Unless specifically permitted in 400.10, flexible cords, flexible cables, cord sets, and power supply cords shall not be used for the following:

* * *

- (4) Where attached to building surfaces

Exception to (4): Flexible cord and flexible cable shall be permitted to be attached to building surfaces in accordance with 368.56(B) and 590.4. Flexible cord and cable shall also be permitted to have one connection to the building surface for a suitable tension take-up device. Length of the cord or cable from the supply termination to the take-up device shall be limited to 6' (1.83 m). Strain relief cable grips shall be provided for the cord or cable at the equipment terminations.

12. The Board adopts Article 406.9(C)(1) as amended below:

406.9 Receptacles in Damp or Wet Locations. . .

(C) Wiring Devices in Bathtub and Shower Spaces.

- (1) Receptacles.** Receptacles shall not be installed within or directly over a bathtub or shower stall.

12-A. The Board does not adopt Article 625.43(D)(1)(2).

13. The Board adopts Article 702.4(A)(2)(a) as amended below:

702.4 Capacity and Rating. . .

(A) System Capacity. . .

(2) Automatic Load Connection. For other than single-family dwellings, if the connection of load is automatic, an optional standby system shall comply with 702.4(A)(2)(a) or (A)(2)(b) in accordance with ~~Parts I through IV of Article 2120~~ Parts I through IV or by another approved method.

(a) *Full Load.* The standby source shall be capable of supplying the full load that is automatically connected.

SECTION 3. Copies of the *National Electrical Code, National Fire Protection Association* standard #70 (20263 Edition) may be purchased from:

National Fire Protection Association
1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101
Quincy, MA 02269-9101
Telephone: 1-800-344-3555
www.nfpa.org

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 1153 and 1153-A

EFFECTIVE DATE:

February 16, 1986 - filing 86-45

AMENDED:

January 10, 1988 – filing 88-2
December 27, 1989 – filing 89-576
March 27, 1993 – filing 93-72
June 10, 1996 – filing 96-257

EFFECTIVE DATE (ELECTRONIC CONVERSION):

November 2, 1996

AMENDED:

July 15, 2000 – filing 2000-267

REPEALED AND REPLACED:

August 28, 2002 – filing 2002-329
August 20, 2005 – filing 2005-328

AMENDED:

September 1, 2008 – filing 2008-361
July 19, 2011 – filing 2011-239
August 20, 2014 – filing 2014-193
November 6, 2017 – filing 2017-170

REPEALED AND REPLACED:

July 2, 2021 – filing 2021-136

REPEALED AND REPLACED:

July 1, 2024 – filing 2024-142

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Notice of Agency Rulemaking Proposal

AGENCY: 02-318, Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Electricians' Examining Board

CHAPTER NUMBER AND RULE TITLE: Chapter 120, Electrical Installation Standards

TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical

PROPOSAL FILING NUMBER: **[Leave Blank - Assigned by the Department of the Secretary of State]**

BRIEF SUMMARY: The proposed rulemaking repeals the current Chapter 120, Electrical Installation Standards, and replaces it with a rule with the same title and in the same location that adopts and incorporate by reference into board rule the 2026 National Electrical Code, National Fire Protection Association ("NFPA") standard #70 ("2026 NEC") subject to certain amendments and exclusions. Go to

<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/electricians> to access the proposed rule and related rulemaking documents.

PUBLIC HEARING (*include day, date, time, and location*): Friday, May 15, 2026 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. EST, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, located at 76 Northern Avenue in Gardiner, Maine. Individuals may also attend and participate in the public hearing remotely via Zoom. A link to attend and participate in the hearing remotely will be posted on the Board's webpage in advance of the hearing at

<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/electricians/home/board-meeting-information>.

COMMENT DEADLINE (*include day, date, and time*): Monday, May 25, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EST. Comments may be submitted in writing: (1) by e-mail to Holly Poirier at

Holly.Poirier@maine.gov or (2) by mail to the Electricians' Examining Board, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0035.

CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING (*include Name; Mailing address; Telephone number; Fax number; TTY (Teletypewriter) number; and Email address*):

Holly Poirier, Regulatory Board Manager
35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0035

207-592-0434

207-624-8637

Maine Relay 711

Holly.Poirier@maine.gov

CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT (*if different*): N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES (*if any*): N/A

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE: 32 M.R.S. §§ 1153 and 1153-A

SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED (*if different*): N/A

AGENCY WEBSITE:

<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/electricians>

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:

Penny.Vaillancourt@maine.gov

Choose one of the following:

The summary provided above is for the newspaper notice only. See 5 M.R.S. § 8053, sub-§ 3 & sub-§7. A more detailed summary is attached for inclusion in the rulemaking notice posted on the Secretary of State's website. See 5 M.R.S. § 8053, sub-§ 3.

Please approve the bottom portion of this form and assign the appropriate AdvantageME number.

Approved for Payment: *Michael Heald* Date: 4/14/2026
(Authorized Signature)

FUND	AGENCY	ORG	APP	OBJ	PROGRAM	FUNDING Profile JVC	FUND Pri JVC	FUND Line JVC
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE WEB NOTICE

DETAILED SUMMARY:

The proposed rulemaking would repeal the current Chapter 120, Electrical Installation Standards, and replace with a rule with the same title and in the same location that adopts and incorporates by reference into rule the 2026 National Electrical Code, National Fire Protection Association ("NFPA") standard #70 ("2026 NEC"), subject to certain amendments and exclusions.

The proposed rule adopts the 2026 NEC with amendments to the following: Article 90.4(D) New Products, Constructions or Materials; Article 100, Definitions, Dormitory; Article 210.8(A)(7), Dwelling Units; Article 210.8(B)(2), Other than Dwelling Units; Article 210.8(F), Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for Personnel, Outdoor Outlets; Article 230.4(E), Number of Services, Identification; Article 334.10, Uses Permitted; Article 338.12(B), Uses not Permitted, Underground Service-Entrance Cable; Article 400.12(4), Uses Not Permitted; Article 406.9(C)(1), Wiring Devices in Damp or Wet Locations, Wiring Devices in Bathtub and Shower Spaces, Receptacles; and Article 702(A)(2)(a), Capacity and Rating, System Capacity, Automatic Load Connection. The Board proposes not to adopt Article 334.12(2) or Article 625.43(D)(1)(2). The rule proposes not to adopt the 2026 NEC Article 110.16 Arc-Flash Hazard Warning and instead adopting Article 110.16 as contained in the 2023 NEC.

The Board proposes that the effective date of the rule will be July 1, 2026.

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Rulemaking Fact Sheet

(see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1))

Agency: 02-318, Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Electricians' Examining Board

Name, Address, Telephone Number, and Email Address of Agency Contact Person:

Holly Poirier, Regulatory Board Manager

35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0035

207-592-0434, TTY Users Maine Relay 711

Holly.Poirier@maine.gov

Chapter Number and Rule Title: Chapter 120, Electrical Installation Standards

Type of Rule: Routine Technical

Statutory Authority: 32 M.R.S. §§ 1153 and 1153-A

Public Hearing(s) (*include day, date, time, and location*): Friday, May 15, 2026 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. EST, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, located at 76 Northern Avenue in Gardiner, Maine. Individuals may also attend and participate in the public hearing remotely via Zoom. A link to attend and participate in the hearing remotely will be posted on the Board's webpage in advance of the hearing at

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Comments may be submitted in writing: (1) by e-mail to Holly Poirier at

Holly.Poirier@maine.gov or (2) by mail to the Electricians' Examining Board, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0035.

Principal Reason(s) or Purpose for Proposing this Rule:

The proposed rulemaking repeals the current Chapter 120, Electrical Installation Standards, and replaces it with a rule with the same title and in the same location that adopts and incorporate by reference into board rule the 2026 National Electrical Code, National Fire Protection Association ("NFPA") standard #70 ("2026 NEC") subject to certain amendments and exclusions.

Is Material Incorporated by Reference into the Rule? Yes

Analysis and Expected Operation of the Rule:

It is anticipated that the rule will update the electrical code that is enforced in Maine to the most recent version published by the NFPA (the 2026 NEC). The Board has proposed to adopt the 2026 NEC in its entirety, subject to certain amendments and exclusions as set forth in the rule:

The proposed rule adopts the 2026 NEC with amendments to the following: Article 90.4(D) New Products, Constructions or Materials; Article 100, Definitions, Dormitory; Article 210.8(A)(7), Dwelling Units; Article 210.8(B)(2), Other than Dwelling Units; Article 210.8(F), Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for Personnel, Outdoor Outlets; Article 230.4(E), Number of Services, Identification; Article 334.10, Uses Permitted; Article 338.12(B), Uses not Permitted, Underground Service-Entrance Cable; Article 400.12(4), Uses Not Permitted; Article 406.9(C)(1), Wiring Devices in Damp or Wet Locations, Wiring Devices in Bathtub and Shower Spaces,

Receptacles; and Article 702(A)(2)(a), Capacity and Rating, System Capacity, Automatic Load Connection. The Board proposes not to adopt Article 334.12(2) or Article 625.43(D)(1)(2). The rule proposes not to adopt the 2026 NEC Article 110.16 Arc-Flash Hazard Warning and instead adopting Article 110.16 as contained in the 2023 NEC.

The Board proposes that the effective date of the rule will be July 1, 2026.

Brief Summary of Relevant Information Considered During Development of the Rule (including up to 3 primary sources relied upon):

Expertise of board members and the Senior State Electrical Inspector

Estimated Fiscal Impact of the Rule:

Within the scope of the entire 2026 NEC and related amendments and exclusions, there are changes that may both increase and decrease the costs of electrical installations.

FOR EXISTING RULES WITH FISCAL IMPACT OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE, ALSO INCLUDE:

Economic Impact, Whether or Not Quantifiable in Monetary Terms [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(2)(A)]:

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Individuals, Major Interest Groups and Types of Businesses Affected and How They Will Be Affected [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(2)(B)]:

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Benefits of the Rule [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(2)(C)]:

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Note: If necessary, additional pages may be used.