



# Interpretation

## Part 2.

### Safety Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Overhead Electric Supply and Communication Lines

#### Section 20.

#### Purpose, scope, and application of rules

#### Rule 215 – Grounding and bonding

##### D. Bonding of supply and communication systems on the same supporting structure

(2023 Edition, page 76)  
(4 March 2025) IR601

**Question:** We are seeking clarification on Rule 215D3 as it applies to the following:

For a joint-use pole line containing a multi-grounded neutral meeting Rule 230E1 and communication conductors supported by messengers and meeting Rule 092C, at the non-metallic supporting structures without a grounding electrode or grounding conductor, are the neutral and messengers required to be bonded together, provided no other exceptions apply?

**Discussion:** Rule 215D3 is new to the 2023 NESC. It appears to indicate neutrals and communication messengers must be bonded on every pole, but states “consistent” with Rule 097G, which addresses only poles with grounding conductors and electrodes. It leaves the reader uncertain whether the intent is to bond on every pole or only those with a grounding conductor and electrode.

#### Interpretation

The Interpretations Subcommittee has reviewed your request and developed the following consensus response.

In new Rule 215D3, the requirement for bonding supply neutrals to supply and/or communication messengers on non-metallic supporting structures, “consistent with Rule 097G,” only applies to supporting structures with grounding conductors installed.