



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

BULLETIN

No. 89

March 1999

Revised November 12, 2007

NEMA Policy on Adoption of the National Electrical Code®

INTRODUCTION

Electrical installation and inspection laws should provide safeguarding of the public from personal and property hazards. No unnecessary restrictions should be imposed on the distribution, installation and use of electrical products that conform to practical standards of safety and protection. NEMA believes that this can best be accomplished by direct adoption of the National Electrical Code® by governmental entities.

POLICY

NEMA advocates direct adoption, without reliance on reference from another code or standard, of the latest edition of the National Electrical Code® by governmental entities. The adoption should take place as quickly as possible after publication of a new edition of the National Electrical Code®.

RATIONALE:

The National Electrical Code® (“Code”), originally developed in 1897, is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). NFPA’s mission is the reduction of the loss of life and property by fire and accident. The *Code*, periodically revised to keep it current, is an American National Standard (ANS).

**National Electrical
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Direct adoption of the *Code*, without modifications, by all governmental entities is encouraged. It is recognized, however, that some local governmental entities have an adoption process that allows for amendments to establish requirements they consider appropriate to address specific local conditions relating to safety, health or the environment. Where these processes exist, it is NEMA's position that the process be executed in an open and transparent manner that allows for input on both sides of a recommended amendment.

NEMA policy includes support for the direct adoption and enforcement of this *Code* by countries where electrical systems are compatible with North American practices. It is understood that this would involve direct adoption by a governmental entity at a National (provincial/state/local) level and would thus be open to adaptation to take into account possible regional differences. This process will allow countries to adopt electrical installation practices with a proven record and a long history of supporting safe electrical systems and products.

Questions regarding this policy may be directed to the Vice President of Technical Services of NEMA.

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(NEMA Members Only) Implementation of the NEMA Policy on Adoption of the National Electrical Code®

IMPLEMENTATION

The NEMA Field Representatives should inform NEMA membership and the NEMA Codes and Standards Committee of proposed local amendments. It is critical that NEMA actively participate in these processes to ensure that NEMA's voice can be heard as appropriate. The NEMA Codes and Standards Committee may authorize the development of a specific position on a proposed local amendment when it is in the best interest of the NEMA membership.

This policy is not intended to encourage that local entities establish local amendments, but it is intended to ensure NEMA participation where an amendment is being contemplated.

NEMA members should take a proactive role toward implementation of this policy. Members in a position to influence adoption of the National Electrical Code® should take every opportunity to present this policy and rationale to governmental entities. Individual member companies are encouraged to actively promote this policy and distribute copies of this Engineering Bulletin. However, any statement, oral or written, given in the name of NEMA shall be governed by the rules of NEMA's Standardization Policies and Procedures and Engineering Bulletin No. 75, "Technical and Engineering Presentation Before Outside Groups (Guidelines for NEMA Subdivisions)."

Distribution List:

Standards and Conformity Assessment Policy Committee
Codes and Standards Committee
NEMA Industry Directors and Program Managers

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