

## Chapter Comm 16

### ELECTRICAL, VOLUME 2

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**Note:** Chapter ILHR 16 as it existed on October 31, 1984 was repealed and a new chapter ILHR 16 was created effective November 1, 1984; Chapter ILHR 16 as it existed on February 29, 1988 was repealed and a new chapter ILHR 16 was created effective March 1, 1988; Chapter ILHR 16 as it existed on October 31, 1990, was repealed and a new chapter ILHR 16 was created effective November 1, 1990. Chapter ILHR 16 was renumbered chapter Comm 16 under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., and corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, August, 1996, No. 488.

#### Subchapter I — Administration and Enforcement

**Comm 16.01 Purpose.** (1) PRACTICAL SAFEGUARDING. Pursuant to ss. 101.02 (1), 101.63 (1), 101.73 (1), 101.82 (1) and 101.865, Stats., the purpose of this chapter is the practical safeguarding of persons and property from hazards arising from the installation and use of electricity.

**Note:** Hazards often occur because of overloading of wiring systems by methods or usage not in conformity with this chapter. This occurs because initial wiring did not provide for increases in the use of electricity. An adequate initial installation and reasonable provisions for system changes will provide for future increases in the use of electricity.

(2) CODE INTENTION. This chapter is not intended as a design specification or as an instruction manual.

**Note:** The Wisconsin state electrical code is issued and administered by the department and by the public service commission as part of the Wisconsin administrative code. The department has the responsibility for issuance and administration of Volume 2 as contained in this chapter, and the public service commission has the responsibility for issuance and administration of Volume 1 as contained in ch. PSC 114.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90

**Comm 16.02 Scope.** (1) COVERED. This chapter covers:

(a) Installations of electric and communication conductors and equipment in places of employment, within or on public and private buildings or other structures, including mobile homes, recreational vehicles, and floating buildings; and other premises such as yards, carnivals, parking and other lots, mines, trenches and tunnels, and industrial substations.

(b) Installations of conductors and equipment that connect to the supply of electricity.

(c) Installations of other outside conductors and equipment on the premises.

(d) Installations of optical fiber cable.

(e) Installations in buildings used by the electric utility, such as office buildings, warehouses, garages, machine shops and rec-

reational buildings, that are not an integral part of a generating plant, substation or control center.

(2) NOT COVERED. This chapter does not cover:

(a) Installations of electric conductors and equipment in ships, watercraft other than floating buildings, railway rolling stock, aircraft, or automotive vehicles other than mobile homes and recreational vehicles.

(b) Installations of electric conductors and equipment for generation, transformation or distribution of power used exclusively by railways for signaling and communication purposes.

(c) Installations of communication equipment under exclusive control of communication utilities, located outdoors or in building spaces used exclusively for such installations.

(d) Installations, including associated lighting, under the exclusive control of electric utilities for the purpose of communications, metering, generation, control, transformation, transmission or distribution of electric energy. Such installations shall be located in buildings used exclusively by utilities for such purposes; outdoors on property owned or leased by the utility; on or along public highways, streets, roads or similar public thoroughfares; or outdoors on private property by established rights such as easements.

(e) Installations for the purpose of street or area lighting owned and under exclusive control of electrical utilities or municipal electric departments where located outdoors on property owned or leased by the utility; on or along public highways, streets, roads or similar public thoroughfares; or outdoors on private property by established rights of easement, where such installations are in compliance with ch. PSC 114.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. (1) (b) and (c), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94; cr. (1) (e), r. and recr. (2) (d), (e), Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

**Comm 16.03 Application of rules.** (1) TYPES OF INSTALLATIONS. The provisions of this chapter apply to all new installations, reconstructions, alterations and extensions.

(2) TESTING. Rooms which are used exclusively for routine or special electrical test work and are under the supervision of a qualified person, shall comply with this chapter where practicable for the character of the testing done.

**(3) EXISTING INSTALLATIONS.** Installations existing on the effective date of this chapter may be required to be brought into compliance with this chapter by the department and within the time period determined by the department.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**Comm 16.04 Authority. (1) DEPARTMENT AUTHORITY.** The department shall have the authority and responsibility for interpreting this chapter and the National Electrical Code, and granting special permission as specified in this chapter. A formal interpretation of this chapter shall remain in effect until rescinded or changed or until the edition of the National Electrical Code is changed in s. Comm 16.12.

**(2) MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY.** Municipalities may exercise jurisdiction over inspection of electrical construction covered by the scope of this chapter. For public buildings and places of employment, s. Comm 17.13 (2) specifies the conditions required for municipalities to exercise this jurisdiction.

**Note:** Section Comm 20.02 (1) (a) prohibits any municipality from adopting an ordinance establishing restrictions on the electrical construction of one- and two-family dwellings covered by the Uniform Dwelling Code.

**Note:** Subsection (2) provides municipalities with the authority to enforce this chapter and the National Electrical Code. See sub. (1) for the authority for interpreting the rules of this chapter and the National Electrical Code.

**Note:** Section Comm 66.04 (1) (a) prohibits any municipality from adopting an ordinance establishing restrictions on the electrical construction of multifamily dwellings covered by the Uniform Multifamily Dwelling Code.

**(3) PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM INSPECTIONS.** All inspections performed for a municipality, independent inspection agency or the department for the purpose of administering and enforcing this chapter shall be performed by a certified inspector.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. (1), Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

**Comm 16.05 Petition for variance. (1) PROCEDURE.** The department shall consider and may grant a variance to a provision contained in this chapter upon receipt of a fee and a completed petition for variance form from the owner and, where applicable, a completed position statement from the chief of the local fire department, provided an equivalent degree of safety or health is established in the petition for variance which meets the intent of the rule from which the variance is requested. The department may impose specific conditions in a petition for variance to promote the protection of the health, safety or welfare of the employees or the public. Violation of those conditions under which the variance is granted constitutes a violation of this chapter.

**(2) PETITION PROCESSING TIME.** Except for priority petitions, the department shall review and make a determination on a petition for variance within 30 business days of receipt of all calculations, documents and fees required to complete the review. The department shall process priority petitions within 10 business days of receipt of the required items.

**Note:** The petition for variance application form (SBD-9890) is available from the Safety and Buildings Division, Customer Service Center, P.O. Box 7969, Madison, Wisconsin 53707, telephone 608/266-3151.

**Note:** Section 101.02 (6), Stats., and ch. Comm 3 outline the procedures for submitting petitions to the department and the department's procedures for hearing petitions.

**Note:** See ch. Comm 2 for fee requirements relating to petitions.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**Comm 16.06 Penalties.** Penalties for violations of this chapter shall be assessed in accordance with s. 101.02 (12) and (13), Stats.

**Note:** Section 101.02 (13) (a), Stats., indicates penalties will be assessed against any employer, employee, owner or other person who fails or refuses to perform any duty lawfully enjoined, within the time prescribed by the department, for which no penalty has been specifically provided, or who fails, neglects or refuses to comply with any lawful order made by the department, or any judgment or decree made by any court in connection with ss. 101.01 to 101.25, Stats. For each violation, failure or refusal, the employee, owner or other person must forfeit and pay into the state treasury a sum not less than \$10 nor more than \$100 for each violation.

**Note:** Section 101.02 (12), Stats., indicates that every day during which any person, persons, corporation or any officer, agent or employee thereof, fails to observe and comply with an order of the department will constitute a separate and distinct violation of such order.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**Comm 16.07 Appeals. (1) APPEAL OF LOCAL ORDER.**

Any person affected by a local order which may be in conflict with a provision of this chapter may petition the department for a hearing on the grounds that the local order is unreasonable and in conflict with the provision of this chapter. All appeals shall be acted on and a decision in writing shall be issued by the department within 30 business days of receiving an appeal.

**Note:** Section 101.01 (1) (f), Stats., defines "local order" as any ordinance, order, rule or determination of any common council, board of aldermen, board of trustees or the village board, of any village or city, or the board of health of any municipality, or an order or direction of any official of such municipality, upon any matter over which the department has jurisdiction.

**(2) PETITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULE.** Pursuant to s. 227.12, Stats., any municipality, corporation or any 5 or more persons having an interest in an administrative rule may petition the department requesting the adoption, amendment or repeal of the rule.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**Subchapter II — General Requirements**

**Comm 16.08 Construction and operation. (1) GENERAL.** All electrical power and communication equipment and lines shall be constructed, installed, operated and maintained so as to minimize hazards to life and property. All electrical installations shall conform to the National Electrical Code, incorporated by reference in this chapter, and the requirements specified in this chapter.

**Note:** The federal and state Fair Housing Acts, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code (Chs. Comm 50 to 64) contain requirements relating to making buildings accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. Some of those requirements apply to the installation of various electrical devices. For example, in the federal fair housing accessibility guidelines, devices such as light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats and other environmental controls would meet the requirements if operable parts of the controls are located no higher than 48 inches, and no lower than 15 inches, above the floor. If the reach is over an obstruction between 20 and 25 inches in depth, the maximum height is reduced to 44 inches for forward approach; or 46 inches for side approach, provided the obstruction is no more than 24 inches in depth. Complete copies of the federal Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines or the federal Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, New Orders, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.

**(2) INSTALLATIONS OVER 600 VOLTS.** Installations over 600 volts shall, in addition to the requirements of this chapter, comply with ch. PSC 114.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**Comm 16.09 Inspection and maintenance.** All electrical installations and equipment shall be cleaned and inspected at intervals as experience has shown to be necessary. Any equipment or electrical installation known to be defective so as to endanger life or property shall be promptly repaired, permanently disconnected, or isolated until repairs can be made. Construction, repairs, additions and changes to electrical equipment and conductors shall be made by qualified persons only.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**Comm 16.10 Electrical inspection of public buildings and places of employment.** Inspection of electrical construction relating to public buildings and places of employment shall comply with the requirements of ch. Comm 17, subch. II.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**Comm 16.11 Use of approved materials and construction methods. (1) MATERIALS.** Materials which do not comply with the requirements of this chapter shall not be used unless approved by the department. The department shall approve materials, devices and systems which are listed by the following organizations, providing they do not conflict with the requirements of this chapter:

- (a) Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.;
- (b) Canadian Standards Association;
- (c) ETL Testing Laboratories, Inc.;
- (d) Applied Research Laboratories;
- (e) Factory Mutual Research Corporation;

(f) American Gas Association, for equipment tested under applicable ANSI or UL standards; and

(g) Other nationally recognized testing laboratories approved by the department.

**Note:** In approving other testing laboratories, items that may be evaluated include qualifications of the staff, laboratory facilities, testing and follow-up procedures, and national recognition.

(2) **METHODS OF INSTALLATION.** Methods of installation which do not comply with the regulations of this chapter shall not be used unless approved by the department.

(3) **NEW PRODUCTS, CONSTRUCTIONS OR MATERIALS.** The incorporated National Electrical Code may require new products, constructions or materials which may not be available at the time this chapter is adopted. In such event, the department may permit the use of the products, constructions or materials which comply with a previous edition of the National Electrical Code.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

### Comm 16.12 Adoption of standards by reference.

(1) **CONSENT TO INCORPORATE.** (a) Pursuant to s. 227.21, Stats., the attorney general and the revisor of statutes have consented to the incorporation by reference of the National Electrical Code, NEC-1996, subject to those changes, additions, or omissions specified in subch. III.

(b) The National Electrical Code, NEC-1996, subject to the changes, additions or omissions specified in subch. III is hereby incorporated by reference into this chapter.

(2) **INTERIM AMENDMENTS.** Interim amendments of the National Electrical Code will have no effect in this state until such time as this chapter is correspondingly revised to reflect those changes.

**Note:** Copies of the National Electrical Code can be obtained from the National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269, telephone 1-800-344-3555.

**Note:** Copies of the National Electrical Code are on file in the offices of the department, the secretary of state and the revisor of statutes.

**Note:** The public service commission has similarly adopted the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) with certain deletions, changes and additions which are found in Volume 1, Electrical Code, ch. PSC 114. Copies of ch. PSC 114 may be ordered from the Wis. Department of Administration, Document Sales and Distribution, 202 S. Thornton Ave., Madison, WI 53702. Copies of the NESC may be purchased from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., 345 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. (1), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94; am. (1), Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

## Subchapter III—Changes, Additions or Omissions to NEC

**Comm 16.15 Changes, additions or omissions to NEC.** Changes, additions or omissions to the National Electrical Code (NEC) are specified in this subchapter and are rules of the department and not requirements of the NEC.

**Note:** The referenced NEC article or section number, located in brackets, will follow the Comm designation and title and precede the text of the rule. Example: Comm 16.18 [NEC 110-3]

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

### ARTICLE 90— INTRODUCTION

**Comm 16.16 Purpose, scope and enforcement [NEC 90].** The following sections of the NEC do not apply in Wisconsin.

(1) **PURPOSE** [NEC 90-1].

(2) **SCOPE** [NEC 90-2].

(3) **ENFORCEMENT** [NEC 90-4].

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

### ARTICLE 100— DEFINITIONS

**Comm 16.17 Definitions [NEC 100].** (1) **ADDITIONS.** The following are department definitions in addition to the definitions in NEC Article 100:

(a) “Department” means the department of commerce.

(b) “Floors” means stories as specified in chs. Comm 50 to 64 and 66.

(2) **SUBSTITUTIONS.** The following department definitions are substitutions for the respective definitions in NEC Article 100:

(a) “Building” means a structure which stands alone or which is separated from adjoining structures by fire walls having not less than a 3-hour fire-resistive rating with all openings in the wall protected with 3-hour fire-rated door assemblies.

**Note:** See s. Comm 51.04 for fire-resistive standards.

(b) “Special permission” means the written consent of the department.

**Note:** Special permission is different from a petition for variance. The use of the special permission procedure is only allowed where specifically stated in this chapter or the NEC.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; r. and recr., Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

### ARTICLE 110— REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

**Comm 16.18 Installation and use [NEC 110-3].** Substitute the following wording for NEC 110-3 (b):

Listed or labeled equipment shall be installed or used, or both, in accordance with any instructions included in the listing or labeling, provided the instructions, listing or labeling do not conflict with this chapter.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; r. and recr., Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

### ARTICLE 210— BRANCH CIRCUITS

**Comm 16.185 Multiwire branch circuits [NEC 210-4].** This is a department informational note to be used under NEC 210-4 (d):

For 277/480 volt systems, the recommended wire colors are brown, orange and yellow. For 120/208 volt systems, the recommended wire colors are black, red and blue.

**History:** Cr. Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94.

**Comm 16.22 Dwelling unit receptacle outlets [NEC 210-52].** (2) **OUTDOOR OUTLETS** [NEC 210-52 (e)]. This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 210-52 (e):

For a multi-family dwelling, at least one receptacle outlet accessible at grade level and not more than 6 feet 6 inches above grade shall be installed outdoors for each dwelling unit which is at grade level and which has individual exit doors to grade.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; r. (1), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94; am. (2), Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

### ARTICLE 220— BRANCH-CIRCUIT AND FEEDER CALCULATIONS

**Comm 16.23 Branch circuits required [NEC 220-4].** This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 220-4:

Where an air conditioner sleeve is provided in a building wall, a receptacle outlet shall be located within 4 feet of the sleeve. If a circuit is not run to the outlet, a raceway shall be provided. When the air conditioner is installed in the sleeve, it shall be supplied by an individual branch circuit. A receptacle outlet installed for an air conditioner shall not be counted as one of the receptacles required by NEC 210-52 (a).

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

## ARTICLE 225—

## OUTSIDE BRANCH CIRCUITS AND FEEDERS

**Comm 16.24 Outside branch circuits and feeders [NEC 225].** (1) CLEARANCE FROM GROUND [NEC 225-18]. (a) This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 225-18:

Conductors of not over 600 volts nominal shall have a clearance of at least 24.5 feet over track rails of railroads.

(b) Substitute the following wording for the note to NEC 225-18:

**Note:** For clearances of conductors of over 600 volts, see ch. PSC 114.

(2) CLEARANCES FROM BUILDINGS FOR CONDUCTORS NOT OVER 600 VOLTS [NEC 225-19]. (b) Substitute the following wording for NEC 225-19 (a) Exception No. 4:

Exception No. 4. The requirement for maintaining the vertical clearance 3 feet from the edge of the roof shall not apply to the final conductor span to the building.

(c) Substitute the following wording for the note to NEC 225-19:

**Note:** See ch. PSC 114 regarding clearances of conductors of over 600 volts and for prohibition of constructing dwellings under or near overhead lines.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. (1) (a), r. (2) (a), r. and recr. (2) (b), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94; am. (1) (b), Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

## ARTICLE 230—

## SERVICES

**Comm 16.25 Services [NEC 230].** (1) NUMBER OF SERVICES [NEC 230-2]. (a) These are department informational notes to be used under NEC 230-2 (a):

**Note:** See definition of building in s. Comm 16.17.

**Note:** It is recommended that the electric utility or cooperative supplying electric current be contacted prior to service equipment installations for any special requirements.

(b) Substitute the following wording for NEC 230-2 (a), Exception No. 5:

Exception No. 5. Two or more service drops or laterals may be installed for the same class of service if located more than 150 feet apart, measured in a straight line, and provided that all electrical wiring supplied by each service has no common raceway or connection with any other service.

(c) This is a department exception in addition to the exceptions of NEC 230-2 (a):

Exception No. 8. For rowhouse construction as defined in ch. Comm 66, a separate service drop or lateral shall be permitted for each 2 attached units.

(2m) NUMBER OF SERVICE-ENTRANCE CONDUCTOR SEIS [NEC 230-40]. NEC 230-40 Exception No. 3 does not apply in Wisconsin.

(3) SIZE AND RATING [NEC 230-42]. (a) Substitute the following wording for NEC 230-42 (b) (1) and (2):

1. 100-ampere, 3-wire or 4-wire for a one-family dwelling requiring more than three 2-wire branch circuits or having an area of more than 500 square feet based on external dimensions.

2. 150-ampere, 3-wire or 4-wire for a 2-family or multi-family dwelling. Where the total rating of all service entrance conductors is 150 amperes or larger, each dwelling unit shall have a minimum of 50 amperes, 3-wire service or feeder.

(b) This is a department rule in addition to the exceptions listed in NEC 230-42 (b):

A 100-ampere, 3-wire or 4-wire service shall be permitted to be installed in an existing 2-family dwelling only where both of the following conditions are complied with:

1. The load computed in accordance with NEC 220 does not exceed 80 amperes.

2. Specific written approval is granted by the municipal inspection department having jurisdiction.

(4) LOCATION [NEC 230-70 (a)]. Substitute the following wording for the first paragraph of NEC 230-70 (a):

(a) The service disconnecting means shall be installed at a readily accessible location either outside of a building or structure, or inside nearest the point of entrance of the service conductors. Except as provided in par. (b), raceways containing service conductors or cables, or service entrance cable not contained within a raceway, shall not extend longer than 8 feet into a building to the service disconnect or the first service disconnect of a group of disconnects as permitted by NEC 230-71. The raceways or conductors shall be considered to have entered the building at the point where they pass through the outer surface of the building exterior, except as permitted by NEC 230-6.

(b) Service entrance busway shall be permitted to exceed 8 feet.

(5) GENERAL [NEC 230-70]. This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 230-70:

Disconnecting means shall be provided to disconnect the utility wiring from the premises wiring at any point where utility wiring terminates and premises wiring extends overhead or underground to more than one building or structure.

(6) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DISCONNECTS [NEC 230-71]. These exceptions are department rules in addition to the exception in NEC 230-71 (a):

(a) *Exception No. 1.* Individual dwelling units shall have a single main disconnecting means for each metered service, except services rated 300 amperes or more shall be permitted to have 2 service disconnecting means.

(b) *Exception No. 2.* Additional disconnecting means installed on individual dwelling units as permitted for different uses, such as for different rate schedules, permitted by NEC 230-2 Exception No. 6, shall be allowed to remain should subsequent changes in use occur.

(c) *Exception No. 3.* Not more than 6 circuit breakers shall be permitted to be installed in existing dual or split bus service panelboards installed prior to February 1, 1968.

(7) RATING OF DISCONNECT [NEC 230-79]. Substitute the following wording for NEC 230-79 (c):

(a) *One-family dwellings.* For one-family dwellings requiring more than three 2-wire branch circuits or having an area of more than 500 square feet based on external dimensions, the service equipment shall have a rating of not less than 100 amperes, 3-wire or 4-wire.

(b) *Two- or multi-family dwellings.* Except as provided in par. (c), for 2-family or multi-family dwellings, the service equipment shall have a rating of not less than 150 amperes, 3-wire or 4-wire. Where the combined rating of all service disconnecting means is 150 amperes or larger, the service or feeder equipment rating for each dwelling unit shall have a rating of not less than 50 amperes.

(c) *Exception.* Service equipment having a rating of not less than 100 amperes, 3-wire or 4-wire, shall be permitted to be installed in an existing 2-family dwelling only where both of the following conditions are complied with:

1. The load computed in accordance with NEC 220 does not exceed 80 amperes.

2. Specific written approval is granted by the municipal inspection department having jurisdiction.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; r. (8), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94; r. and recr. (1) (a), (4), am. (1) (b), (c), (6) (intro.), r. (2), cr. (2m), Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

## ARTICLE 250—

## GROUNDING

**Comm 16.26 Service equipment [NEC 250-71].** This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 250-71 (b):

Bonding to other systems shall not be done on or within a metering enclosure unless a means of bonding, intended for inter-system bonding, is furnished as part of a listed joint-use metering enclosure.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

**Comm 16.27 Grounding electrode system [NEC 250-81].** These are department rules in addition to the requirements of NEC 250-81 (a):

(1) **BONDING TO SERVICE-ENTRANCE CONDUCTOR.** For services supplying one- or two-family dwelling units, the supplemental electrode shall be bonded to the grounded service-entrance conductor within a service equipment enclosure. Where the service equipment is at different locations, this bond shall be made at a location common to both services or at each service equipment location.

(2) **TWO SUPPLEMENTAL ELECTRODES.** For one- and two-family dwellings, where the supplemental electrode required by NEC 250-81 (a) consists of made electrodes specified in NEC 250-83, not less than 2 supplemental made electrodes shall be installed.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

#### ARTICLE 300— WIRING METHODS

**Comm 16.28 Electrical requirements for private sewage systems [NEC 300].** These department rules apply to private sewage systems and are in addition to the requirements of NEC 300:

(1) **WIRING METHODS.** All effluent pump circuit wiring shall comply with the approved wiring methods as specified in NEC 300 and the following requirements:

(a) Effluent pumps shall be supplied by a separate branch circuit supplying no other loads;

(b) Alarm wiring shall not be connected to the pump circuit;

(c) All aboveground cables and flexible cords shall be enclosed to protect against physical damage; and

(d) The neutral conductor shall not be common to both alarm and pump circuits.

**Note:** This prohibits use of a multi-wire branch circuit to supply both the alarm and pump.

(2) **CONDUCTOR CONNECTIONS.** A wiring enclosure for alarm and pump circuit connections shall be provided outside of and within 3 feet of the pump chamber and holding tank as follows:

(a) Circuit terminations, connections and splices shall not be located within the pump chamber or holding tank.

(b) Openings into the pump chamber for circuit wiring shall be sealed or plugged to prevent passage of gas.

(3) **DISCONNECTING MEANS.** Disconnecting means shall be installed outside of and within 3 feet of the pump chamber to disconnect the alarm and pump circuit wiring.

**Note:** The disconnecting means is normally located within the wiring enclosure required by sub. (2).

(4) **GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT PROTECTION.** A single receptacle located at the pump chamber that has an alarm or pump connected to it does not require ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. (2) (intro.), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94; am. (intro.), (2) (a), Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

**Comm 16.29 Protection against physical damage [NEC 300-4].** Section NEC 300-4 (d) does not apply in Wisconsin.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**Comm 16.295 Raceways exposed to different temperatures [NEC 300-7].** This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 300-7 (a):

Where portions of raceways pass from an interior location to an exterior location, the raceways shall be sealed to reduce the circulation of air through the raceways.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

#### ARTICLE 310— CONDUCTORS FOR GENERAL WIRING

**Comm 16.30 Ampacity [NEC 310-15]. (1) DWELLING SERVICES [NEC TABLES 310-16 THROUGH 310-19].** These are department rules in addition to the requirements of Note 3 to NEC Tables 310-16 through 310-19:

(b) When using Note 3 and the conductors are installed in a raceway, the raceway trade size shall be a minimum of one inch in diameter.

(2) **AMPACITY ADJUSTMENT FACTORS [NEC TABLES 310-16 THROUGH 310-19].** This is a department exception in addition to the exceptions specified in Note 8 (a) to NEC Tables 310-16 through 310-19:

Exception No. 6. The derating factors shown above do not apply to branch circuits supplying an individual dwelling unit.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; r. (1) (a), am. (2), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94.

#### ARTICLE 336— NONMETALLIC-SHEATHED CABLE

**Comm 16.325 Exposed work—general [NEC 336-6].** Substitute the following wording for NEC 336-6 (intro.):

In exposed work, the cable shall be installed as specified in (a) and (b) below.

**History:** Cr. Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94; am. Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

#### ARTICLE 348— ELECTRICAL METALLIC TUBING

**Comm 16.33 Use [NEC 348-1].** This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 348-1:

Electrical metallic tubing shall not be used in direct contact with earth, in concrete slabs or floors poured on earth, or in exterior concrete walls below grade.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

#### ARTICLE 370— OUTLET, DEVICE, PULL AND JUNCTION BOXES, CONDUIT BODIES AND FITTINGS

**Comm 16.34 Conductors entering boxes, conduit bodies, or fittings [NEC 370-17].** This is a department exception in addition to the requirements of NEC 370-17 (b) and (c):

Exception. Cable shall not be required to be secured to the box or cabinet where it is enclosed within a raceway for mechanical protection providing the cable is secured within 12 inches of where it leaves the raceway. The raceway shall be at least 12 inches in length and sealed to prevent entrance of foreign materials.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

**Comm 16.35 In wall or ceiling [NEC 370-20].** This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 370-20:

A wall with wood studs covered by plaster or gypsum board is considered to be a wall of noncombustible material for the purposes of NEC 370-20.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

**Comm 16.355 Outlet boxes [NEC 370-27].** This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 370-27 (a):

In a dwelling unit, a ceiling outlet box installed for use as a lighting fixture outlet in a habitable room and located where a ceiling fan could be installed shall be a type listed for ceiling fan support.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

**ARTICLE 373—  
CABINETS AND CUTOUT BOXES**

**Comm 16.36 Conductors entering cabinets or cut-out boxes [NEC 373-5].** This is a department exception in addition to the requirements of NEC 373-5(c):

Exception. Cable shall not be required to be secured to the box or cabinet where it is enclosed within a raceway for mechanical protection providing the cable is secured within 12 inches of where it leaves the raceway. The raceway shall be at least 12 inches in length and sealed to prevent entrance of foreign materials.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**ARTICLE 400—  
FLEXIBLE CORDS AND CABLES**

**Comm 16.37 Uses not permitted [NEC 400-8].** This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 400-8:

Flexible cords and cables shall not be used above suspended ceilings.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; r. and recr. Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94.

**ARTICLE 450—  
TRANSFORMERS AND TRANSFORMER VAULTS**

**Comm 16.39 Transformers and transformer vaults [NEC 450]. (3) LOCATION [NEC 450-41].** Substitute the following wording for NEC 450-41:

Vaults containing oil-insulated transformers shall be located where they can be ventilated to the outside air without using flues or ducts, except where special permission is granted.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; r. (2), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94; r. (1), Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

**Comm 16.395 Circuit disconnects [NEC 514-5].** Substitute the following wording for NEC 514-5 (b):

At attended self-service stations, emergency controls as specified in NEC 514-5 (a) shall be installed at a location acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction. Where such controls are located over 100 feet from any dispenser, a two-way means of communication shall be provided between all dispenser locations and the attendant's area.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

**ARTICLE 514—  
GASOLINE DISPENSING AND SERVICE STATIONS**

**Comm 16.40 Underground wiring [NEC 514-8].** NEC 514-8 Exception No. 2 does not apply in Wisconsin.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90

**ARTICLE 518—  
PLACES OF ASSEMBLY**

**Comm 16.41 Wiring methods [NEC 518-4]. (1) WIRING METHODS [NEC 518-4].** Substitute the following wording for NEC 518-4 Exception No. 1:

Exception No. 1. Nonmetallic-sheathed cable, Type AC cable, electrical nonmetallic tubing, and rigid nonmetallic conduit shall be permitted to be installed in those buildings that are classified as Type 7 or 8 construction in accordance with s. Comm 51.03.

**(2) OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION [NEC 518-4].** This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 518-4:

The wiring methods required by this section shall apply to the entire area within each assembly hall occupancy classification as specified in ch. Comm 55 and to places of assembly in connection with ch. Comm 56 occupancies.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**ARTICLE 547—  
AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS**

**Comm 16.42 Grounding, bonding and equipotential plane [NEC 547-8]. (1) GROUNDING AND BONDING [NEC 547-8 (a)].** (a) This is a department informational note to be used under NEC 547-8 (a) Exception No. 1c:

**Note:** A pole-top disconnect is recognized as the service disconnecting means required by this section

(b) NEC 547-8 (a) Exception No. 2 does not apply in Wisconsin.

**(2) CONCRETE EMBEDDED ELEMENTS [NEC 547-8 (b)].** Substitute the following wording for the first paragraph of NEC 547-8 (b):

Wire mesh or other conductive elements, if installed in the concrete floor of livestock confinement areas, shall be bonded to the building grounding electrode system to provide an equipotential plane that has a voltage gradient at entrances and exits. The bonding conductor shall be copper, insulated, covered or bare, and not smaller than No. 8. The means of bonding to wire mesh or conductive elements shall be by pressure connectors or clamps of brass, copper, copper alloy, or an equally substantial approved means.

**(3) PHYSICAL PROTECTION [NEC 547-10].** Substitute the following wording for NEC 547-10:

All electrical wiring and equipment shall be protected where exposed to physical damage in the areas defined in NEC 547-1 (a) and (b).

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; r. (2) and (3), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94; cr. (2), (3), Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

**ARTICLE 680—  
SWIMMING POOLS, FOUNTAINS, AND  
SIMILAR INSTALLATIONS**

**Comm 16.44 Overhead conductor clearances [NEC 680-8].** Substitute the following wording for NEC 680-8 Exception No. 1:

Exception No. 1. Structures listed in NEC 680-8 shall be permitted under utility-owned-operated-maintained supply lines or service drops where such installations provide the clearances specified in ch. PSC 114.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**ARTICLE 700—  
EMERGENCY SYSTEMS**

**Comm 16.45 Emergency systems [NEC 700]. (1) TRANSFER EQUIPMENT [NEC 700-6].** Substitute the following wording for the second paragraph of NEC 700-6:

Means shall be permitted to isolate the transfer switch equipment. Where bypass switches are used in conjunction with isolation switches, interlocks shall be provided to prevent any combination of switches from being closed which would result in parallel operation.

**(2) WIRING, EMERGENCY SYSTEM [NEC 700-9].**

(b) This is a department rule in addition to the requirements of NEC 700-9 (b):

1. Except as provided in subd. 2., emergency circuit wiring shall be in listed raceways or Type MC cable.

2. Emergency lighting fixtures may use flexible cord connections for the following 2 types of fixtures:

a. The fixture shall be the high intensity discharge type with instant restrike or quartz lighting. The fixture shall be provided with internal control to ensure the area is lighted. The fixture mounting height shall exceed 15 feet. The fixture operating volt-

age shall be 208 volts or greater. The cord cap and receptacle shall be of the twist-lock type.

b. The fixture shall be a listed electric discharge type. The fixture shall incorporate cord and canopy connection.

(c) NEC 700-9 (c) does not apply in Wisconsin.

(3) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS [NEC 700-12]. Section NEC 700-12 (b) (3) does not apply in Wisconsin.

**Note:** Section Comm 52.01 requires an on-premise fuel supply for high-rise buildings

(4) EMERGENCY ILLUMINATION [NEC 700-16]. (a) Substitute the following wording for the first paragraph of NEC 700-16:

1. Emergency illumination shall include all required exit lights and emergency lighting required by the Illumination Code, ch. Comm 73, Part G.

2. When standby emergency power is required by s. Comm 16.46, the required exit lights and emergency lighting shall be supplied from the standby source.

3. When standby emergency power is not required by s. Comm 16.46, required exit lights shall be supplied by one of the sources of power specified in NEC 700-12, or shall be permitted to be supplied from a separate switch or circuit breaker in a branch circuit panelboard, under the following conditions:

a. The exit lights are supplied from separate branch circuits not supplying other lights or equipment.

b. The exit light wiring shall comply with sub. (2) from the point where it leaves the branch circuit panelboard.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; r. (2) (a), (4) (b), r. and recr. (2) (b) 2., cr. (2) (c), am. (4) (a) 1., Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

**Comm 16.46 Standby emergency power.** These are department rules in addition to the requirements of NEC 700:

(1) WHERE REQUIRED. Standby emergency power of a type recognized by NEC 700-12 (a), (b), (c) or (e) shall be provided as a source of supply for required exit lights, emergency lighting or power in occupancies where people are housed, assembled or confined with a capacity or area equal to or greater than those listed in Column B of Table 16.46.

**Note:** See s. Comm 16.45 (4) for requirements relating to ch. Comm 73, Part G.

**TABLE 16.46  
OCCUPANCIES REQUIRING STANDBY  
EMERGENCY POWER**

Column A Occupancy	Column B Calculated Capacity or Area
1. Apartment buildings	50 bedrooms, including efficiency units
2. Arenas	800 square feet (Use seated space only)
3. Art galleries	20,000 square feet
4. Assembly halls such as church dining rooms and fellowship halls, dance halls, banquet halls, dining rooms, restaurants, taverns, night clubs, school and day care center multi-purpose rooms, and similar occupancies	2,000 square feet
5. Assembly halls with stage	1,400 square feet
6. Auditoriums	1,400 square feet
7. Banks	30,000 square feet
8. Bowling alleys	200 persons based on 5 persons per alley plus number of spectator seats and 10 square feet per person for bar and dining areas
9. Centers for developmentally disabled	20 inmate beds
10. Children's homes	20 beds
11. Community-based residential facilities	20 beds
12. Convents	200 beds
13. Dormitories, including those used in detention schools	200 beds
14. Exhibition buildings	12,000 square feet
15. Factories	30,000 square feet
16. Field houses	800 square feet (Use seated space only)
17. Gymnasiums	200 persons based on 6 square feet per person for seated space and 15 square feet per person for unseated space
18. Hospitals	20 patient beds
19. Hotels	200 rooms
20. Jails	20 inmate beds
21. Lecture halls	1,400 square feet
22. Libraries	200 persons based on 20 square feet per person for reading rooms and 100 square feet per person for balance
23. Lodge halls	200 persons based on 6 square feet per person for seated space and 15 square feet per person for unseated space
24. Motels	100 rooms
25. Museums	20,000 square feet
26. Nursing homes	20 patient beds
27. Office buildings	30,000 square feet
28. Rooming houses	200 rooms
29. Skating rinks	3,000 square feet
30. Stores	200 persons based on 30 square feet per person for first floor and 60 square feet per person for second floor and above
31. Swimming pools (indoor)	450 square feet
32. Theaters and theater lobbies	1,400 square feet (Theater and lobby must be combined in determining total area)
33. Warehouses	120,000 square feet

(2) CAPACITY. (a) The capacity of assembly hall occupancies shall be based upon the entire area within each assembly hall occupancy separation as specified in ch. Comm 55. This area may include one or more rooms or floors.

(b) The square foot figures noted in Column B of Table 16.46 are based on net area which includes internal room and corridor areas. The area occupied by toilet rooms, stairwells, elevator shafts, janitor's closets, boiler and equipment rooms, and similar areas, are not included in calculating capacity. Areas within rooms occupied by furniture, machinery or display counters shall be included. The area occupied by a bar or serving counter, such as

is found in a tavern, restaurant or drugstore, and the area behind them where employes work, shall be included.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. (1), Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96.

#### ARTICLE 701—

#### LEGALLY REQUIRED STANDBY SYSTEMS

**Comm 16.47 Transfer equipment [NEC 701-7].** Substitute the following wording for the second paragraph of NEC 701-7:

Means shall be permitted to isolate the transfer switch equipment. Where bypass switches are used in conjunction with isolation switches, interlocks shall be provided to prevent any combination of switches from being closed which would result in parallel operation.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

**Comm 16.48 Legally required standby systems [NEC 701-11].** Section NEC 701-11 (b) (3) does not apply in Wisconsin.

**Note:** Section Comm 52.01 requires an on-premise fuel supply for high-rise buildings.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.

#### ARTICLE 760— FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

**Comm 16.50 Fire alarm systems [NEC 760].** **History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. (2) (b), Register, March, 1994, No. 459, eff. 4-1-94; r. and recr. Register, August, 1996, No. 488, eff. 9-1-96; r. Register, February, 1999, No. 518, eff. 3-1-99.

**Comm 16.51 Electric fences.** These are department rules in addition to the requirements of the NEC:

**(1) ELECTRIC FENCE CONTROLLERS.** (a) Electric fence controllers shall be of a type listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

**Note:** The department recognizes UL 69—Electric Fence Controllers as acceptable standards that satisfy the requirements of par. (a). Copies are available from U.L. Laboratories, Inc., 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

(b) Electric fence controllers shall be installed and used in the exact manner and for the exact purpose indicated by the manufacturer's instructions, markings, listings or labels.

**(2) GROUNDING.** Electric fence controllers shall be grounded as specified in NEC 250, except that where stray voltages in dairy barns or milking parlors create physical problems to the animals, the use of a single made electrode shall be permitted.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90.