



BULLETIN 2023-01

1. The 2023 National Electrical Code will be enforced in the City of St. Paul on all electrical permits obtained on or after July 1st, 2023. The following NEC code references are a brief synopsis of the significant changes found in the 2023 NEC. The exact text, and other code changes, can be found in the 2023 NEC code book. Similar information, as well as additional information, can be found on the State of Minnesota DLI website on their 2023 NEC Changes Frequently Asked Questions document at: <http://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/NECFAQ23.pdf>.
 - a. NEC 110.26: Large equipment doors, when open, may not impede access to and egress from the working space required in 110.26. This rule now requires that when open, equipment doors must still allow an egress path that is not less than 24 inches wide or 6 feet, 6 inches high. Otherwise the opening must be increased to prevent the equipment doors from obstructing the egress path.
 - b. NEC 110.26(A)(4): This new requirement will **not** allow for the placement of fixed cabinets, walls, or partitions below electrical equipment that is installed in the limited access space. The space below the opening is required to be unobstructed to the floor and free from any obstacles that may hinder equipment access.
 - c. NEC 210.8(A)(6): GFCI protection requirements in dwelling unit kitchens has been expanded. The revised language now will include all 125-volt through 250-volt receptacle in kitchens — not just the countertop receptacles.
 - d. NEC 210.8(A)(7) and 210.8(B)(3): The revised language will require GFCI protection for receptacles located in “areas with sinks and permanent provisions for food preparation, beverage preparation, or cooking”. These areas are used similarly to a kitchen, but do not meet the definition. The change could affect an area that includes a “sink” such as a recreation room wet bar, or a convenience store where beverages or food is prepared.
 - e. NEC 210.8(D): A list of “specific appliances” was added that will require GFCI protection for the branch-circuit or the “outlet” supplying appliances rated 150V or less to ground and 60A or less. The section clarifies that these appliances must have GFCI protection provided whether they are hardwired, or cord- and plug-connected. The expansion also included 5 new appliances - Electric range, Wall-mounted oven, Counter-mounted cooking unit, Clothes dryer, and Microwave ovens.
 - f. NEC 210.52(C)(2): The requirement for receptacles serving the countertop or work surface of an island or peninsula has been made optional; however, if the receptacles are not installed at the time the cabinets and countertops were initially installed, the section requires provisions for a future outlet to be provided. The provision must include a wiring method (conduit, raceway, or cable) to be extended to the island or peninsula and terminated into a junction box with a cover.

- g. NEC 210.52(C)(3): All receptacle outlets in the kitchen serving the countertop surface will no longer be allowed below the countertop or work surface. The receptacles, or outlet assemblies, located on the top of the countertop or work surface must be listed for the use.
For purposes of this section, receptacles shall not be located within 24 inches below a countertop or worksurface. Receptacles below the countertop or worksurface shall not be used for “serving the countertop or worksurface”.
 - h. NEC 210.70(A)(1): Laundry areas were added to the list of rooms that are required to have at least one lighting outlet controlled by listed wall mounted control device when you enter the room.
 - i. Section 215.15: Barrier requirement have been expanded to feeder taps and transformer secondary conductors. Barriers shall be placed such that no energized, uninsulated, ungrounded busbar or terminal is exposed to inadvertent contact by persons while servicing load terminations in panelboards, switchboards, switchgear, or motor control centers supplied by feeder taps in 240.21(B), or transformer secondary conductors in 240.21(C), when the disconnecting device, to which the tap conductors are terminated, is in the open position.
 - j. Sections 215.18, 225.42 and 230.67: New requirements were added similar to section 230.67 to require surge protection devices (SPDs) for both feeders and outside feeders in Dwelling units, Dormitory units, Guest rooms and guest suites of hotels and motels, and Areas of nursing homes and limited-care facilities used exclusively as patient sleeping rooms.
The SPD shall be installed in or adjacent to the distribution equipment connected to the load side of the feeder that contains branch circuit overcurrent protective device(s). In addition, the SPD shall have a nominal discharge current rating of not less than 10kA.
 - k. Section 225.41: This new code section will now require an “emergency disconnect” for an outside feeders to a one- and two-family dwelling. The emergency disconnect must be in a readily accessible location, within sight of the dwelling unit. This requirement already exists in section 230.85 for services, but was expanded to include feeders as well.
 - l. NEC 230.85(A)&(C) – Addition language has been added to the Emergency Disconnect requirements in 230.85, to include the disconnect means shall be installed within sight of the dwelling unit. Additionally, when performing an existing electrical service panel replacement, the requirements for installing an exterior emergency disconnect will apply.
2. Please go to the City of St. Paul’s Electrical Page on the website to use our online services. You can apply for an electrical permit online. Currently our online inspection scheduling program has been discontinued due to software issues. The City is in the process of purchasing a new computer system, with a scheduling component.
 3. If you want to know the status of an electrical permit obtained in the City of St. Paul visit our website at <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/safety-inspections>. On the front page click the box marked Look Up Property/Permit Information, then enter the appropriate information when prompted.

4. Call for trench inspections! Note Section 3801.3770 of the Minnesota Regulations which states that if work is covered without an inspection the person responsible for covering/enclosing the wiring is responsible for all costs incurred with removing the cover for inspection. This section also covers wallcovering installed without a rough-in inspection.
5. Call for final inspections! Note that under MN Rule Section 3801.3780 subpart, it requires a request, from the permit holder, for final inspection when the work is completed, and prior to the wiring being utilized by the intended user.
6. On final inspections, we are finding clothes washers, dryers, and other appliances encroaching on the required working clearances of NEC 110.26 for service panelboards. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that the planned location of such appliances will not violate these clearances. Also, when replacing existing service panelboards the current NEC 110.26 clearances are required, even if the existing panelboard being replaced did not have the proper clearances. New or replacement service/sub-panel installations must meet current NEC and cannot be located in bathrooms or closets.
7. NEC 406.4(D) is the code section that applies to receptacle outlet replacement. A receptacle replaced for whatever reason must be replaced to this code reference. Replaced receptacle outlets may require GFCI, AFCI, tamper-resistant, and/or weather-resistant protection if this protection is required in the current NEC elsewhere in the code.
8. The Electrical Page on the Department of Labor and Industry's website is another excellent resource for electrical codes and standards, licensing information, and other informational documents. The link to that webpage is <http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors>.

The above information is for guidance only and should not be construed as formal interpretations of the National Electrical Code, nor is the information contained in this Bulletin necessarily applicable in any jurisdiction other than St. Paul. These general guidelines are not a complete list, but are indicative of some of the more common violations found by inspectors. Other requirements pertinent to any electrical installation are contained in the 2020 National Electrical Code as adopted by the State of Minnesota as part of the State Building Code.