National Electrical Safety Code® (NESC®)

Purpose
The purpose of the NESC is the practical safeguarding of persons during the installation, operation, or maintenance of electric supply and communication lines and associated equipment. The NESC contains the basic provisions that are considered necessary for the safety of employees and the public under the specified conditions. The NESC is not intended as a design specification or as an instruction manual.

Scope
The NESC covers supply and communication lines, equipment, and associated work practices employed by a public or private electric supply, communications, railway, or similar utility in the exercise of its function as a utility. It covers similar systems under the control of qualified persons, such as those associated with an industrial complex or utility interactive system.

NESC rules do not cover installations in mines, ships, railway rolling equipment, aircraft, or automotive equipment, or utilization wiring except as covered in Parts 1 and 3. For building utilization wiring requirements, see the National Electrical Code, ANSI/NFPA 70-1999.

Revisions
From 1973 to 1993, the NESC was revised on a 3-year revision cycle. In 1993, the NESC Committee approved extending the revision cycle for the next edition of the NESC from three years to four years. The NESC 1997 Edition, (C2-1997), was published August 1, 1996. Commencing with the NESC 2002 Edition the revision cycle will be every 5 years.

Legal Status
The NESC as written is a voluntary standard. However, some editions and some parts of the Code have been adopted, with and without changes, by some state and local jurisdictional authorities. To determine the legal status of the NESC in any particular state or locality within a state, the authority having jurisdiction should be contacted.

A survey conducted by the IEEE of regulatory bodies in the U.S. adopting the NESC can be found within this section.

Obtaining a copy of the NESC
The 2002 NESC was published August 1, 2001 and can be ordered through the IEEE Standards Catalog at: http://standards.ieee.org/nesc/nescproducts.html. You can also contact Customer Service at 1-800-678-IEEE or http://customer.service@ieee.org

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