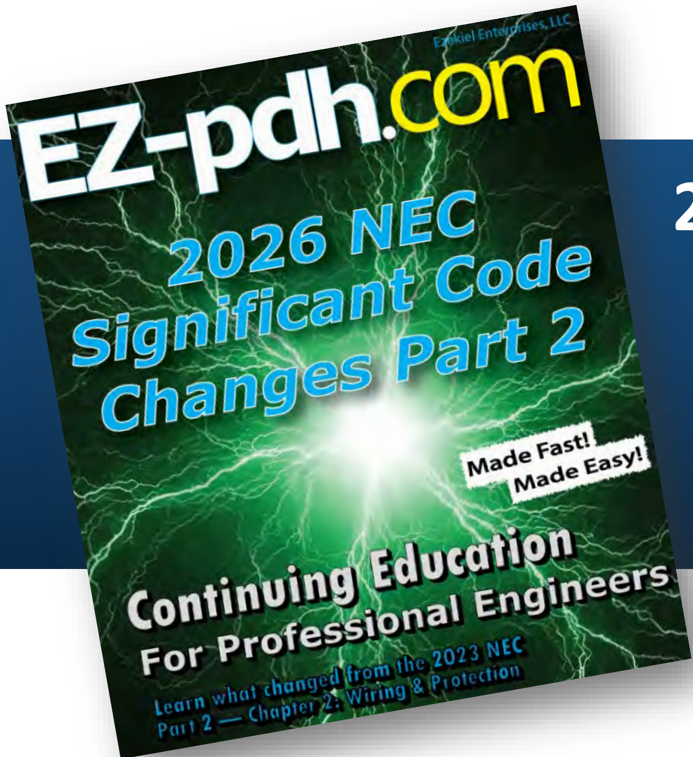

2026 NEC Significant Code Changes Part2

Four (4) Continuing Education Hours
Course #EE2602

Approved Continuing Education for Licensed Professional Engineers

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Course Description:

The 2026 NEC Significant Code Changes Part 2 course satisfies four (4) hours of professional development. The course is designed as a distance learning course that overviews the significant changes to the updated National Electrical Code (NEC). This second part covers Chapter 2 — Wiring and Protection — examining the specific changes found in Articles 200 through 270. Topics include grounded conductor identification, the new non-power-limited signaling article, expanded GFCI and AFCI requirements, mandatory surge-protective devices at services, service disconnect modernization, overcurrent protection updates, overvoltage protection changes, and the new medium-voltage articles for branch circuits, feeders, outside circuits, services, and grounding and bonding.

Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to enable the student to understand the significant changes including additions, deletions, and modifications in the 2026 Edition of NFPA 70: National Electrical Code (NEC) from the 2023 Edition. Upon completion, the student will be able to:

- Identify the updates to grounded conductor identification requirements in Article 200 and the new Article 206
- Apply the expanded GFCI and AFCI requirements in Article 210 including new outdoor outlet provisions, GFPE for branch circuits, and small conductor permissions
- Describe the Article 215 feeder GFPE expansion to DC systems and the new SPD requirements for sleeping areas
- Explain the Article 225 and 230 updates including mandatory service entrance SPDs, field-evaluated equipment, service disconnect marking, and the 2-to-6 disconnect restructuring
- Apply Article 240 overcurrent protection updates including the expanded bathroom panelboard prohibition and transformer secondary conductor rules
- Describe the Article 242 overvoltage protection updates including the reconditioned SPD prohibition and Type 2 SPD requirements

- Identify the significant Article 250 grounding and bonding changes including 250.4(A)(5) restructuring, rod electrode installation, GEC routing, and EGC identification
- Explain the purpose and structure of new Articles 265, 266, 267, 268, and 270 for medium-voltage systems

Grading:

Students must achieve a minimum score of 70% on the online quiz to pass this course. The quiz may be taken as many times as necessary to successfully pass and complete the course. A copy of the quiz questions are attached to the last pages of this document.

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2026 NEC Significant Code Changes Part 2

Introduction

Chapter 2 of the NEC — Wiring and Protection — governs the fundamental electrical infrastructure of virtually every building: the branch circuits that feed outlets and equipment, the feeders that supply panelboards, the services that connect buildings to the utility, and the protection systems (overcurrent, overvoltage, ground-fault) that keep people and property safe. The 2026 edition made numerous significant changes to Chapter 2 articles, reflecting the electrification of transportation, the growth of distributed energy resources, and an industry-wide shift toward requiring surge-protective devices at services.

Chapter 2 Overview

Part 2 of this series progresses through Chapter 2, presenting the most significant changes to Articles 200 through 270. The chapter covers grounded conductor identification, branch circuit requirements, feeder requirements, services, overcurrent protection, overvoltage protection, grounding and bonding, and the new medium-voltage articles. Changes will be <u>underlined</u> for easy recognition and a short synopsis of the reason for each change is presented.

Chapter 2 — Wiring and Protection

Article 200 · Article 206 · Article 210 · Article 215 · Article 225 · Article 230 · Article 240 · Article 242 · Article 250· Articles 265–270

Article 200 — Use of Identification of Grounded Conductors

Article 200 covers the identification requirements for grounded conductors — the neutral conductors in most AC systems. Proper identification is critical for safety: a misidentified grounded conductor can energize equipment enclosures and create shock hazards. The 2026 NEC made a targeted update to conductor identification methods.

Revision – 200.6(A)

Grounded Conductor Identification — Colored Stripe Method Added

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *A colored stripe is now permitted as an alternative identification method for grounded conductors 6 AWG and smaller.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 200.6(A) on identification of grounded conductors was revised to permit the use of a colored stripe as an acceptable identification method for conductors 6 AWG or smaller. Previously, the primary identification methods were white or gray insulation color, or a white or gray marking at termination points. The 2026 NEC adds a colored stripe along the length of the conductor as an additional permitted method, provided the stripe is not green — which is reserved exclusively for equipment grounding conductors. This provision aligns with similar stripe-identification methods already used for other conductor types and reflects modern cable manufacturing capabilities.

❖ **Its Effect:** The addition of the colored stripe method provides manufacturers and installers greater flexibility in grounded conductor identification while maintaining the critical distinction from equipment grounding conductors. The prohibition on green stripes is essential — a green-striped conductor could be mistaken for an EGC, potentially creating a shock hazard if connected as a grounded conductor. The stripe must be visible over the entire length of the conductor or at termination points. This change is particularly relevant for multi-conductor cables where white or gray insulation may conflict with other conductor color coding requirements in the cable assembly.

> 200.6(A) Sizes 6 AWG or Smaller. An insulated grounded conductor of 6 AWG or smaller shall be identified by a continuous white or gray outer finish or by three continuous white or gray stripes on other than green insulation along its entire length, or by distinctive white or gray markings at its terminations. Alternatively, a colored stripe shall be permitted, provided the stripe is not green.

Article 206 — Non-Power-Limited Remote-Control and Signaling Circuits

Article 206 is a new article in the 2026 NEC that consolidates general requirements for non-power-limited remote-control and signaling circuits. This content was previously scattered through the code, primarily in Section 300.26.

New – Article 206

Non-Power-Limited Remote-Control and Signaling Circuits — New Standalone Article

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Article 206 established as the new home for general requirements for non-power-limited remote-control and signaling circuits.*

❖ **What Changed:** New Article 206 was created to outline the general requirements for non-power-limited (NPL) remote-control and signaling circuits. This content was consolidated and clarified from provisions formerly found in Section 300.26. The article covers wiring methods, conductor requirements, overcurrent protection, and installation requirements for NPLFA (Non-Power-Limited Fire Alarm) and similar circuits that operate at higher power levels than Class 2/3 limited-energy circuits. NPL circuits are distinguished from power-limited circuits by the absence of a current-limiting power supply at the source — they can deliver full short-circuit current if faulted.

❖ **Its Effect:** Previously, non-power-limited remote-control and signaling circuit requirements were spread across multiple articles, creating navigational difficulty. Having a dedicated article ensures that installers and inspectors can find all applicable requirements in one location. The separation from limited-energy articles (Class 2/3) makes clear that NPLFA circuits require full-power wiring methods — they are not entitled to the installation relaxations permitted for Class 2/3 systems. This is particularly important for fire alarm systems that use non-power-limited circuit types for long runs or high-power notification appliances.

Article 206. Non-Power-Limited Remote-Control and Signaling Circuits. This article covers general requirements for the installation of non-power-limited remote-control, signaling, and fire alarm circuits and equipment that are not subject to the limitations set forth for power-limited circuits in Article 725 (Class 2 and 3) or Article 760 (Fire Alarm).

Article 210 — Branch Circuits

Article 210 covers the general requirements for branch circuits. The 2026 edition expanded GFCI requirements significantly, added a new ground-fault protection of equipment requirement for larger branch circuit disconnects, and clarified receptacle outlet placement, lighting outlet requirements, and the use of smaller conductor sizes for specific applications. These changes reflect ongoing efforts to extend personnel protection to more installation locations.

Revision – 210.8

GFCI Protection — Significant Expansion of Required Locations

Change at a Glance: *GFCI protection requirements significantly expanded in dwelling units, commercial, and industrial locations.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 210.8 on GFCI protection was substantially revised and expanded. The changes affect all three subdivisions — 210.8(A) (dwelling units), 210.8(B) (other-than-dwelling-unit occupancies), and the new 210.8(C) through (F). Key expansions include: (1) Accessory building areas in dwelling units not intended as habitable rooms (storage rooms, workshops) now require GFCI protection regardless of whether they are at, above, or below grade level — the previous text limiting protection to below-grade floors was removed; (2) All damp and wet locations, whether indoors or outdoors, now explicitly require GFCI protection — item (6) states outdoor locations are always considered at minimum a damp location, eliminating ambiguity about covered outdoor areas under eaves or porches; (3) Equipment using Class C SPGFCIs is now permanently permitted in lieu of standard Class A GFCIs for HVAC and refrigeration equipment subject to nuisance tripping — the 2023 NEC provided this as a temporary exception with a deadline; the 2026 NEC makes it permanent with no expiration date.

❖ **Its Effect:** The expansion to accessory building areas addresses a recognized hazard. Workers using workshops, storage areas, and utility spaces in accessory structures face the same shock risks as workers in below-grade spaces — the grade level of the floor is irrelevant to the hazard. The explicit inclusion of all outdoor locations as at minimum damp eliminates inconsistent enforcement of GFCI requirements in covered outdoor areas. The permanent Class C SPGFCI permission for HVAC and refrigeration equipment addresses a practical problem: standard Class A GFCIs (4–6 mA trip) can nuisance-trip from the leakage currents inherent in HVAC equipment, particularly variable-speed drives and refrigeration compressors. Class C SPGFCIs have a higher leakage current tolerance appropriate for this equipment while still providing personnel protection.

Revision – 210.8(A)(2) and (3)

GFCI — Accessory Building Areas Expanded Regardless of Grade Level

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Accessory building areas not intended as habitable rooms require GFCI regardless of floor grade level.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 210.8(A)(2) on garages and similar areas was revised to clarify that GFCI protection is required in all areas of accessory buildings not intended as habitable rooms — such as storage and work areas. The previous text specifying 'that have a floor located at or below grade level' was removed from item (3). This recognizes that the electrical shock hazard in storage and workshop areas exists regardless of whether the floor is at, above, or below grade. Additionally, the reference in the parent section 210.8(A) was updated to point readers to this new rule, ensuring it is not overlooked during design or code interpretation.

❖ This change closes an enforcement gap that resulted in inconsistent GFCI protection in accessory structures. A detached garage workshop at grade level presented the same shock hazard as a below-grade workshop — grounding, damp conditions, concrete floors, and tool use create the same risk profile regardless of elevation. Removing the grade-level qualifier ensures consistent protection in all similar areas regardless of their elevation relative to grade.

Note: Attached garages have required GFCI protection regardless of grade level for several NEC editions. This update brings detached garages and accessory building work areas into alignment with the attached garage requirements.

Revision – 210.8(F)

GFCI — Outdoor Outlets on Rooftops

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *New 210.8(F) requires GFCI protection for all outdoor outlets on rooftops of one- and two-family and multifamily dwellings.*

❖ **What Changed:** New subdivision 210.8(F) explicitly requires GFCI protection for all outdoor outlets installed on rooftops of one- and two-family dwellings and multifamily dwellings. Previously, rooftop receptacles were covered under the general outdoor outlet provisions but lacked a specific rooftop designation. The new subdivision resolves inconsistency by treating rooftop locations like other outdoor locations — always at minimum a damp location. This provision applies regardless of whether the receptacle is in a covered area on the rooftop, improving code structure and ensuring that the same rule applies to all rooftop receptacles regardless of occupancy type.

❖ **Its Effect:** Rooftop electrical work creates unique shock hazards. Workers maintaining HVAC equipment, solar PV systems, antennas, and building systems on rooftops are often in wet conditions and working at height where a shock-induced fall is potentially fatal. Requiring GFCI protection for all rooftop outlets — with a dedicated code section that is easy to locate and reference — ensures consistent enforcement and protection for workers in this high-risk environment.

Revision – 210.12(E)

AFCI Protection — Branch Circuit Wiring Extensions and Modifications

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 210.12(E) clarifies AFCI requirements for branch circuit wiring extensions, modifications, or replacements.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 210.12(E) was added to clarify AFCI protection requirements when branch circuit wiring is extended, modified, or replaced. When any of these actions are performed on a branch circuit that would require AFCI protection if newly installed, AFCI protection must be provided for the modified or extended circuit. The section addresses the common field question of whether adding an outlet or extending a circuit in an older home triggers AFCI requirements for the work performed. The answer under 210.12(E) is yes — the extension or modification must comply with current AFCI requirements.

❖ **Its Effect:** This provision resolves a long-standing enforcement ambiguity. Before 210.12(E), some inspectors required AFCI protection for any work on circuits in AFCI-required locations, while others applied AFCI requirements only to entirely new circuits. The 2026 NEC clarifies that extensions, modifications, and replacements trigger the same AFCI requirements as new installations. This ensures that renovation and remodel work in bedrooms, living rooms, and other AFCI-required locations meets current safety standards — and that fire hazards from aging wiring are addressed when any work is performed on the circuit.

Revision – 210.13

Ground-Fault Protection of Equipment — Expanded for Larger Branch Circuit Disconnects

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 210.13 now requires GFPE for branch circuit disconnecting means rated 1000A or more on specific systems.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 210.13, which covers Ground-Fault Protection of Equipment (GFPE) for branch circuits, was revised and expanded. The new requirements mandate GFPE for branch-circuit disconnecting means rated 1000 amperes or more on solidly grounded wye electrical systems of more than 150 volts to ground but not exceeding 600 volts phase-to-phase — the same system characteristics that trigger GFPE requirements for services (230.95) and feeders (215.10). The section also coordinates with updated Article 100 definitions, ensuring consistent application of GFPE requirements across branch circuits, feeders, and services.

❖ **Its Effect:** Large branch circuit disconnects supplying significant loads — large motor drives, high-power HVAC equipment, data center power distribution units, and similar equipment — present ground-fault hazards not adequately addressed by overcurrent devices alone. A ground fault of sufficient magnitude to damage equipment may not trip a conventional OCPD, but a listed GFPE device will detect and interrupt it. The expansion of GFPE requirements to large branch circuit disconnects reflects the growing scale of individual branch circuit loads in modern commercial and industrial installations.

Revision – 210.17

Guest Rooms and Guest Suites — GFCI and AFCI Requirements Updated

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Guest rooms and guest suites in hotels and motels now require GFCI and AFCI protection consistent with dwelling units.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 210.17 on guest rooms and guest suites in hotels, motels, and similar occupancies was revised to align GFCI and AFCI protection requirements with those applicable to dwelling units. The section cross-references the relevant Article 100 definition of a dormitory (a building or space housing more than 16 individuals who are not family members, arranged in group sleeping quarters managed collectively). Guest rooms and dormitory rooms now require the same level of GFCI and AFCI protection as residential bedrooms and sleeping areas, reflecting that occupants in these spaces face the same electrical hazards as occupants in residential spaces.

❖ **Its Effect:** The alignment of hotel and dormitory requirements with dwelling unit requirements is a long-overdue safety improvement. Hotel guests and dormitory residents sleep in beds, use portable appliances, and plug in chargers — the same activities that drove GFCI and AFCI requirements into residential bedrooms. The previous differentiation between hotel guest rooms and dwelling unit bedrooms was not based on a difference in hazard level. The 2026 NEC corrects this inconsistency, ensuring that all occupants in sleeping accommodations receive consistent protection.

Revision – 210.22

Individual Branch Circuits — Loads and Conductor Sizing Clarified

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 210.22 clarifies that individual branch circuits may supply any load for which they are rated.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 210.22 on individual branch circuit loads was revised to provide clearer language about what loads an individual branch circuit may supply. The updated text states that an individual branch circuit shall be permitted to supply any load for which it is rated. These circuits are typically used to feed dedicated equipment loads such as appliances, motors, or specialized electronic devices. The revision also reinforces the connection between individual branch circuit ratings and the load calculations in Article 120, ensuring that individual circuits are sized appropriately for the loads they supply.

❖ **Its Effect:** The clarification in 210.22 addresses confusion about whether individual branch circuits were subject to the same load limitations as general-purpose branch circuits. An individual branch circuit — one that supplies only one piece of equipment or one outlet — can be rated and sized for the specific load it serves, whether that is a 50-ampere range circuit, a 30-ampere dryer circuit, or a 60-ampere EVSE circuit. The revision makes this clear and provides better coordination with the load calculation requirements now in Article 120.

Revision – 210.24

Small Conductor Branch Circuits — 16 AWG Copper Permitted for Specific Applications

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 210.24 now permits 16 AWG copper conductors for lighting and exhaust fan circuits in bathrooms and laundry rooms.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 210.24 was updated to explicitly permit the use of smaller conductors — 16 AWG copper or 14 AWG copper-clad aluminum — for certain limited applications in dwelling units. Specifically, a branch circuit is now permitted to serve lighting outlets and/or exhaust fans in bathrooms and laundry rooms using these smaller wire sizes. This flexibility is for lighting-only or lightingplus-fan circuits where current demand is relatively low, especially in energy-efficient homes where LED lighting draws very little current. The 16 AWG conductors must be installed using appropriate wiring methods and must be protected by a properly rated OCPD.

❖ **Its Effect:** The permission to use 16 AWG copper in specific low-current applications reflects the reality of modern energy-efficient lighting. A bathroom with LED fixtures and an exhaust fan may draw only 2 to 3 amperes — far below what 14 AWG copper is needed to carry. Using 16 AWG conductors in these applications can reduce material costs and installation effort in conduit systems where pulling smaller wire is easier. The limitation to bathroom and laundry lighting/fan circuits ensures that the smaller conductors are not used in locations where future receptacle loads could be added.

Revision – 210.52(A)

Dwelling Unit Receptacle Outlets — Wall Space Definition Updated

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Fixed cabinets now universally excluded from wall space measurements for receptacle outlet placement.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 210.52(A) on general provisions for dwelling unit receptacle outlet placement was revised to clarify the definition of wall space that counts toward the 12-foot maximum distance between outlets. The revision removes the previous language that excluded only certain fixed cabinets (those with a countertop or built-in features) and replaces it with a universal exclusion of all fixed cabinets from wall space measurements. Previously, the code excluded from wall space measurement: doorways, fireplaces, and fixed cabinets without countertops. This led to confusion about built-in cabinets with decorative or flush countertops, recessed cabinets, and similar installations. The 2026 revision resolves this by excluding all fixed cabinets categorically from wall space measurements.

❖ **Its Effect:** The universal exclusion of all fixed cabinets eliminates the interpretive difficulty that arose when trying to determine whether a particular cabinet — based on whether it had a countertop, whether the countertop was functional or decorative, or whether the cabinet was recessed — counted as wall space. The simplified rule now means that any fixed cabinet, regardless of its features, does not count as wall space for receptacle spacing purposes. This makes receptacle layout calculation more straightforward and consistent.

> *Note: Countertop receptacle outlets are separately addressed in 210.52(C). The wall space exclusion for fixed cabinets applies to the general 12-foot spacing rule in 210.52(A), not to the countertop receptacle requirements.*

Revision – 210.52(C)(4)

Countertop Receptacles — In-Cabinet and In-Drawer Outlets Updated

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 210.52(C)(4) updated to permit listed tamper-resistant assemblies specifically approved for cabinetry and drawer installation.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 210.52(C)(4) on receptacle outlets in countertop locations was revised to address the growing use of in-cabinet and in-drawer receptacle outlets. The revision clarifies that receptacle outlets installed in cabinets or drawers must use listed, tamper-resistant assemblies specifically approved for use in cabinetry and drawer installations. Standard outlet boxes and standard receptacles are not acceptable substitutes — the in-cabinet or in-drawer installation must use a product specifically listed for that application. Additionally, receptacle outlets are prohibited from being installed in cabinetry that is below the work surface, addressing the safety concern of outlets inside enclosed cabinet spaces where combustibles may be stored.

❖ **Its Effect:** In-cabinet and in-drawer outlets have become popular for providing receptacle access without visible outlets on countertop surfaces — particularly in high-end kitchen and bathroom designs. The requirement for specifically listed assemblies ensures that these products are tested for the enclosed, potentially damp environment of a cabinet or drawer. Standard receptacles installed in a box cut into cabinetry do not provide the same level of protection against moisture, combustible materials, and limited ventilation that listed in-cabinet assemblies do.

Revision – 210.63

Equipment Servicing Receptacles — Other Electrical Equipment Located Indoors

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 210.63 expanded to require a servicing receptacle for other electrical equipment located indoors, not just HVAC.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 210.63 previously required a 125-volt, single-phase, 15- or 20-ampere-rated receptacle outlet within 25 feet of heating, air-conditioning, and refrigeration equipment for servicing purposes. The 2026 revision adds a new subdivision 210.63(B) requiring a similar servicing receptacle within 25 feet of other electrical equipment located indoors that requires servicing and that is located in attics, crawl spaces, rooftop spaces, and similar locations. The receptacle must be accessible and located such that servicing personnel can plug in test equipment, tools, or lighting without using extension cords to reach distant outlets.

❖ **Its Effect:** The expansion of the servicing receptacle requirement to 'other electrical equipment' addresses the practical needs of technicians servicing the growing range of electrical equipment installed in non-accessible building spaces — communications equipment, battery backup systems, solar inverters, EMS controllers, and similar devices that are increasingly found in attics, crawl spaces, and equipment rooms. Without a nearby receptacle, servicing personnel must use long extension cords, which create both safety hazards and code compliance issues.

Revision – 210.70

Lighting Outlets Required — Motion Sensor and Automatic Controls Clarified

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Automatic lighting controls must not be the sole control in attics, underfloor spaces, and utility rooms without manual override.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 210.70 on required lighting outlets was revised to address the growing use of motion sensors, occupancy sensors, and time-based controllers for lighting control in dwelling units. The revision clarifies that automatic controls — including motion sensors, occupancy sensors, or time-based controllers — must not be the sole means of controlling illumination in attics, underfloor spaces, and utility rooms unless a manual override or bypass option is provided. Additionally, the section addresses the safety concern that arose when luminaires with built-in battery-powered automatic controls could fail, leaving workers in unlit spaces without any means of activating the lighting.

❖ **Its Effect:** The requirement for manual override capability in maintenance spaces reflects a genuine safety concern. A worker entering an attic or crawl space to service equipment needs reliable, controllable lighting — not lighting that may or may not activate based on motion detection or a time schedule. If the automatic control device's battery fails or the sensor malfunctions, the worker is in a dark confined space. The manual override requirement ensures that a worker can always control the lighting regardless of the state of the automatic control system.

Note: This requirement applies specifically to attics, underfloor spaces, and utility rooms. Automatic-only controls remain permissible in other locations addressed by 210.70 where manual override is not mandated.

Article 215 — Feeders

Article 215 covers feeder requirements — the conductors from the service or source of a separately derived system to the overcurrent devices of branch circuits. The 2026 edition expanded ground-fault protection of equipment requirements to include DC systems and added mandatory SPD requirements for certain occupancies.

Revision – 215.10

Ground-Fault Protection of Equipment — Expanded to DC Systems

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 215.10 GFPE requirements expanded to include solidly grounded DC systems over 150V to ground with disconnects rated 1000A or more.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 215.10, which covers Ground-Fault Protection of Equipment for feeder disconnects, was revised to expand its scope to include direct current power distribution systems. The new subdivision (B) requires GFPE for solidly grounded dc electric systems where the system voltage exceeds 150 volts to ground but does not exceed 1500 volts dc line-to-line, and where the feeder disconnect is rated 1000 amperes or more. This mirrors the dc expansion made to branch circuit GFPE (210.13) and service GFPE (230.95), creating consistency in GFPE requirements across all circuit types for these higher-voltage dc systems. The revision was guided by recommendations from the NEC dc Correlating Committee Task Group.

❖ **Its Effect:** The expansion of GFPE to large DC feeder disconnects reflects the growth in DC power distribution systems in data centers, solar PV installations, EV charging infrastructure, and battery energy storage systems. A ground fault on a solidly grounded DC system with significant voltage can deliver sustained fault current that damages equipment, creates fire hazards, and poses shock risks — yet may not trip conventional overcurrent protection at a level that prevents equipment damage. Listed GFPE devices detect these low-level ground faults and interrupt them before damage occurs.

Revision – 215.10(A)

GFPE for Feeders — AC System Requirements Restructured

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Former 215.10 AC GFPE requirements restructured as subdivision (A) for clarity and parallel structure with new DC provisions.*

❖ **What Changed:** The existing GFPE requirements for solidly grounded wye AC feeder disconnects rated 1000 amperes or more on systems over 150V to ground but not exceeding 600V phase-to-phase were restructured as subdivision 215.10(A). This restructuring parallels the format of the new subdivision 215.10(B) for DC systems and of the corresponding service GFPE section 230.95. No substantive technical change was made to the AC GFPE requirements — the restructuring is organizational, providing a clearer framework that parallels the new DC provisions.

❖ **Its Effect:** The parallel structure of 215.10(A) for AC and 215.10(B) for DC ensures that engineers and inspectors working on mixed AC/DC systems can quickly locate and compare the GFPE requirements for both system types. The organizational change also makes it clearer that AC and DC systems have separate GFPE requirements based on their distinct electrical characteristics — particularly important as hybrid AC/DC building power systems become more common in energy-efficient and renewable-energy-equipped buildings.

New – 215.18

Surge-Protective Devices — SPD Required for Feeders Serving Sleeping Quarters in Emergency Facilities

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *New Section 215.18 mandates SPD installation for feeders supplying sleeping quarters in emergency service facilities.*

❖ **What Changed:** New Section 215.18 requires surge-protective devices (SPDs) for feeders supplying areas designated exclusively as sleeping quarters in emergency service facilities. This includes fire stations, police stations, ambulance stations, rescue stations, ranger stations, and similar facilities. The SPD must be installed at each panelboard or distribution equipment that serves these sleeping quarter areas. This new requirement recognizes that emergency service personnel rely on electronic equipment — communication devices, monitoring systems, alerting systems, and personal protective equipment — that is vulnerable to surge damage and must be reliably available when an emergency call comes in.

❖ **Its Effect:** Emergency service facilities house and operate critical life-safety equipment around the clock. A voltage surge that damages communication equipment, paging systems, or electronic monitoring devices in a fire station or ambulance station could delay emergency response with potentially fatal consequences. The mandatory SPD requirement for feeder panels serving sleeping areas ensures that the sensitive electronics used and charged by emergency service personnel during rest periods are protected from voltage transients. This requirement builds on the 2020 NEC's mandatory SPD at dwelling unit services (230.67), recognizing that emergency service personnel live and work in these facilities much as residents live in dwelling units.

Article 225 — Outside Branch Circuits and Feeders

Article 225 covers outside branch circuits and feeders — conductors between structures. The 2026 edition added clarity regarding the interaction between disconnecting means requirements and emergency disconnects, and added an informational note on coordination with emergency disconnect provisions.

Revision – 225.31

Disconnecting Means — Integration with Emergency Disconnect Provisions

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 225.31 revised to clarify that the emergency disconnect required by 225.41 may serve as the required disconnecting means.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 225.31, which covers disconnecting means requirements for conductors supplying buildings or structures, was revised to clarify how this requirement interacts with the emergency disconnect provisions in Section 225.41. For one- and two-family dwellings, the emergency disconnect required by 225.41 may also serve as the required disconnecting means under 225.31, eliminating the need to install multiple disconnects at the same location. This eliminates redundancy while maintaining the required level of safety, since both provisions require an accessible, lockable disconnecting means. The revision reduces installation complexity and cost for one- and two-family dwellings with outside feeder connections.

❖ **Its Effect:** The clarification prevents duplicate disconnect installations at one- and two-family dwellings. Without this provision, a strict reading of both sections might require two separate disconnect devices in the same location — one satisfying 225.31 and one satisfying 225.41 — serving no additional safety purpose. A single disconnect that meets the requirements of both sections is functionally equivalent and eliminates unnecessary cost and potential confusion about which disconnect to use in an emergency.

Note: This coordination applies specifically to one- and two-family dwellings. For other occupancies, the interaction between 225.31 and 225.41 must be evaluated based on the specific configuration of the installation.

Revision – 225.41

Emergency Disconnects — Location and Marking Requirements Clarified

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 225.41 emergency disconnect location and marking requirements clarified; exception added for one- and two-family dwellings.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 225.41 on emergency disconnects for one- and two-family dwellings was revised to clarify location requirements and add an exception coordinating with Section 225.31. The emergency disconnect must remain within sight from and be accessible from the outside of the dwelling. The 50-foot maximum distance and visible-from-location standard in Section 110.29 applies. A new exception in 225.41 recognizes that when the emergency disconnect required by 225.41 also serves as the disconnecting means under 225.31, a single properly located and marked disconnect satisfies both requirements. Additionally, enhanced visibility marking requirements were added to ensure the emergency disconnect is clearly identifiable to emergency responders who may not be familiar with the installation.

❖ **Its Effect:** Emergency disconnects on one- and two-family dwellings are critical for firefighter safety. When a structure fire threatens electrical systems, firefighters must be able to quickly de-energize the building's electrical supply without entering the structure. A clearly marked, externally accessible emergency disconnect enables this. The 50-foot maximum distance standard provides an objective, enforceable metric that ensures the disconnect is practically reachable from a safe location during an emergency response.

New – 225.1 Informational Note

Article 225 — New Informational Note on Coordination with Emergency Disconnect Provisions

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *New Informational Note 2 added to Section 225.1 to guide users to emergency disconnect coordination requirements.*

❖ **What Changed:** A new Informational Note No. 2 was added to Section 225.1

to alert code users to the interaction between the general requirements of Article 225 and the emergency disconnect provisions of Section 225.41. This informational note does not represent a change to enforceable requirements but plays a crucial role in directing users to the relevant coordination provisions when designing or inspecting outside feeder installations for one- and two-family dwellings. The note points specifically to the Section 225.31 revision that permits the emergency disconnect to serve as the required disconnecting means.

❖ **Its Effect:** Informational notes in the NEC serve as navigational guides — they help code users identify related provisions in other sections that affect the application of the current section. The addition of this informational note in 225.1 ensures that users reading the general scope provisions at the beginning of the article are immediately directed to the emergency disconnect coordination provisions, reducing the likelihood of overlooking the single-disconnect permission when designing one- and two-family dwelling installations.

Article 230 — Services

Article 230 covers service conductors and service equipment — the most critical and heavily loaded components in any building's electrical system. The 2026 edition made numerous significant changes to Article 230, including mandatory surge-protective devices, field-evaluated equipment recognition, service disconnect marking and control modernization, and restructuring of the 2-to-6 disconnect rule.

Revision – 230.2

Listing and Field Evaluation — Field-Evaluated Equipment Recognized

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 230.2 updated to recognize field-evaluated service equipment in addition to listed service equipment.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 230.2 on number of services was revised to explicitly recognize field-evaluated service equipment in addition to listed equipment. The 2026 NEC acknowledges that some service equipment particularly in retrofits, renovations, and custom industrial applications — may have been evaluated and approved by a qualified testing organization on a case-by-case basis rather than through the standard listing process. Field evaluation involves examination of specific equipment by a recognized testing organization that verifies the equipment meets applicable safety standards, issues a report and label, and approves it for a specific installation. The revision ensures that properly field-evaluated service equipment can be recognized under the NEC alongside listed equipment.

❖ **Its Effect:** The recognition of field-evaluated equipment addresses a practical reality in the electrical industry. Some service equipment configurations — particularly in industrial facilities, data centers, and legacy buildingsdo not have listed equipment that exactly matches the required configuration. Field evaluation by a recognized organization provides an equivalent pathway to ensuring safety and compliance. By explicitly recognizing field evaluation, the 2026 NEC ensures that AHJs have a clear basis for approving properly evaluated equipment without requiring a full product listing.

Note: Field evaluation is different from listed equipment. Field-evaluated *equipment is approved for a specific installation at a specific location — it is not a general approval for use in other installations. The field evaluation label and report must specifically identify the equipment and installation location.*

Revision – 230.62

Service Equipment — Enclosed or Guarded and Barrier Placement

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 230.62 updated with new barrier requirements and marking for equipment connected on supply side of service disconnect.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 230.62 on service equipment enclosure and guarding was updated with enhanced requirements for barriers in service equipment. The 2026 revision requires that certain types of equipment used to splice or tap service conductors must be both listed and marked (or identified) as 'suitable for use as service equipment' or for the specific application. Additionally, Section 230.62(C) addresses barrier placement requirements within service equipment enclosures — barriers must be installed to prevent inadvertent contact with live parts on the supply side of the service disconnect when the enclosure door or cover is opened. The barrier must be arranged so that it cannot be removed without using tools.

❖ **Its Effect:** The barrier requirements in 230.62(C) address a serious safety hazard. When a service panelboard or service entrance enclosure is opened for maintenance or inspection, the conductors and lugs on the supply side of the service disconnect remain energized — they cannot be de-energized without a utility outage. A barrier between the line-side live parts and the working space reduces the risk of inadvertent contact by maintenance personnel who open the enclosure to work on load-side components. Requiring tool-removal of the barrier ensures that it provides meaningful protection while remaining accessible when necessary for qualified work.

Revision – 230.67

Surge-Protective Devices — SPD Now Mandatory at All New Dwelling Unit Services

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 230.67 revised to require SPD installation at all new dwelling unit services, not just recommended.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 230.67 was revised to make surge-protective device (SPD) installation mandatory at service equipment for all new dwelling unit services. The 2026 NEC removes the previous permissive language and establishes a clear requirement: all new electrical services installed in dwelling units must include a listed SPD at or near the service equipment. The SPD may be a Type 1 or Type 2 device installed at the service equipment, and must be listed for the application. The requirement applies to new installations — existing dwelling unit services are not required to be retrofitted with SPDs, though it is strongly recommended.

❖ **Its Effect:** The mandatory SPD requirement at dwelling unit services reflects the increasing vulnerability of modern homes to voltage surge damage. Contemporary dwellings contain an unprecedented density of

❖ surge-sensitive electronics: smart TVs, computers, smart appliances, HVAC controls, security systems, EV chargers, solar inverters, and battery systems. A voltage surge from a lightning strike or utility switching event can damage or destroy these expensive systems in an unprotected home. The whole-home SPD at the service provides the first level of surge protection, supplementing point-of-use devices at individual loads.

Note: The SPD at the service is a Type 1 or Type 2 device that provides the primary level of whole-house surge protection. Point-of-use Type 3 surge protectors at individual sensitive equipment provide supplemental protection. For best protection, both levels should be used.

> 230.67(A) Surge-Protective Device. A surge-protective device (SPD) shall be installed in or on all new services for dwelling units. The SPD shall be a listed device in accordance with Article 242.

Revision – 230.68

Meter Sockets — Rating Must Match Service Current

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 230.68 updated to require that meter sockets be rated for the ampere rating of the service.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 230.68 was updated to explicitly require that meter sockets be rated for the ampere rating of the service. For example, a 200-ampere, 240-volt residential service must use a meter socket rated for at least 200 amperes. Previously, the rating requirement for meter sockets was less clearly defined in relation to the service ampere rating, leading to installations where undersized meter sockets were installed on upgraded services. The revision also coordinates with updated weatherproofing and entry seal requirements for meter socket enclosures.

❖ **Its Effect:** An undersized meter socket on an upgraded service is a potential fire hazard. Meter sockets carry the full service current continuously — a socket rated below the service ampere rating will overheat under normal load conditions. As many homeowners have upgraded their service from 100 to 200 amperes or from 200 to 400 amperes, the corresponding meter socket upgrade is not always completed. This revision provides clear enforcement authority for requiring properly rated meter sockets to match the service capacity.

Revision – 230.70(A)

Service Disconnect Location — Restructured and Expanded

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 230.70(A) restructured with expanded requirements for service disconnect location in one- and two-family dwellings.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 230.70(A) on service disconnect location was restructured and expanded. One of the most significant updates is the incorporation of requirements previously found in Section 230.85 — the mandate that service disconnects for one- and two-family dwellings be located outside the building or at a readily accessible location inside nearest the point of service entrance. The 2026 revision consolidates these provisions in 230.70(A) and provides clearer language about acceptable locations for service disconnects. The restructuring addresses identification, disconnect control methodology, and emergency accessibility requirements in a more organized format.

❖ **Its Effect:** The consolidation of location requirements from 230.85 into 230.70(A) eliminates the need for code users to navigate between two sections to understand service disconnect location requirements for one-and two-family dwellings. The clearer location requirements also reflect the ongoing effort to ensure that service disconnects are accessible to emergency responders — firefighters who need to de-energize a burning building must be able to locate and operate the service disconnect without entering the structure in many scenarios.

Revision – 230.70(B)

Service Disconnect Marking — High-Visibility Standardized Marking Required

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 230.70(B) introduces standardized, high-visibility marking requirements for service disconnects.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 230.70(B) on service disconnect marking was revised to introduce standardized, high-visibility marking requirements. The service disconnect must now be marked with a marking that identifies it as the service disconnect and that is clearly legible and visible from the normal working position. The marking must be permanent and durable, able to withstand the environmental conditions at the installation location. For outdoor installations, the marking must be weatherproof. The standardized marking requirements are designed to ensure that any qualified person — including emergency responders unfamiliar with the specific installation — can quickly identify the service disconnect.

❖ **Its Effect:** Standardized marking of service disconnects is essential for emergency response. Firefighters, first responders, and utility workers responding to electrical emergencies must be able to quickly locate and identify the service disconnect without relying on familiarity with a specific installation. High-visibility marking that clearly identifies the device as the 'Service Disconnect' or 'Main

Disconnect' removes ambiguity and enables rapid, safe de-energization of the building's electrical supply.

New – 230.70(D)

Identification of Other Source Disconnects — New Plaque Requirement

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *New Section 230.70(D) requires a plaque or directory at the service disconnect identifying all other power sources.*

❖ **What Changed:** New Section 230.70(D) requires that a plaque or directory be installed at the service disconnecting means identifying all other sources of power not located at the service disconnect. This includes on-site generators, solar PV systems, battery energy storage systems, fuel cells, and other power production equipment that can energize the building's wiring even when the service disconnect is open. The plaque must identify the type and location of each additional power source and the location of its disconnecting means. The requirement ensures that emergency responders and maintenance personnel are aware of all power sources that must be de-energized for safe work.

❖ **Its Effect:** As buildings increasingly incorporate solar PV, battery storage, generators, and bidirectional EV chargers, the utility service disconnect is no longer the only source of electrical energy in the building. A firefighter who opens the service disconnect believing the building is de-energized may still encounter live conductors from an on-site generation or storage system. The plaque or directory at the service disconnect provides critical safety information about all additional power sources, enabling emergency responders to identify and de-energize all sources before beginning work.

> 230.70(D) Identification of Other Sources. If other sources of power are installed on the premises that are not located at the service disconnecting means, a plaque or directory shall be installed at the service disconnecting means identifying each source and its location.

Revision – 230.70(F)

Remote Disconnect Control — Requirements Clarified

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 230.70(F) clarifies that a remote disconnect control must be capable of opening the service disconnect.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 230.70(F) on remote disconnect control was revised to clarify that any remote disconnect control used for the service disconnecting means must be capable of opening (de-energizing) the service disconnect. This clarification is necessary because some remote control systems for service equipment only initiate disconnection — they send a signal to open the disconnect but are not themselves the disconnecting means. The requirement is not satisfied by a device that merely initiates disconnection without being a disconnecting means in its own right. The remote control device must comply with all applicable requirements for the service disconnecting means.

❖ **Its Effect:** The clarification in 230.70(F) addresses the ambiguity created by modern remote monitoring and control systems for service equipment. Shunt-trip breakers, electrically operated circuit breakers, and similar devices can be operated remotely but rely on auxiliary power to operate. The distinction between a 'remote disconnect control' and an actual 'disconnecting means' is important: the disconnecting means must be capable of being opened in a de-energized state or through manual means if auxiliary power is lost. A purely remote-only control that cannot be operated manually does not satisfy the disconnecting means requirement.

Revision – 230.71

Maximum Number of Service Disconnects — Restructured for Clarity

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 230.71 restructured to provide clearer differentiation between counted and uncounted disconnects.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 230.71 on the maximum number of service disconnects (2 to 6 in accordance with 230.71(A)) was restructured to provide clearer differentiation between service disconnects that count toward the 2-to-6 limit and other disconnecting means that are permitted but not counted. The restructuring explicitly addresses various equipment configurations that have historically caused ambiguity — including switches for fire pumps, emergency systems, and legally required standby systems that are connected supply-side of the main service disconnect. A significant structural improvement is the deletion of former Section 230.71(B)(2), which addressed panelboards with individual circuit breakers serving as the disconnecting means. This provision is now addressed in the restructured article with clearer language.

❖ **Its Effect:** The 2-to-6 disconnect rule has been one of the most frequently misapplied provisions in the NEC. The restructuring helps code users understand which disconnects count toward the maximum and which do not — critical for service equipment design in commercial buildings with multiple disconnects for fire pumps, emergency power systems, and separately metered tenants. The deletion of the former Section 230.71(B)(2) and its replacement with clearer language reflects the NEC's ongoing effort to improve enforceability and reduce interpretive inconsistency.

Revision – 230.82

Supply-Side Equipment — Interconnected Power Production Sources Added

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 230.82 updated to include interconnected electric power production sources in the list of permitted supply-side equipment.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 230.82, which governs what equipment is permitted to be connected on the supply side of the service disconnecting means, was revised with a significant organizational and technical update. The revision consolidates solar PV systems, battery energy storage systems, and other power production sources into a single, unified category titled 'interconnected electric power production sources.' This aligns with the broader terminology used throughout the 2026 NEC for distributed generation and storage systems and acknowledges the trend toward integrated renewable and hybrid energy systems that combine solar, storage, and other generation sources.

❖ **Its Effect:** As solar PV systems, battery storage, fuel cells, and other on-site power sources become standard components of building electrical systems, the NEC must provide clear guidance on how these sources are connected relative to the service disconnect. Supply-side connection of power production sources allows the on-site generation to continue supplying the building even when the service disconnect is open — critical for resilience applications. The unified 'interconnected electric power production sources' terminology ensures that future power production technologies can be accommodated under this provision without requiring additional NEC changes.

Revision – 230.95

Ground-Fault Protection of Equipment — Expanded to DC Services

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 230.95 GFPE requirements expanded to include solidly grounded DC electric services over 150V to ground rated 1000A or more.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 230.95 on Ground-Fault Protection of Equipment for services was revised to add a new subdivision (B) extending GFPE requirements to solidly grounded DC electric services. The new requirement applies when the system voltage exceeds 150 volts to ground but does not exceed 1500 volts DC line-to-line, and the service disconnect is rated 1000 amperes or more. The existing AC GFPE requirements in 230.95 were restructured as subdivision (A) with no substantive technical changes. This expansion creates a consistent GFPE framework across AC services, feeder disconnects, and branch circuit disconnects — and now DC services at the same voltage and ampere thresholds.

❖ **Its Effect:** The DC service GFPE requirement reflects the emergence of utility-scale DC distribution systems in large commercial buildings, campuses, and industrial facilities. Data centers, large battery storage installations, and high-power EV charging infrastructure may use large DC services that present significant ground fault hazards. A ground fault on a high-voltage DC service can sustain an arc that does not self-extinguish — unlike AC arcs, which extinguish at each zero crossing. GFPE for large DC services provides the essential fault detection and interruption capability that conventional overcurrent protection alone cannot provide for low-level ground faults.

Article 240 — Overcurrent Protection

Article 240 covers overcurrent protection requirements for conductors and equipment. The 2026 edition updated the OCPD definition, expanded GFPE requirements to DC systems, revised transformer secondary conductor tap rules, and expanded the prohibition on panelboards in bathrooms.

Revision – 240.2

OCPD Definition — Formally Defined with Qualifying Device List

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 240.2 now formally defines Overcurrent Protective Device (OCPD) with a list of qualifying devices in 240.7.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 240.2 was revised to formally define the term 'Overcurrent Protective Device (OCPD)' and reference the new Section 240.7 for the complete list of qualifying devices. The term 'Branch-Circuit Overcurrent Protective Device' has been replaced throughout Article 240 and the rest of the NEC with the simpler and more accurate 'Overcurrent Protective Device (OCPD).' New Section 240.7 provides the definitive list: solid-state circuit breakers, solid-state hybrid circuit breakers, molded-case circuit breakers, low-voltage circuit breakers, Edison-base fuses, cartridge fuses, and other circuit breakers listed for the application. Supplemental overcurrent protective devices are explicitly excluded.

❖ **Its E**ffect: The formal definition and qualifying device list in Section 240.7 establish a clear, consistent standard for what constitutes an OCPD under the NEC. The explicit exclusion of supplemental overcurrent protective devices is practically significant: equipment using supplemental fusing internally does not satisfy the OCPD requirements for the branch circuit or feeder supplying it. This prevents the misapplication of supplemental devices as substitutes for listed branch circuit overcurrent protection.

240.7 Listing of Overcurrent Protective Devices. Overcurrent protective devices shall be listed and shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) Solid-state circuit breakers; (2) Solid-state hybrid circuit breakers; (3) Molded-case circuit breakers; (4) Low-voltage circuit breakers; (5) Edison-base fuses; (6) Cartridge fuses; (7) Other circuit breakers listed for the application. Supplemental overcurrent protective devices shall not be considered OCPDs.

Revision – 240.13

Ground-Fault Protection of Equipment — Expanded to DC Systems

Change at a Glance: *Section 240.13 GFPE requirements expanded to include solidly grounded DC systems over 150V to ground with OCPDs rated 1000A or more.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 240.13, which previously addressed GFPE only for solidly grounded wye AC systems, was revised and expanded to include solidly grounded DC systems. The new subdivision (B) requires GFPE for solidly grounded DC electric systems where the system voltage exceeds 150 volts to ground but does not exceed 1500 volts DC line-to-line, and the OCPD is rated 1000 amperes or more. This expansion mirrors the DC GFPE provisions added to Articles 210, 215, and 230, creating a consistent and comprehensive framework for ground-fault protection across all levels of the electrical system — service, feeder, and branch circuit — for both AC and DC systems.

❖ **Its Effect:** The consistent expansion of GFPE to DC systems across Articles 210, 215, 230, and 240 reflects the NEC's systematic approach to harmonizing AC and DC requirements. As DC power distribution becomes more prevalent at all levels of building electrical systems, consistent GFPE requirements ensure that ground fault protection is provided everywhere it is needed, regardless of whether the system is AC or DC. The specific voltage and ampere thresholds (over 150V to ground, 1000A or more) focus the requirements on systems where ground fault hazards are most significant.

Revision – 240.21

Location in Circuit — Transformer Secondary Conductor Tap Rules Updated

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Sections 240.21(B)(3) and 240.21(C) updated to clarify transformer secondary conductor protection requirements.*

❖ **What Changed:** Sections 240.21(B)(3) and 240.21(C) on transformer secondary conductor tap protection were revised to clarify requirements and improve code structure. The revisions provide clearer guidance on when and how transformer secondary conductors must be protected against overcurrent, particularly for the 10-foot and 25-foot tap rules and for transformer secondary conductors protected by the transformer's primary OCPD. The revised language eliminates ambiguity about the relationship between primary OCPD sizing and secondary conductor ampacity, and improves usability by clearly defining when and how transformer secondary conductors must be protected.

❖ **Its Effect:** Transformer secondary conductor tap rules are among the most complex provisions in Article 240, and they are frequently misapplied in the field. The clarifications in 240.21(B)(3) and (C) help engineers and inspectors correctly apply the secondary conductor protection requirements, ensuring that secondary

❖ conductors are not undersized relative to the fault current available from the transformer secondary. Improperly protected transformer secondary conductors are a significant fire hazard in commercial and industrial facilities.

Revision – 240.24(E)

Panelboards in Bathrooms — Exception Added for Legacy Installations

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 240.24(E) prohibition on OCPDs in bathrooms now has an exception for circuits added to existing panelboards.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 240.24(E) prohibits overcurrent devices from being located in bathrooms. The 2026 NEC adds a new exception to this prohibition that addresses a common real-world problem: what to do when additional circuits are needed in a building that has a legacy panelboard already located in a bathroom. Under prior NEC language, it was unclear whether modifying or expanding such panels — even when code-compliant upon initial installation under a previous code edition — was permissible. The new exception permits the addition of circuits to an existing panelboard that is already located in a bathroom, provided the panelboard was lawfully installed under the code in effect at the time of installation. However, new panelboards may not be installed in bathrooms.

❖ **Its Effect:** The exception for legacy installations acknowledges the practical reality of building renovation work. Panelboards in bathrooms were common and permissible under older NEC editions, particularly in older homes, apartments, and commercial spaces where space was limited. Requiring removal or replacement of a lawfully installed bathroom panelboard when adding a circuit creates disproportionate cost and disruption compared to the marginal safety benefit. The exception permits continued use of existing installations while maintaining the prohibition on new bathroom panelboard installations.

Article 242 — Overvoltage Protection

Article 242 covers overvoltage protection requirements for surge-protective devices (SPDs). The 2026 edition added listing requirements, explicitly prohibited reconditioned SPDs, updated Type 2 SPD requirements, and clarified requirements for specific installation conditions including separately derived systems.

Revision – 242.2

Listing Requirements — All SPDs Must Be Listed

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *New Section 242.2 requires that all surge-protective devices be listed for their intended application.*

❖ **What Changed:** New Section 242.2 on listing requirements establishes that all SPDs installed under Article 242 must be listed for their specific application. This provision parallels the .2 listing requirements added throughout the 2026 NEC in virtually every article. An SPD must be listed as a Type 1, Type 2, or Type 3 device appropriate to its installation location — the type designation reflects where in the electrical system the SPD is installed relative to the service equipment and the degree of surge protection it provides. Type 1 SPDs are suitable for installation between the service entrance and the service disconnect; Type 2 SPDs are for downstream installations; Type 3 SPDs are point-of-use devices.

❖ **Its Effect:** The formal listing requirement ensures that SPDs used in premises wiring have been evaluated by a recognized testing laboratory for their surge suppression performance, safety under normal and fault conditions, and durability over their service life. Unlisted SPD products — whether imported counterfeits, unrated surge strips, or DIY assemblies — cannot be used in NEC-governed installations. The listing requirement creates an objective, verifiable standard for AHJ approval of SPD installations.

Revision – 242.3

Reconditioned SPDs and Surge Arresters — Explicitly Prohibited

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 242.3 explicitly prohibits the use of reconditioned SPDs and surge arresters.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 242.3 was revised to explicitly prohibit the use of reconditioned SPDs and surge arresters in all applications. SPDs work by diverting surge energy through metal oxide varistors (MOVs) and similar components that degrade with each surge event. After a significant surge, an SPD may appear functional while its surge suppression capability is substantially reduced. Reconditioning an SPD cannot restore the MOVs or other surge-absorbing components to their original performance characteristics because the degradation is internal and not visible. A 'reconditioned' SPD may provide little or no surge protection while appearing to be a functional device.

❖ **Its Effect:** The prohibition on reconditioned SPDs aligns with the overall 2026 NEC approach to safety-critical protective devices. Like GFCIs and AFCIs — which are also explicitly prohibited from reconditioning — SPDs are safety devices whose performance cannot be reliably verified after reconditioning. The invisible internal degradation that occurs during surge events means that a visually inspected, apparently functional reconditioned SPD may fail to provide any protection during the next surge event.

> 242.3 Reconditioned Equipment. Reconditioned surge-protective devices and surge arresters shall not be permitted.

Revision – 242.14

Type 2 SPDs — Installation in Separately Derived Systems

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 242.14 updated to clarify Type 2 SPD installation requirements in separately derived systems.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 242.14 on Type 2 SPD installation was updated to clarify requirements for separately derived systems (SDS). When an SPD is installed in a separately derived system — such as a transformer secondary, generator output, or solar PV inverter output system — it must be installed on the load side of the first OCPD in the SDS. This complies with transformer secondary conductor rules and ensures protection is applied at the correct transition point in the system. The revision eliminates the erroneous expectation that all SPD installations must comply with every condition simultaneously — the requirements apply based on where in the electrical system the SPD is located.

❖ **Its Effect:** Type 2 SPDs are the most common SPDs in premises wiring applications — they are installed at panelboards and distribution equipment downstream of the service equipment. In separately derived systems, the 'upstream service equivalent' is the OCPD on the primary or source side of the separately derived source. Installing the SPD on the load side of this first OCPD ensures that the SPD's surge diversion path is connected to the grounding and bonding system at the correct point, providing effective protection without creating parallel neutral-ground paths.

Note: A Type 2 SPD installed at a panelboard in a separately derived system provides protection for the loads supplied by that panelboard. For comprehensive surge protection, the service also requires a Type 1 or Type 2 SPD at the service equipment per Section 230.67.

Article 250 — Grounding and Bonding

Article 250 is the most comprehensive article in Chapter 2, covering all aspects of system grounding and equipment bonding. The 2026 edition made numerous targeted updates to improve clarity, accommodate modern installation methods, and address inconsistencies that had developed over multiple code cycles.

Revision – 250.4(A)(5)

Fundamental Grounding Requirement — Restructured into Distinct Subsections

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 250.4(A)(5) restructured from a dense paragraph into distinct, easy-to-reference components.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 250.4(A)(5), which covers the fundamental requirement for grounding path impedance to be low enough to enable proper operation of OCPDs and impedance-grounded system detectors, was restructured from a single dense paragraph into distinct, easy-to-reference components. The 2026 revision organizes the content into clearly labeled subdivisions covering: (a) the requirement for a low-impedance path for ground-fault current, (b) the connection to the grounding electrode system, and (c) the maintenance of a continuous grounding path. No substantive technical change was made to the requirements — the restructuring is organizational, making the requirements easier to apply in real-world situations during design, inspection, and plan review.

❖ **Its Effect:** The restructuring of 250.4(A)(5) addresses a long-standing usability issue. The previous single-paragraph format made it difficult to identify and reference specific aspects of the fundamental grounding requirement during inspections or plan reviews. The new structured format allows inspectors to cite specific components of the requirement when identifying deficiencies, and allows designers to address each component systematically in their design documentation.

Revision – 250.35(B)

Permanently Installed Generators — Nonseparately Derived Systems Clarified

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 250.35(B) clarified for nonseparately derived generator systems to eliminate bonding jumper confusion.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 250.35(B) on the grounding of permanently installed generators used as nonseparately derived systems was clarified. When a generator's neutral is switched by the transfer switch — making it a nonseparately derived system — the generator should NOT have a system bonding jumper installed at the generator. Instead, the utility grounding system provides the grounding for the combined system. The previous language led to confusion in interpretation, particularly during inspections and plan reviews, where the bonding requirements for nonseparately derived systems were unclear. The 2026 revision provides explicit, unambiguous language establishing when and where the system bonding jumper is — and is not — required.

❖ **Its Effect:** Generator grounding is one of the most frequently misapplied areas of the NEC. Installing a system bonding jumper at a nonseparately derived generator creates a parallel neutral-ground path that can cause current to flow on equipment grounding conductors and metal enclosures during normal operation — a potential shock hazard and a source of power quality problems. The clarification in 250.35(B) provides the definitive answer to the question of whether a bonding jumper is required at a nonseparately derived generator: it is not, because the utility grounding system already provides the required neutral-to-ground connection.

Revision – 250.53

Grounding Electrode Installation — Rod and Pipe Electrodes Updated

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 250.53 updated to require vertical installation of rod electrodes as the default method with new provisions for angled installation.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 250.53 on installation of grounding electrodes was updated for rod and pipe electrodes to require vertical installation as the standard method. The revision establishes that rod and pipe electrodes shall be installed vertically to a depth of at least 8 feet into the earth. An exception permits an angled installation of up to 45 degrees from vertical when rock bottom is encountered, and a further exception permits a horizontal installation when rock bottom prevents the angled installation from reaching the minimum depth. The 'start vertically' instruction enhances consistency with good engineering practices and prevents unnecessary reliance on less effective installation methods when vertical installation is achievable.

❖ **Its Effect:** The explicit 'start vertical' requirement eliminates inconsistent field practices where installers immediately opted for angled or horizontal rod installation without attempting vertical installation first. A vertically installed ground rod provides better contact with moist soil at depth, lower ground resistance, and more reliable long-term performance than angled or horizontal installations. The 45-degree and horizontal exceptions ensure that the electrode system can still be installed when rock or other obstructions prevent vertical installation, while encouraging the superior default method.

Revision – 250.64(C)

Grounding Electrode Conductor Runs — Irreversible Compression Connectors Added

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 250.64(C) updated to permit irreversible compression connectors as a splicing method for grounding electrode conductors.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 250.64(C) on grounding electrode conductor runs was updated to permit irreversible compression connectors as an accepted method for splicing grounding electrode conductors. Previously, the permitted methods for GEC splicing and connection were more limited. Irreversible compression connectors, also known as crimp connectors, use a die-set crimp tool to create a permanent, low-resistance mechanical connection that cannot be removed without destroying the connector. These connectors are marked with their listing and rated for the specific conductor sizes they join. The addition of irreversible compression connectors as a permitted GEC connection method reflects the widespread, reliable field use of these connectors in grounding applications.

❖ **Its Effect:** Irreversible compression connectors provide several advantages for GEC connections. The permanent connection ensures that the GEC cannot be accidentally loosened by vibration, thermal cycling, or tampering — a concern with set-screw connectors. The listed and marked compression connector provides objective verification that the connection is rated for the conductor sizes being joined. Field experience has demonstrated the reliability of compression connections in grounding applications, and their formal recognition in Section 250.64(C) provides a consistent, code-backed basis for their use.

Revision – 250.64(D)(1)

Grounding Electrode Conductor — Ferrous Metal Enclosure Requirements Updated

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 250.64(D)(1) updated with clearer requirements for GECs run in ferrous metal enclosures.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 250.64(D)(1) on grounding electrode conductors run in ferrous metal enclosures (raceways, armor, etc.) was updated to provide clearer, more specific requirements. When a GEC is run in a ferrous metal enclosure, the enclosure must be made electrically continuous from the point of attachment to the GEC at the cabinet or equipment to the grounding electrode. The requirements are structured into two subdivisions: subdivision (a) for ferrous metal systems, specifying three technical requirements: (1) the metallic pathway must be bonded at both ends, (2) the bonding must be accomplished using bonding locknuts, bonding bushings, or equivalent bonding methods, and (3) the ferrous metal enclosure must be electrically continuous; and subdivision (b) for nonferrous systems where different requirements apply.

❖ **Its Effect:** The two-subdivision structure improves on the former single-paragraph format by clearly distinguishing the different requirements that apply to ferrous versus nonferrous GEC enclosures. The ferrous metal requirements are particularly important because steel conduit and boxes create eddy current and inductive heating effects when a GEC passes through them — effects that are prevented by making the enclosure electrically continuous with the GEC. The bonding requirements in (D)(1)(a) ensure that the ferrous metal enclosure becomes part of the low-impedance grounding path rather than an inductive impedance in series with it.

Revision – 250.64(G)

GEC Enclosures — Ventilation and Drainage Opening Requirements

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 250.64(G) clarified regarding GEC enclosures with ventilation, mounting, or drainage openings.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 250.64(G) on enclosures used for GECs with ventilation, mounting, or drainage openings was clarified to reinforce requirements for environmental protection and mechanical integrity of electrical enclosures in GEC pathways. The clarification addresses the concern that enclosures with openings for ventilation, mounting hardware, or drainage may provide pathways for water, debris, or pests that could compromise the GEC connection over time. The updated language establishes that enclosures with such openings must still comply with all applicable protection requirements and must maintain the required protection for the GEC and its connections.

❖ **Its Effect:** The integrity of the grounding electrode conductor connection is fundamental to the performance of the entire grounding system. A GEC connection that is compromised by moisture, corrosion, or mechanical damage may not provide the low-impedance path required for effective fault clearing or lightning protection. The clarification in 250.64(G) reinforces that enclosure design must account for all environmental factors that could affect GEC connection integrity — not just initial installation quality.

Revision – 250.94

Intersystem Bonding Termination — Location and Accessibility Updated

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 250.94 updated to expand permitted IBT installation locations and improve accessibility requirements.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 250.94 on Intersystem Bonding Termination (IBT) devices was revised to expand the permitted installation locations for these critical bonding points. Previously, IBT devices were required to be installed in limited locations with some ambiguity about additional approved locations. The 2026 revision provides clearer language about where IBTs may be installed, including external to the service equipment enclosure, at meter enclosures, and at other accessible locations near the service equipment. The IBT must remain accessible for inspection and maintenance at all times. The updated requirements ensure that IBT connections for communications systems — telephone, cable TV, satellite, and broadband — are properly bonded to the building's grounding system.

❖ **Its Effect:** The IBT is the physical connection point where communications system grounding conductors are bonded to the building's grounding electrode system. This connection is essential for both lightning protection and electrical safety — it prevents voltage differences between the communications system ground and the electrical system ground that could damage equipment or create shock hazards. Expanding the permitted IBT locations reflects the variety of service entrance configurations encountered in modern construction and ensures that the IBT can be properly located regardless of the specific service equipment arrangement.

Revision – 250.102

Metallic Raceways as Bonding Jumpers — Listed Fittings Required

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 250.102 updated to require listed metallic fittings when a metallic raceway serves as a bonding jumper.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 250.102 on bonding jumpers was revised to address the use of metallic raceways as bonding jumpers. The revision establishes that when a section of non-flexible metallic raceway with listed metallic fittings serves as a bonding jumper, it must maintain continuous low-impedance electrical connectivity and meet material and installation requirements appropriate to the application. The phrase 'as permitted by' was replaced with 'in accordance with' to establish clear and mandatory language. This update fills a gap in bonding requirements by establishing clear specifications for metal components used with nonmetallic enclosures to ensure all metal parts are properly interconnected and capable of carrying fault current.

❖ **Its Effect:** The use of metallic raceways as bonding jumpers is a common and cost-effective practice — properly installed conduit provides a continuous low-impedance bonding path without the need for a separate bonding conductor. However, the requirement for listed metallic fittings is critical: unlisted fittings may not provide the reliable electrical continuity required for a bonding jumper. Loose or corroded fittings can create high-impedance connections that impair the fault clearing function of the bonding path.

Revision – 250.119

Equipment Grounding Conductor Identification — Green/Yellow Stripe Clarified

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Section 250.119 clarified regarding green/yellow striped conductors to prevent misidentification.*

❖ **What Changed:** Section 250.119 on identification of wire-type equipment grounding conductors was revised to clarify requirements for green conductors with yellow stripes. The green/yellow combination is reserved exclusively for equipment grounding conductors in IEC-standard systems and is increasingly encountered in imported equipment and multi-national facilities. The 2026 NEC clarifies that the green/yellow stripe conductor identification is reserved for EGCs and must not be used for other conductors. This change aims to prevent misidentification in the field, especially during troubleshooting or maintenance where the presence of a green/yellow-striped conductor might incorrectly be interpreted as a phase or neutral conductor by technicians familiar with different wiring color conventions.

❖ **Its Effect:** The green/yellow stripe convention for EGCs is the IEC standard used throughout Europe, Asia, and in IEC-standard equipment worldwide. As more international equipment is installed in U.S. facilities, the risk of misidentifying green/yellow conductors increases. A technician who incorrectly identifies a green/yellow EGC as a phase conductor could create a dangerous condition — either by energizing equipment enclosures or by interrupting grounding continuity while believing they are de-energizing a circuit. The clarification in 250.119 provides a definitive statement that green/yellow conductors are EGCs and must be treated as such.

Articles 265, 266, 267, 268 & 270 — Medium-Voltage Systems

The 2026 NEC replaced deleted Article 235 with five new standalone articles covering medium-voltage (over 1000V ac, 1500V dc) electrical systems. Each new article mirrors the corresponding Chapter 2 article for low-voltage systems, making the NEC structure for medium-voltage systems parallel to and consistent with the low-voltage framework that electrical professionals already know.

New – Article 265

Branch Circuits Over 1000 Volts AC, 1500 Volts DC — New Standalone Article

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Article 265 established as the new home for medium-voltage branch circuit requirements, formerly in Article 235.*

❖ **What Changed:** New Article 265 covers branch circuits operating over 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC nominal. The article parallels Article 210 for low-voltage branch circuits and provides requirements for

❖ medium-voltage branch circuit conductors, OCPDs, equipment, wiring methods, and disconnecting means. Key provisions include: replacement of the term 'branch-circuit panelboard' with 'branch-circuit distribution equipment' (more accurate for high-voltage systems where panelboards are not typically used); adoption of the OCPD terminology consistent with the rest of the 2026 NEC; new Section 265.23 for permissible loads on multiple-outlet medium-voltage branch circuits; and new Section 265.63 requiring a servicing receptacle for electrical equipment located indoors. Supervised installation provisions allow customized conductor sizing in engineering-designed systems.

❖ **Its Effect:** Article 265 provides medium-voltage professionals with branch circuit requirements in a format identical to the low-voltage Article 210 they already know. This eliminates the need to navigate the dense, mixed-topic former Article 235 and allows users to apply the same conceptual framework to medium-voltage branch circuits as they do to low-voltage branch circuits. The supervised installation provisions acknowledge that engineering-designed medium-voltage systems often have legitimate reasons for customized conductor sizing based on load profiles, temperature rise calculations, and system-specific criteria not addressable by general code tables.

New – Article 266

Feeders Over 1000 Volts AC, 1500 Volts DC — New Standalone Article

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Article 266 established for medium-voltage feeder requirements, paralleling Article 215 for low-voltage feeders.*

❖ **What Changed:** New Article 266 covers feeders operating over 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC nominal. The article parallels Article 215 for low-voltage feeders and consolidates medium-voltage feeder requirements formerly scattered in Article 235. Article 266 includes: feeder conductor sizing requirements, OCPD requirements for medium-voltage feeders, and new Section 266.4(C) for supervised installations that permit customized conductor sizing in engineering-designed systems under qualified supervision. The article requires that grounding and bonding designs for medium-voltage feeder systems be by qualified persons under engineering supervision.

❖ **Its Effect:** Medium-voltage feeders are commonly used in campus electrical distribution systems, large industrial facilities, utility-scale solar and storage installations, and data center power distribution. Having a dedicated article with requirements parallel to low-voltage feeder requirements enables engineers and inspectors to apply a consistent conceptual framework across the full voltage range of premises wiring systems. The engineering supervision requirement for grounding and bonding design reflects the greater complexity and hazard potential of medium-voltage systems.

New – Article 267

Outside Branch Circuits and Feeders Over 1000 Volts — New Standalone Article

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Article 267 established for medium-voltage outside branch circuits and feeders, paralleling Article 225.*

❖ **What Changed:** New Article 267 covers outside branch circuits and feeders operating over 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC nominal. The article parallels Article 225 for low-voltage outside branch circuits and feeders. Content relocated from former Article 395 (Outdoor Overhead Conductors Over 600V) was incorporated into Article 267, consolidating all outside medium-voltage conductor requirements in one location. While the 2026 update does not introduce significant technical changes to the requirements themselves, the relocation to a dedicated article improves clarity for users and aligns the code structure with the growing presence of premises-based medium-voltage infrastructure for campus, industrial, and utility applications.

❖ **Its Effect:** The consolidation of outside medium-voltage requirements from former Articles 235 and 395 into new Article 267 eliminates the need for code users to search multiple articles for requirements governing medium-voltage overhead and underground conductors between structures on a premises. Campus electrical distribution systems, industrial plant distribution feeders, and large EV charging infrastructure routinely use medium-voltage outside circuits that are now clearly governed by Article 267.

New – Article 268

Services Over 1000 Volts AC, 1500 Volts DC — New Standalone Article

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Article 268 established for medium-voltage service requirements, paralleling Article 230 for low-voltage services.*

❖ **What Changed:** New Article 268 covers services operating over 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC nominal. The article parallels Article 230 for low-voltage services and consolidates medium-voltage service requirements formerly found in Article 235. Key provisions include new Section 268.23(C) for supervised installations permitting customized service conductor sizing, Section 268.91(B) clarifying the placement of overcurrent protection for service conductors in medium-voltage applications, and requirements for the use of bolted or pressure-type connectors as the disconnection means for medium-voltage service equipment. Like Article 266, grounding and bonding designs must be by qualified persons under engineering supervision.

❖ **Its Effect:** Primary-voltage services — where utility power is delivered at 4160, 12,470, or 13,800 volts and stepped down to utilization voltage on the premises — are common in large commercial buildings, industrial facilities, and campuses. Article 268 provides a clear, organized framework for the requirements governing these primary service installations, enabling engineers and inspectors familiar with the Article 230 low-voltage service requirements to apply parallel concepts to medium-voltage services.

New – Article 270

Grounding and Bonding of Systems Over 1000 Volts — New Standalone Article

> ***Change at a Glance:*** *Article 270 established for medium-voltage grounding and bonding, paralleling Article 250 for low-voltage systems.*

❖ **What Changed:** New Article 270 covers grounding and bonding of systems operating over 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC nominal. The article parallels Article 250 for low-voltage grounding and bonding and consolidates medium-voltage grounding requirements formerly in Article 235. Key provisions include: Section 270.20 on system grounding for AC systems over 1000 volts (formerly 250.184), outlining three grounding options; new Section 270.5 on supervised installations; Section 270.122 on sizing of equipment grounding conductors for both wire-type EGCs and cables with metallic insulation shields; and provisions distinguishing metallic insulation shields and armor of medium-voltage cables as acceptable components in the ground-fault current return path.

❖ **Its Effect:** Medium-voltage grounding and bonding involves unique considerations not present in low-voltage systems, including the role of cable metallic insulation shields as ground-fault current return paths, the higher ground-fault currents available in medium-voltage systems, and the special equipment required for safe work on energized or recently de-energized medium-voltage conductors. Article 270 provides a comprehensive grounding and bonding framework appropriate to the hazards and system characteristics of medium-voltage electrical installations.

> *Note: The metallic insulation shield and armor of medium-voltage cables are permitted as components of the ground-fault current return path, but they are not equipment grounding conductors (EGCs). This distinction is important for sizing and installation requirements — see Section 270.122 for sizing requirements.*

Quiz Questions

1. **The 2026 NEC revised Section 200.6(A) to permit what new identification method for grounded conductors 6 AWG and smaller?**
    a) A colored stripe (not green) along the conductor length
    b) A green stripe along the conductor length
    c) Blue insulation as an alternative to white or gray
    d) A numbered tag at each termination point

2. **New Article 206 covers which type of circuit that was formerly addressed in Section 300.26?**
    a) Power-limited Class 2 and Class 3 circuits
    b) Fire alarm initiating device circuits
    c) Communications circuits in Chapter 8
    d) Non-power-limited remote-control and signaling circuits

3. **The 2026 revision to Section 210.8(A)(3) removed which qualification from the GFCI requirement for accessory building storage and work areas?**
    a) The requirement for receptacles to be within 6 feet of a sink
    b) The limitation to areas with floors at or below grade level
    c) The exception for HVAC equipment rated over 250 volts
    d) The requirement for weatherproof covers in wet locations

4. **New Section 210.8(F) requires GFCI protection for all outdoor outlets on which specific location that previously lacked a dedicated provision?**
    a) Detached garages
    b) Rooftops of one- and two-family dwellings and multifamily buildings
    c) Underground parking structures
    d) Swimming pool pump rooms

5. **Under the 2026 NEC, Section 210.24 now permits 16 AWG copper conductors for which specific application in dwelling units?**
    a) Lighting outlets and exhaust fans in bathrooms and laundry rooms
    b) General-purpose circuits in kitchens and dining areas
    c) Small appliance circuits in any habitable room
    d) All lighting circuits throughout a dwelling unit

6. **Section 210.52(A) was revised in 2026 to exclude which category universally from wall space measurements for receptacle outlet placement?**
    a) All windows, regardless of size
    b) All doorways wider than 36 inches
    c) All peninsular countertops over 24 inches wide
    d) All fixed cabinets, regardless of whether they have a countertop

7. **What does new Section 230.70(D) require to be installed at the service disconnecting means when other power sources exist on the premises?**
    a) A lockable switch to prevent unauthorized access to the service
    b) A plaque or directory identifying each additional power source and its location
    c) A separate GFCI-protected receptacle for utility meter reading
    d) An arc-flash warning label for all supply-side live parts

8. **The 2026 revision to Section 230.67 changed the SPD requirement for dwelling unit services from permissive to what?**
    a) Informational only — no longer enforceable
    b) Required only for services over 200 amperes
    c) Required only in coastal regions prone to lightning
    d) Mandatory for all new dwelling unit services

9. **Section 230.95 was expanded in 2026 to extend GFPE requirements to which additional system type for services rated 1000 amperes or more over 150V to ground?**
    a) Impedance-grounded wye systems
    b) Ungrounded AC systems
    c) Solidly grounded DC systems over 150V to ground but not exceeding 1500V dc line-to-line
    d) Single-phase systems only

10. **New Section 240.7 provides the definitive list of devices that qualify as OCPDs. Which of the following is specifically EXCLUDED from that list?**
    a) Molded-case circuit breakers
    b) Supplemental overcurrent protective devices
    c) Solid-state circuit breakers
    d) Edison-base fuses

11. **Section 215.10 was expanded in 2026 to require GFPE for which type of feeder disconnect not previously covered?**
    a) All feeder disconnects regardless of ampere rating
    b) Feeder disconnects on solidly grounded DC systems over 150V to ground rated 1000A or more
    c) Feeder disconnects serving swimming pools and marinas
    d) All feeder disconnects rated 200 amperes or more

12. **New Section 215.18 requires surge-protective devices for feeders supplying sleeping quarters in which specific type of facility?**
    a) Hotels and motels with more than 50 guest rooms
    b) Health care facilities with more than 25 patient beds
    c) College dormitories with more than 100 occupants
    d) Emergency service facilities such as fire stations, police stations, and ambulance stations

13. The 2026 NEC explicitly prohibits the reconditioning of which type of surge protection device under Section 242.3?

a) Only Type 1 SPDs rated for outdoor use
b) Only SPDs that have experienced a confirmed surge event
c) SPDs installed at services over 600 volts
d) All SPDs and surge arresters, regardless of type or voltage rating

14. Section 250.35(B) was clarified in 2026 regarding grounding of generators. When a generator is used as a NONseparately derived system (neutral switched), what should NOT be installed at the generator?

a) A GFPE device
b) A system bonding jumper
c) An equipment grounding conductor
d) An emergency disconnect

15. The 2026 revision to Section 250.53 on rod and pipe electrodes establishes vertical installation as the default. Under what condition is an angled installation of up to 45 degrees from vertical permitted?

a) When the installation is more than 3 feet from a building foundation
b) When the soil resistivity exceeds 1000 ohm-centimeters
c) When the electrode will be within 6 feet of a water main
d) When rock bottom is encountered during vertical installation

16. What new connection method was added to Section 250.64(C) as a permitted method for splicing grounding electrode conductors?

a) Mechanical set-screw connectors
b) Irreversible compression connectors
c) Clamp-type wire nuts
d) Thermite (exothermic) welding only — no other methods added

17. **Section 250.119 was clarified in 2026 regarding which conductor identification that must be reserved exclusively for equipment grounding conductors?**
    a) Solid green conductors only
    b) Green conductors with yellow stripes
    c) Gray conductors used in multi-wire branch circuits
    d) Orange conductors used for high-leg identification

18. **The five new medium-voltage articles (265–270) replaced which single article that previously covered all medium-voltage requirements?**
    a) Article 230
    b) Article 235
    c) Article 250
    d) Article 280

19. **Article 265 (Branch Circuits Over 1000V) replaces the term 'branch-circuit panelboard' with which more accurate term for medium-voltage systems?**
    a) Branch-circuit switchboard
    b) Branch-circuit motor control center
    c) Branch-circuit distribution equipment
    d) Branch-circuit load center

20. **Under Section 230.62(C), what change was made to barriers in service equipment enclosures to protect against inadvertent contact with supply-side live parts?**
    a) Barriers must now be constructed of listed insulating material only
    b) Barriers must be arranged so they cannot be removed without using tools
    c) All service equipment must have double barriers on the supply side
    d) Barriers must be color-coded red for the supply side