

Errata to Preprint Proposals for the 2028 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code® (NESC®)

Correction Sheet #1

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Pages 606 and 607: In Part 3, replace CP06253 as follows to show SC7's revised change proposal under the SC7 Recommendation:

Revised Text

CP06253

Part 3. Safety Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Underground Electric Supply and Communication Lines
Section 35. Direct-buried cable and cable in duct not part of a conduit system

Rule 354. Random separation—Separation less than 12 in (300 mm) from underground structures or other cables

Submitter

Scott Smith

Proposed Change

354. Random separation--Separation less than 12 in (300 mm) from underground structures or other cables

D. Supply and communication cables or conductors

3. Insulating jacketed effectively grounded concentric neutral supply cables

Each phase conductor of a multi-grounded supply system operating above 300 V to ground and having an overall insulating jacket shall have an effectively grounded concentric neutral adequate for the expected magnitude and duration of fault current that may be imposed. The number of grounding electrodes shall be not less than 8 in each 1 mile (1.6 km) of the random buried section, not including grounds at individual services.

EXCEPTION: Where adherence to this rule would require opening a duct and/or removing the insulating jacket for the sole purpose of installing a ground connection, the number of grounding electrodes required in each mile by Rule 354D3 may be decreased. ~~For such installations, the concentric neutral shall be effectively grounded where the cable does become accessible.~~

Supporting Comment

Since the neutral meets the definition of being effectively grounded and also meets the requirements of a multi-grounded system, especially since the definition removed the 4 grounds in each mile of line requirement from the definition, the neutral is already “effectively grounded.” Since the neutral is already effectively grounded, this last requirement (“For such installations, the concentric neutral shall be effectively grounded where the cable does become accessible”) is not needed or necessary. Also, this requirement is already covered in Rule 314C1 as shown below:

C. Circuits

1. Neutrals Primary neutrals, secondary and service neutrals, and common neutrals exposed to personnel contact shall be effectively grounded.

SC7 Recommendation

No majority position

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~~EXCEPTION: Where adherence to this rule would require opening a duct and/or removing the insulating jacket for the sole purpose of installing a ground connection, the number of grounding electrodes required in each mile by Rule 354D3 may be decreased provided all affected parties involved are in agreement. For such installations, the concentric neutral shall be effectively grounded where the cable does become accessible at the locations where the cable becomes accessible to personnel, the neutral(s) shall be bonded together and be bonded to a grounded electrode(s).~~

SC7 Comment

The subcommittee has no majority position and is requesting public comment. Some agree this will help make the language in the rule consistent with 096C exception 1, however, the removal of the first sentence may expand the exception to more cases than necessary. The subcommittee drafted a modified CP for possible consideration.

Vote on SC7 Recommendation

Affirmative: (6) Mickey B Gunter, Kevin Hall, Trung Hiu, Mark MacNichol (Alternate for Mark Baker), Kevin Ogles, James Wallace; Negative: (6) Trevor Bowmer, Ashley Eanes, Jonathan Gonynor, David J Marne, William McCorcle, Lawrence M. Slavin; Abstention: (1) Michael Dyer; Absent/No Return: (2) Lauren E. Gaunt, Nathan Leventon

Explanation of Vote

Trevor Bowmer: The simpler revision to 354D3 proposed by CP6010 should be accepted. Eliminating the first part of the first sentence in Exception as done by this action is less safe. It allows reduction in the number of grounds whenever convenient, based on 'agreements' that may not actually be carefully considered.

Ashley Eanes: The modified proposal would have removed from the exception the language that currently limits the exception to only those instances where opening a duct or removing the insulating jacket is for the sole purpose of installing a ground connection. EEI feels that language should remain. The other proposed changes that bring the exception in line with action taken by SC2 are appropriate.

Mark MacNichol: Agreed as changed

David J Marne: I believe the wording in the 2023 NESC is adequate and reject the change.

William McCorcle: I would prefer language that reads, 'For such installations, at the locations where the cable becomes accessible to personnel, the neutral(s) shall be bonded together and be bonded to a grounding electrode(s). This language is from CP6342, from SC2.

Lawrence M. Slavin: The removal of the first sentence may expand the Exception to more cases than necessary.