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# The 2002 National Electrical Code -- An Update



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An SAIC Company

## Introduction

- The NEC is published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
  - Issued every three years -- next edition will be 2002
  - Covers installations of electric conductors and equipment (including communications) within or on public and private buildings or other structures
  - Adopted by municipalities, Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) - carries force of law
- Telcordia represents ATIS on Panel 1 (scope), Panel 5 (grounding), Panel 15 (reserve power), Panel 16 (communications), and on the Technical Correlating Committee (TCC) having oversight responsibility for the Code-making process

# Important dates for the 2002 NEC

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
August 5, 1998	1999 NEC issued
Nov. 5, 1999	Proposals to revise the NEC due to NFPA
Jan. 10-22, 2000	Panels review proposals to revise the NEC
May 15-19, 2000	TCC reviews Panel Action on proposals
July 14, 2000	Report on Proposals (ROP) issued by NFPA
Oct. 27, 2000	Comments due to NFPA by 5:00 PM EDT
Dec. 4-16, 2000	Panels review comments
Feb. 25-Mar. 1, 2001	TCC reviews Panel Action on comments
April 16, 2001	Report on Comments (ROC) issued by NFPA
May 13-17, 2001	NFPA Annual Meeting - 2002 NEC approved
July 20, 2001	NEC issued by NFPA Standards Council

## **NEC activity to date**

- Panel review of 2002 NEC proposals, public comments
  - NFPA received
    - Over 4500 change proposals
    - Over 2400 public comments to change proposals
- Preliminary results -- ATIS-approved proposals, comments
  - posted on ATIS web site prior to due date
  - 19 ATIS-approved proposals either accepted or accepted in principle
    - Five proposals rejected
  - 21 ATIS-approved comments either accepted or accepted in principle
    - Six comments rejected

## Significant Issues

- Accepted proposals, comments
  - Permit limited placement of communications cables and wires directly on suspended ceilings\*
  - Limit intersystem bonding conductor (e.g., primary protector, cable shield grounding conductor) to 20 feet in one- and two-family dwellings\*
  - Continue the independence of Chapter 8, *Communications Systems*, as recommended by TCC Task Group\*
  - Add new Article 80, *Administration and Enforcement*, that includes criteria on NEC retroactivity\*
  - Require electrolyte containment systems for battery rooms
  - Require removal of abandoned cables
  - Disallow use of interior metal water pipe as grounding electrode conductor (connections limited to first five feet)\*

\* ATIS-approved proposal, comment

## Significant Issues, cont'd.

- Rejected proposals, comments
  - Permit communications attachments to power service mast\*
  - Exclude communications metallic conduit from grounding requirements\*
  - Permitted use of limited combustible cable (placed on “Hold” by TCC)

\* ATIS-approved proposal, comment

**NOTE:** These results are preliminary and could change as a result of action on the floor of the NFPA Annual Meeting or appeals to the Standards Council.

## What's next in the Code-change process?

- NFPA issuance of the NEC Report on Comments (ROC)
  - Provides the opportunity for all interested parties to review the public comments to change proposals, Panel actions, and Panel statements
- Approval of the 2002 NEC at the NFPA 2001 Annual Meeting by the voting assembly - May 13-17, 2001
- Appeals to Standards Council - July 11, 2001
- Issuance of the 2001 NEC - July 20, 2001

## Questions, comments, suggestions???

- Please contact me with any questions that you might have regarding the Code-change process or ATIS-approved proposals or comments.

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