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# Chapter PSC 114

# WISCONSIN STATE ELECTRICAL CODE, VOLUME 1

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**Note 2:** Chapter PSC 114 as it existed on April 30, 1991 was repealed and a new chapter PSC 114 was created effective May 1, 1991; Chapter PSC 114 as it existed on December 31, 1993, was repealed and a new chapter PSC 114 was created effective January 1, 1994. Chapter PSC 114 as it existed on September 30, 1997 was repealed and a new chapter PSC 114 was created effective October 1, 1997. Corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., 6. and 7., Stats., Register, September, 1997, No. 501. Chapter PSC 114 as it existed on June 30, 2003 was repealed and a new chapter PSC 114 was created effective July 1, 2003. Chapter PSC 114 as it existed on January 31, 2008, was repealed and a new chapter PSC 114 was created Register January 2008 No. 625, effective February 1, 2008. Chapter PSC 114 as it existed on June 30, 2014, was repealed and a new chapter PSC 114 was created Register June 2014 No. 702, effective July 1, 2014.

## Subchapter I — Administration and Enforcement

### PSC 114.001 Definitions and general information.

**(1)** DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(a) "Commission" means the public service commission.

(b) "Ordinary high water mark" has the meaning given in s. NR 115.03 (6).

(c) "Utility" means "public utility" as defined in s. 196.01 (5), Stats.

**(2)** ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES. The Wisconsin State Electrical Code is issued and administered by the commission and the department of safety and professional services, division of safety and buildings as part of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. The commission has primary responsibility for issuance and administration of Volume 1 as found in this chapter. The department of safety and professional services, division of safety and buildings has similar responsibility for issuance and administration of Volume 2 which is found in ch. SPS 316.

**(3)** AVAILABILITY OF THE STATE ELECTRICAL CODE. The commission has adopted the 2023 edition of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC-2023) with certain deletions, changes and additions which are found in Volume 1, Wisconsin State Electrical Code. Copies of the NESC may be purchased from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., IEEE Service Center, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331 (telephone 1-800-678-IEEE) or the American National Standards Institute, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10036 (telephone 1-212-642-4900). Copies of the NESC may be ordered online at http://standards.ieee.org/products-programs/nesc/. Copies of Volume 1, Wisconsin State Electrical Code, may be ordered from the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Document Sales, https://docsales.wi.gov, 2310 Darwin Road, Madison, WI 53704-3108 (telephone 1-608-243-2441). Unofficial copies of the rules can be obtained online at http://docs.legis.wi.gov/code/admin_code/psc/114/.

**Note:** The department of safety and professional services, division of safety and buildings, has similarly adopted the National Electrical Code (NEC) with certain deletions, changes and additions which are found in Volume 2, Wisconsin State Electrical Code. Copies of Volume 2, Wisconsin State Electrical Code, may be ordered from the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Document Sales, https://docsales.wi.gov, 2310 Darwin Road, Madison, WI 53704-3108. See ch. SPS 316 for current availability information for the NEC.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; correction in (1) made (4) (b) 6., 7., Stats., Register January 2012 No. 673; correction in (2) made (4) (b) 6., Stats., Register. CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. (3) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. (3) Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

### PSC 114.002 Purpose and scope.

**(1)** PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is the practical safeguarding of persons during the installation, operation or maintenance of electric supply and communication lines and their associated equipment. This chapter contains basic provisions considered necessary for the safety of employees and the public. This chapter is not intended as a design specification or an instruction manual.

**(2)** SCOPE. (a) This chapter applies to supply and communications lines, equipment, and associated work practices employed by an electric supply, communication, railway, or similar utility in the exercise of its function as a utility. In addition, this chapter prohibits the location of buildings, structures, and equipment and prohibits materials storage and change of grade, by any person in violation of the clearance requirements of this chapter. This

chapter has also been adopted by the department of safety and professional services as part of Volume 2, Wisconsin State Electrical Code, for application to installations over 600 volts of parties other than utilities.

(b) This chapter applies to utility facilities and functions up to the service point.

(c) This chapter applies to street and area lights, supplied by underground or overhead conductors, under the exclusive control of utilities, including their authorized contractors, and municipal electrical departments.

(d) This chapter does not apply to installations in mines, ships, railway rolling equipment, aircraft, or automotive equipment, or utilization wiring except as covered in Parts 1 and 3, NESC-2023.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; correction in (2) (a) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 6., Stats., Register January 2012 No. 673; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. (2) (d) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. (2) (d) Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.003 Authority and statutory references.** **(1)** STATUTORY AUTHORITY. Volume 1, Wisconsin State Electrical Code, constitutes a general order of the commission authorized by ss. 196.74 and 227.11, Stats.

**(2)** COMPLIANCE WITH ELECTRIC CODE. (a) A utility must obtain proof of compliance with Volumes 1 and 2 of the Wisconsin State Electrical Code before energizing service. Proof of such compliance shall consist of a certificate furnished by a municipal or other recognized inspection department or officer, or if there is no such inspection department or officer it shall consist of a written statement furnished by the contractor or other person doing the wiring, indicating that there has been such compliance.

(b) A utility shall comply with Volume 1, Wisconsin State Electrical Code when providing electric service.

**Note 2:** The authority for the enforcement of Volume 1, Wisconsin State Electrical Code, is vested in the commission with respect to the installation and operation of circuits or equipment by public utilities and railroads in the exercise of their functions as utilities and railroads.

**(3)** OTHER REQUIREMENTS. (a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to deprive a municipality of jurisdiction over utilities, places of employment or public buildings, except that no local requirements shall be less stringent than the requirements in this chapter.

**Note 2:** See s. 196.58, Stats.

(b) A utility may seek commission approval of requirements covering an area related to the subject matter of this chapter that is not specifically addressed by this chapter or the NESC, but such requirements must be acceptable and not less stringent than the requirements of this chapter.

**Note 2:** See s. 196.19, Stats. Also, there are state statutes that refer directly to certain electrical construction. Some of these are: ss. 66.0831, 86.16, 134.41, 182.017, 182.0175, 182.018, 196.171, 196.58, 196.67, 196.72, and 941.40, Stats.

**(4)** COMPLAINTS. If a complaint is filed with the commission by any interested party to the effect that public safety requires changes in construction or methods of operation, the commission shall investigate and make recommendations.

**Note 2:** See s. 196.74, Stats., for procedure if changes in utility facilities are necessary.

**(5)** ENFORCEMENT. The requirements in the code are enforceable in the same manner as other orders of the commission.

**Note 2:** See ss. 102.57, 102.58, 195.07, 196.41, 196.64, 196.66, 196.74, and ch. 227, Stats.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14.

## Subchapter II — General Requirements

**PSC 114.004 General requirements.** **(1)** CHARACTER OF CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION. All electrical power and communication equipment and lines shall be of such construction, and so installed, operated, and maintained as to minimize the loss of life and fire hazard.

**(2)** CONSTRUCTION, INSPECTION AND REPAIRS. (a) All construction and equipment shall be cleaned when necessary and inspected at such intervals as experience has shown to be necessary. Any equipment or construction 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.

(b) Facilities installed or used in the generation, transmission, distribution, and utilization of electricity shall be designed for such installation or use.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14.

**PSC 114.005 Application of rules.** **(1)** NEW INSTALLATIONS AND EXTENSIONS. (a) This chapter shall apply in full to all new installations, reconstructions, alterations and extensions, except as modified or waived by the commission under par. (b).

(b) *Waiving rules.* The commission may modify or waive these rules in particular cases when rules are shown for any reason to be impractical or if equivalent safety is secured in other ways.

**(2)** EXISTING INSTALLATIONS. (a) Where an existing installation meets, or is altered to meet these rules, such installation is considered to be in compliance with this edition and is not required to comply with any previous edition.

(b) Existing installations, including maintenance replacements, which comply with prior editions of the code, need not be modified to comply with these rules except as may be directed for safety reasons by the commission and within the time the commission determines.

(c) Where a utility adds, alters, or replaces conductors or equipment on an existing structure, the structure or the facilities on the structure need not be modified or replaced if the resulting installation will be in compliance with the rules in effect at one of the following times:

1. At the time of the original installation.
2. At the time of an addition, alteration, or replacement.
3. Currently, in accordance with par. (a).

**(4)** TEMPORARY INSTALLATIONS. Modifying or waiving certain of the rules will sometimes be necessary in case of temporary installations or installations which are shortly to be dismantled or reconstructed. Such temporary construction may be used for a reasonable length of time without fully complying with this code, provided it is under competent supervision while it or adjoining equipment is energized or if it is protected by suitable barriers or warning signs when accessible to any person; but all such construction shall be made reasonably safe.

**(5)** TESTING. Rooms which are used exclusively for routine or special electrical test work, and therefore are under the supervision of a qualified person, need comply with this code only insofar as is practical for the character of the testing done.

**(6)** EMERGENCY. In case of emergency the person responsible for the installation may modify or waive any requirement of this chapter, subject to review by the commission, even should an application be pending before the commission for a requested emergency related modification or waiver.

**(7)** INTENT. (a) The word "shall" indicates provisions that are mandatory.

(b) The word "should" indicates provisions that are normally and generally practical for the specified conditions. However,

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where the word "should" is used, it is recognized that, in certain instances, additional local conditions not specified herein may make these provisions impractical. When this occurs, the difference in conditions shall be appropriately recognized and s. PSC 114.002 shall be met.

(c) A footnote to a table has the force and effect required or allowed by the rule that specifies the use of the table.

(d) Exceptions to a rule have the same force and effect required or allowed by the rule to which the exception applies.

(e) The word "RECOMMENDATION" indicates provisions considered desirable, but that are not intended to be mandatory.

(f) The word "NOTE" or the word "EXAMPLE" used in a rule indicates material provided for information or illustrative purposes only. "NOTES" and "EXAMPLES" are not mandatory and are not considered to be a part of Code requirements.

(g) A "RECOMMENDATION," "EXCEPTION," or "NOTE" applies to all text in that rule above its location that is indented to the same level.

**(8)** APPLICATIONS NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED. For all applications not specifically addressed in these rules, the design, construction, operations, and maintenance shall be done in accordance with accepted good practice for the given local conditions known at the time.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14.

**PSC 114.006 Adoption of standard by reference.** **(1)** ADOPTION OF STANDARD. The National Electrical Safety Code-2023 edition (also American National Standards Institute C2-2023 edition) subject to omissions, changes and additions as otherwise shown in this chapter, is hereby incorporated by reference into the Wisconsin State Electrical Code, Volume 1. Interim amendments to the NESC-2023 will not be effective in this state until such time as this chapter is revised to reflect such changes.

**(2)** CONSENT TO INCORPORATE NESC-2023 BY REFERENCE. Pursuant to s. 227.21, Stats., the attorney general has consented to the incorporation by reference of these standards contained in the NESC-2023, except for the omissions, changes and additions as shown later in this chapter. Copies of the NESC-2023 are on file in the offices of the commission and the legislative reference bureau.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

## Subchapter III — Omissions, Changes or Additions to NESC-2017

**PSC 114.007 Omissions, changes, additions to NESC-2023.** Omissions, changes, or additions to the NESC-2023 are specified in this subchapter and are rules of the commission and not requirements of the NESC-2023.

**Note 1**: Each omission, change or addition is found in the same location in this subchapter as the appropriate NESC part, section or subsection where the affected rule is found. Each change or addition has been prefixed by ch. PSC 114. Following the PSC designation is the referenced NESC section or subsection and the page on which it is found in the NESC. Example: PSC 114.096C [NESC 096C, p. 34]. The word "Change" following the section number and heading means that the corresponding wording of the NESC-2023 has been changed and that the new wording is substituted at the appropriate location. The word "Addition" following the section number and heading means that a new requirement is incorporated in the NESC-2023 and that the new requirement is inserted at the appropriate location.

**Note 2:** To observe federal directives and recommendations that national standards adopt the metric system for units of measure, the numerical values of the NESC-2023 are stated in the metric system and in the customary inch-foot-pound system. To conform to this more international convention, this revision of the Wisconsin State Electrical Code, Volume 1 also adopts the same measurement convention. In the text, the metric value is now shown first with the customary inch-foot-pound value (in parentheses) following. In tables, the metric values are also given first and where the entire tables are duplicated, the table of metric values appears first with the table of inch-foot-pound values following.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

### Section 1. Introduction to the National Electrical Safety Code

**PSC 114.010 Omissions.** [NESC 010 through 016, pp. 1-6] Introduction to the National Electrical Safety Code (Section 1) (Omission) Rules 010 through 016 of the NESC-2023 are omitted and not incorporated as part of the Wisconsin State Electrical Code, Volume 1.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

### Section 2. Definitions of Special Terms

**PSC 114.02 Definitions of special terms.** **(1)** ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. [NESC Section 2., p. 7] (Change) Change the definition of "Administrative Authority" to read:

*Administrative authority.* The authority for the enforcement of this code is vested in the commission with respect to the installation and operation of circuits or equipment by public utilities and railroads in the exercise of their functions as utilities and railroads.

**(2)** COMMISSION. [NESC Section 2, p. 8] (Addition) Add the following definition:

*Commission.* Public service commission of Wisconsin.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039 r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. (title), r. (intro.), consol. (1) (intro.) and (a), renum. to (1) and am., consol. (2) (intro.) and (a), renum. to (2) and am. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20.

### Section 9. Grounding Methods for Electric Supply and Communications Facilities

**PSC 114.092 Point of connection of grounding conductor.** **(1)** CABLE WITH INSULATING JACKET. [NESC 092B2b(3), p. 24] (Change) Change paragraph (3) to read:

(3) Cable with insulating jacket

Additional bonding and connections between the cable insulation shielding or sheaths and the system ground are recommended. Where uninsulated cable joints in multi-grounded shielded cable systems are exposed to contact by personnel, the shielding (including sheath or concentric neutral) at the joint shall be grounded. Accessible insulated cable joints are not required to be grounded by this rule. Where multi-grounded shielding cannot be used for electrolysis of sheath-current reasons, the shielding sheaths and splice-enclosure devices shall be insulated for the voltage that may appear on them during normal operation. Bonding transformers or reactors may be substituted for direct ground connection at one end of the cable.

**(2)** CURRENT IN GROUNDING CONDUCTOR. [NESC 092D, p. 25] (Change) Change paragraph D to read:

D. Current in grounding conductor

Ground connection points shall be so arranged that under normal operating circumstances there will be no objectionable flow of current over the grounding conductor. If an objectionable flow of current occurs over a grounding conductor due to the use of multi-grounds, the following options may be used:

1. Determine the source of the objectionable ground conduc-

tor current and take action necessary to reduce the current to an acceptable level at its source.

2. Subject to the approval of the commission, other effective means may be used to limit the current, but no means employed shall create a situation of excessive voltage buildup on the neutral.

The system ground of the source transformer shall not be removed.

Under normal system conditions a grounding conductor current will be considered objectionable if the electrical or communications system's owner or operator deems such current to be objectionable, or if the presence or electrical characteristics of the grounding conductor current is in violation of rules and regulations governing the electrical system, as set forth by the commission.

The temporary currents set up under abnormal conditions while grounding conductors are performing their intended protective functions are not considered objectionable. The conductor shall have the capability of conducting anticipated fault current without thermal overloading or excessive voltage buildup. Refer to Rule 93C.

**Note 2:** Some amount of current will always be present on the grounding conductors of an operating AC electrical system. That current may be conducted and/or induced and is not, in and of itself, objectionable.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; cr. PSC 114.092 (title) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., renum. (1) and (2) from PSC 114.092B2b and 114.092D under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. (title), (1) (intro.), (2) (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.094 Grounding electrodes.** [NESC 094B3, p. 29] (Change) Change section of Rule 094B3 of the NESC-2023 to read:

1. Pole-butt plates and wire wraps are removed and would replace with other technologies where engineering analysis shows similar performance to ground rods.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: consol. (intro.) and (1), renum. to PSC 114.094 and am. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.096 Ground resistance requirements.** [NESC 096C, p. 33] (Change) Change paragraph C to read:

C. The neutral, which shall be of sufficient size and ampacity for the duty involved, shall be connected to a made or existing electrode at each transformer location and at a sufficient number of additional points with made or existing electrodes to total not less than nine grounds in each 1.6 km (1 mi) of line, including those grounds at transformer locations, but not including grounds at individual services. In rural districts, the primary neutral shall be connected to a made or existing electrode at each pole to which it is attached. For the purposes of this rule, rural districts are those areas outside of cities and villages.

Exception 1: In underground multi-grounded systems where an insulating jacket or nonmetallic conduit is used over direct-buried concentric-neutral supply cable, this requirement may be reduced to four grounds in each 1.6 km (mile). This exception for use of supply cable with an insulating jacket or nonmetallic conduit shall not be permitted for random lay construction. See Part 3, Rule 354, "Random Separation-Separation Less Than 300 mm (12 in) from Underground Structures or Other Cables."

Exception 2: Where underwater crossings are encountered, the requirements of made electrodes do not apply for the underwater portion if the neutral is of sufficient size and capacity for the duty involved and the requirements of Rule 092B2 are met.

Recommendation: This rule may be applied to shield wire(s) grounded at the source and which meet the multi-grounded requirements of this rule.

**Note 2:** Multi-grounded systems extending over a substantial distance are more dependent on the multiplicity of grounding electrodes than on the resistance to ground of any individual electrode. Therefore, no specific values are imposed for the resistance of individual electrodes.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; renum. PSC 114.096 from PSC 114.096C under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.097 Separation of grounding conductors.** **(1)** PARAGRAPH C. [NESC 097C, p. 34] (Changes) Change paragraph C to read:

C. Primary and secondary circuits utilizing a single conductor as a common neutral shall have at least nine ground connections on such conductor in each 1.6 km (1 mi) of line, including those grounds at transformer locations, but not including ground connections at customers' service equipment.

**(2)** UNDERGROUND OR SINGLE-GROUNDED SYSTEMS AND MULTI-GROUNDED SYSTEMS. [NESC 097D, p. 34] (Change) Change paragraph D to read:

D. Multi-grounded systems

On multi-grounded systems, the primary and secondary neutrals shall be interconnected according to Rule 097B.

Exception: Where it is necessary to separate the neutrals, interconnection of the neutrals shall be made through an electronic switching device designed for the purpose and of a type acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction. The device shall have a 60 Hz breakdown voltage not exceeding 3 kV and have a short circuit current withstand capability greater than the short circuit current available at the location of installation. At least one other grounding connection on the secondary neutral shall be provided in addition to the customer's grounds at each service entrance. A distance of not less than 3.60 m (12 ft) nor more than 6.1 m (20 ft.) shall separate the secondary neutral grounding electrode from the primary neutral and surge arrester grounding electrode, which shall not be relocated to accommodate this separation. Since a difference of potential will exist where primary and secondary neutrals are not directly interconnected, the primary and secondary grounding conductors shall be insulated for 600 V.

**Note 2:** Cooperation of all communications and supply utilities, customers of these utilities, and others may be necessary to obtain effective isolation between primary and secondary neutrals.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. (intro.), (1) (intro.), (2) (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.099 Additional requirements for grounding and bonding of communication apparatus. (1)** ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUNDING AND BONDING OF COMMUNICATION APPARATUS. [NESC 099, p. 35] (Change) Change title to read:

Additional requirements for grounding and bonding of communication apparatus and transmission lines.

**(2)** BONDING OF ELECTRODES. [NESC 099C, p. 35] (Change) Change paragraph C to read:

C. Bonding of electrodes

A bond not smaller than AWG No. 6 copper or equivalent shall be placed between the communication grounding electrode and the supply system neutral grounding electrode where separate electrodes are used at the structure or building being served. All separate electrodes shall be bonded together except where separation is required per Rule 097. 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 the metering enclosure.

Recommendation: If water piping is used as a bonding means, care must be taken to assure that the metallic path is continuous between electrodes.

**Note 1**: See NEC Article 800-100(D) for corresponding NEC requirements.

**Note** 2: The bonding together of all separate electrodes limits potential differences between them and between their associated wiring systems.

**(3)** TRANSMISSION SHIELD WIRE SYSTEMS AND TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS WITH UNDER-BUILT MULTI-GROUNDED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS. [Follows NESC 099C, p. 36] (Addition) Following NESC 099C, add paragraph D to read:

D. Transmission shield wire systems and transmission systems with under-built multi-grounded distribution systems

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1. Transmission shield wire systems and transmission systems with under-built multi-grounded distribution systems

(a) If the transmission line has any under-built distribution attached to the same pole or structure, the shield wire system shall be bonded to the grounding conductor of the distribution neutral at each pole or structure.

(b) The under-built distribution neutral may be connected to its own made or existing ground electrode at each pole or structure.

Exception: Shield wires that are segmented and isolated from ground at a particular pole or structure need not follow this rule.

2. The shield wire of the transmission system shall not be used as the distribution neutral conductor in lieu of the installed distribution neutral conductor.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; number (1) to (3) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. (intro.), (1) (intro.), (2), (3) (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

## Part 1. Safety Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Electric Supply Stations and Equipment

### Section 10. Purpose and Scope of Rules

**PSC 114.102 Application of rules.** [NESC 102, p. 37] (Change) Change paragraph 102 to read:

102. Application of rules

The general requirements for application of these rules are contained in s. PSC 114.005.

**History:** CR 18-007: cr. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.103 Referenced sections.** [NESC 103, p. 37] (Change) Change paragraph 103 to read:

103. Referenced sections

The Introduction (Section 1) as amended by s. PSC 114.010, Definitions (Section 2) as amended by Section 2 of Chapter PSC 114, List of Referenced Documents (Section 3) and Grounding Methods (Section 9) as amended by Section 9 of Chapter PSC 114 shall apply to the requirements of Part 1.

**History:** CR 18-007: cr. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.114 Fire-extinguishing equipment.** [Follows NESC 113, p. 44] (Addition) Following NESC 113 add paragraph 114 to read:

114. Fire-extinguishing equipment

Portable or permanent fire-extinguishing equipment approved for the intended use shall be conveniently located inside control buildings or similar buildings and conspicuously marked.

Exception: This rule does not apply to unmanned, outdoor substations that do not contain a control building or similar building. This rule is not intended to require permanently installed fire extinguishers or fire extinguishment system in all electric supply stations or in all areas of large, complex stations.

**History:** CR 18-007: cr. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20 **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.141 Supply station, switchgear and plant batteries. (1)** SWITCHGEAR AND PLANT BATTERIES. [Follows NESC 141, p. 61] (Change) Change title to read:

**141. Supply Station, switchgear and plant batteries**

**(2)** SCOPE. [Follows NESC 141, p. 61] (Change) Change section A to read:

A. Scope

Supply Station, Switchgear and plant batteries are those batteries used to supply dc energy in the control and operations of generating station and substation safety, switching, protective devices, and systems. Batteries used in this application shall meet the following requirements.

**(3)** USAGE. [Follows NESC 141, P.61] (Change) Change section B to read:

B. Usage

Supply Station, Switchgear and plant batteries shall not be used for grid storage applications.

**History:** **CR 26-017: cr. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.191 Location.** [Follows NESC 191, p. 71] (Change) Change section 191 to read:

Access to PV generation stations site boundaries shall be restricted to authorized personnel only, by fencing or other adequate means of controlled access such as metal deer fencing. Access to supply stations and collector supply stations shall be restricted to authorized personnel only, by fencing or other adequate means of controlled access in accordance with Rule NESC 110.

**History:** **CR 26-017: cr. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

## Part 2. Safety Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Overhead Electric Supply and Communication Lines

### Section 20. Purpose, Scope and Application of Rules

**PSC 114.202 Application of rules.** [NESC 202, p. 72] (Change) Change paragraph 202 to read:

202. Application of rules

The general requirements for application of these rules are contained in s. PSC ll4.005. However, when a structure is replaced, arrangement of equipment shall conform to the 2023 Edition of Rule 238C.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

### Section 21. General Requirements

**PSC 114.210 Referenced sections.** [NESC 210, p. 73] (Change) Change paragraph 210 to read:

210. Referenced sections

The Introduction (Section 1) as amended by s. PSC 114.010, Definitions (Section 2) as amended by Section 2 of Chapter PSC 114, List of Referenced Documents (Section 3) and Grounding Methods (Section 9) as amended by Section 9 of Chapter PSC 114 shall apply to the requirements of Part 2.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.215 Grounding and bonding.** [NESC 215C1, p.74] (Addition) Following NESC 215C1 Exception 3, add Exception 4 to read:

Exception: This requirement does not apply to supply cables meeting Rule 230C3 or communication cables.

**History:** CR 13-039: cr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; cr. PSC 114.215 (title) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., renum. (1) and (2) from PSC 114.215C4b and 114.215C5b under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: r. and recr. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.219 Marking of poles and structures carrying high voltage supply lines.** [Follows NESC 218, p. 79] (Addition) Following NESC 218, add section 219 to read:

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Published under s. 35.93, Wis. Stats., by the Legislative Reference Bureau.



219. Marking of poles and structures carrying high voltage supply lines.

A. Every corporation, company or person constructing, operating or maintaining an electric transmission line with a voltage of 2,000 or more between conductors and the ground shall place warning signs from 1.2 to 2.45 m (4 to 8 ft) above the ground upon all poles or other structures supporting the line.

Exception: Existing poles and structures which were required to be signed by s. 196.67, stats. and were installed prior to January 1, 1995, are permitted to comply with the warning sign requirements which existed on December 31, 1994.

B. Warning signs installed as replacements or new facilities on overhead electrical supply line poles and structures shall comply with the following standards:

1. Warning signs which meet the requirements as to format and color of American National Standards Institute standard ANSI Z535.2-2011 for safety signs.

2. The overall dimensions of these signs shall not be less than 25.4 cm by 17.78 cm (10 in by 7 in) except that in those situations where use of a sign this size is not practical, two or more signs not smaller than 17.78 cm by 12.7 cm (7 in by 5 in) may be substituted.

Exception: Existing poles and structures installed prior to July 1, 2003, are permitted to continue to use the "Danger - High Voltage" sign format meeting the requirements of the prior rule until such signs are replaced.

**Note 2:** This rule amends and expands the application of the warning sign requirements of s. 196.67, stats., as it existed prior to its revision which became effective on January 1, 1995. In 1993, this statute was revised by deleting the specified location provisions limiting the required signing to certain poles. As a result, all poles and structures supporting lines with a voltage of 2,000 or more installed after the effective date of January 1, 1995, are required to carry warning signs. See s. 196.67, stats.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

## Section 23. Clearances

**Note 2:** The specification of clearances in Rules 232, 233, and 234, first adopted in the NESC-1990, and continued in the 1997 edition of the NESC adopted herein, have been revised in both concept and content to reflect the new Uniform System of Clearances approach which is described in Appendix A of NESC-1990, NESC-1993, NESC-1997, NESC-2002, NESC-2007, NESC-2012 and NESC-2017. Because the approach and the application of the rules have been revised, it must be understood that clearance values of editions of the national and state codes prior to 1990 cannot be directly compared to those of editions of the codes after 1990. See Appendix A of NESC-1990, NESC-1993, NESC-1997, NESC-2002, NESC-2007, NESC-2012, or NESC-2017.

**PSC 114.230 General. (1)** APPLICATION. [NESC 230A1 and 230A2, p. 86] (Omission) Rules 230A1 and 230A2 of the NESC-2023 are omitted and not incorporated as part of the Wisconsin State Electrical Code, Volume 1.

**(2)** MAINTENANCE OF CLEARANCES AND SPACINGS. [NESC 230I, p. 90] (Change) Change the Note in paragraph I to read:

**Note 2:** See s. PSC 114.005 (2) to determine the applicable edition.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; cr. PSC 114.230 (title) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., renum. (1) and (2) from PSC 114.230A and 114.230I under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.231 Clearance of supporting structures from other objects.** [NESC 231B1, p. 93] (Change) Change paragraph 1 to read:

1. Where there are curbs: supporting structures, support arms, anchor guys, or equipment attached thereto, up to 4.6 m (15 ft) above the road surface shall be located a sufficient distance behind the curb to avoid contact by ordinary vehicles using and located on the traveled way. For a redirectional curb, such distance shall be not less than 150 mm (6 in) from the street side of the curb.

**History:** CR 18-007: cr. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.232 Vertical clearances of wires, conductors, cables, and equipment above ground, roadway, rail, or water surfaces. (1)** TABLE PSC 114.232-1. [NESC, table 232-1, pp. 97-100]

(a) Footnote 18(b) [NESC, Table 232-1, p. 99] Change Footnote 18(b) to read as follows:

[18(b)]For uncontrolled water flow areas, the surface area and clearances shall be based on the ordinary high water mark.

(b) Footnote 21 [NESC, Table 232-1, p. 100] Change Footnote 21 to read as follows:

[21]Where the US Army Corps of Engineers, or the state, or surrogate thereof has issued a crossing permit, the greater clearances of that permit or this code shall govern.

(c) Footnote 27 [NESC, Table 232-1, p. 100] (Addition) Following section NESC, Table 232-1 Footnote 26, add Footnote 27 to read as follows:

[27]Water areas not suitable for sailboating include portions of meandering rivers, streams and canals where the widest width does not exceed 50 m (165 feet) within any unobstructed,1.6-km (1-mile) long segment that includes the crossing or where the width does not exceed 50 m (165 feet) within the surface area of any segment less than 1.6-km (1-mile) long on the line-crossing side of an overwater obstruction. All rivers, streams, canals and creeks as defined by the Wisconsin department of natural resources (DNR) which meet this definition are considered not suitable for sailing.

Exception: Regardless of width, the clearance over a canal, river, or stream normally used to provide access for sailboats to a larger body of water shall be the same as that required for water areas suitable for sailboating on the larger body of water. This also applies where a sailboat may be transported across such water with its mast extended.

(d) Footnote 27 [NESC, Table 232-1, p. 100] (Addition) Add the reference to Footnote 27 in the NESC-2023 Table 232-1 on to the sailboating category titles of rows 6 and 7. It applies to all clearances in those rows.

(e) Footnote 28 [Follows NESC, Table 232-1 Footnote 27, p. 100] (Addition) Following Footnote 27 for Table 232-1, add Footnote 28 which reads as follows:

[28]A diagonal clearance equal to the required vertical clearance shall be maintained to uneven or sloping terrain within a horizontal distance of 3/4 (75%) of the required vertical clearance. All distances shall be measured from the conductors in their wind-displaced position as defined in NESC Rule 234A2.

(f) Footnote 29 [Follows NESC, Table 232-1 Footnote 28, p. 100] (Addition) Add the reference to Footnote 29 in the Table 232-1 to the conductor category titles of columns 3, 4 and 5. It applies to all clearances in those columns.

**(2)** TABLE PSC 114.232-2. [NESC, Table 232-2, p. 102] (Change). Change Footnote 8 to read as follows:

[8]Where the US Army Corps of Engineers, or the state, or surrogate thereof has issued a crossing permit, the greater clearances of that permit or this code shall govern.

**(3)** TABLE PSC 114.232-3. [NESC, table 232-3, p. 104] (Change). Change Footnote 3 to read:

[3]For controlled impoundments, the surface area and corresponding clearances shall be based upon the design high water mark. For other waters, the surface area and clearances shall be based on the ordinary high water mark. The clearance over rivers, streams, and canals shall be based upon the largest surface

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area of any 1.6-km-long (1 mi) segment which includes the crossing. The clearance over a canal, river or stream normally providing access for sailboats to a larger body of water shall be the same as that required for the larger body of water, and footnote 19 on Table 232-1.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; cr. PSC 114.232 (title) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., number (1) to (3) under s. 13.92 (b) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. (1) to (3) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.234 Clearance of wires, conductors, cables, and equipment from buildings, bridges, rail cars, swimming pools, and other installations. (1)** CLEARANCES. [NESC 234C1a, p. 115] (Change) Change paragraph (1) (a) to read:

(a) *Clearances.* Unguarded or accessible wires, conductors, cables, or rigid live parts may be located adjacent to buildings, signs, billboards, chimneys, radio and television antenna, tanks, flagpoles and flags, banners and other installations and any projections therefrom. The vertical and horizontal clearances of such rigid and nonrigid parts shall be not less than the values in Table 234-1 when at rest under the conditions specified in Rule 234A1.These facilities may be installed beside, over or under buildings, building projections and other installation, as illustrated in Figs. 234-1(a) and 234-1(b) and 234-1(c). Buildings, signs, billboards, chimneys, radio and television antennas, tanks, flagpoles and flags, banners and other installations and any projections therefrom shall not be located near existing wires, conductors, cables or rigid live parts if doing so results in clearances less than the values given in Table 234-1.

**(2)** TRANSMISSION LINES OVER DWELLING UNITS. [Follows NESC 234C1b, p. 116] (Addition) Following 234C1b, add the following paragraph c:

c. Transmission lines over dwelling units.

No utility may construct conductors of supply lines designed to operate at voltages in excess of 35 kV over any portion of a dwelling unit. This provision also applies to line conductors in their wind-displaced position as defined in Rule 234A2.

**Note 1:** It is the intent under s. SPS 316.225(6) that the public not construct any portion of a dwelling unit under such lines.

**Note 2:** The term "dwelling unit" has the meaning given in ch. SPS 316, which adopts by reference the definitions in NEC-2008.

**Note 3:** See s. SPS 316.225(6) Clearance Over Buildings and Other Structures, which refers to ch. PSC 114 regarding clearance of conductors over 600 volts and the prohibition of dwellings under or near overhead lines.

**(3)** SERVICE-DROP CONDUCTORS, INCLUDING DRIP LOOPS SHALL HAVE CLEARANCE OF NOT LESS THAN THE FOLLOWING. [NESC 234C3d, p.117] (Change) Change Exception (a) to read:

Exception (a): 2.45 m (8 feet). This clearance may be reduced to 0.90 m (3 ft) for supply conductors limited to 300 volts to ground and communication conductors and cables if the roof has a slope of not less than 1 (vertical) to 3 (horizontal).

**(4)** CLEARANCE OF LINES NEAR STORED MATERIALS. [Follows NESC 234C5, p. 117] (Addition) Following 234C5, add the following paragraph 6 and note:

6. Clearance of Lines Near Stored Materials

Lines, under wind-displaced conditions stated in Rule 234A2, shall not be run over designated material storage areas where material is regularly stored and handled by cranes, dump trucks, elevators or other types of high machinery unless the clearance of such lines is adequate to permit full use of the equipment. Material which requires the use of such high machinery shall not be stored near or under existing lines.

**Note:** See NESC Rule 234F for Grain Bin clearances.

**(5)** CLEARANCE OF SUPPLY LINES NEAR FUEL STORAGE TANKS. [Follows NESC 234C5, p. 117] (Addition) Following NESC 234C5 and the PSC 114 addition of paragraph 6, add the following paragraph 7 and exceptions 1 and 2 to read:

7. Clearance of Supply Lines Near Fuel Storage Tanks

Supply lines shall not be run over above-ground flammable liquids and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage tanks. A horizontal clearance of not less than 2.45 m (8 ft) with cables at rest, and not less than 1.80 m (6 ft) with cables displaced by wind according to Rule 234A2, shall be maintained between above-ground flammable liquids and liquefied petroleum gas storage tanks and supply cables of all voltages meeting Rule 230C. A horizontal clearance of not less than 4.6 m (15 ft) with conductors at rest, and not less than 3.0 m (10 ft) with conductors displaced by wind according to Rule 234A2, shall be maintained between such fuel storage tanks and all other supply conductors.

Exception 1: These requirements do not apply to liquefied petroleum gas tanks with a capacity of 1,000 gallons or less.

Exception 2: These requirements do not apply to tanks enclosed in a building or fully covered by a roof or canopy capable of preventing falling overhead supply conductors from directly contacting the tank. In this case, the vertical and horizontal clearance requirements of conductors from buildings apply. See Rule 234C.

**(6)** CLEARANCE OF OPEN SUPPLY LINES NEAR WELLS. [Follows NESC 234C5, p. 117] (Addition) Following NESC 234C5 and PSC 114 additions of paragraph 6 and 7, add the following paragraph 8 and exception:

8. Clearance of Open Supply Lines Near Wells

Open supply lines shall not be run over wells. A horizontal clearance with conductors at rest of no less than 3/4 of the vertical clearance of the conductors to ground required by Rule 232, and a horizontal clearance of not less than 3.0 m (10 ft) with conductors displaced by wind according to Rule 234A2, shall be maintained between open supply conductors and wells. Persons installing such wells shall also comply with this requirement.

Exception: This rule does not apply to Groundwater Monitoring Wells defined in Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 141 provided such wells are installed using hydraulic push methods, such as a Geoprobe type rig (The vertical clearance required for a Geoprobe is typically less than 10 feet.) and where sampling is accomplished using a bailer or a submersible pump attached to flexible tubing. This exception is not intended to apply to monitoring wells installed with drilling rigs that are taller than 14 feet or sampling methods that require sections of piping (steel or plastic pipe).

**(8)** SWIMMING POOLS. [NESC 234E1, p. 118] (Addition) Add the following sentence to the beginning of paragraph E1:

1. Swimming Pools

Pools and appurtenances shall not be placed under or near existing service-drop conductors or any other overhead wiring; nor shall such wiring be installed over a swimming pool or the surrounding area unless such installation complies with the clearances or the exceptions specified in NESC Rule 234E1.

**(9)** GRAIN BINS LOADED BY PERMANENTLY INSTALLED AUGERS, CONVEYERS, OR ELEVATOR SYSTEMS. [Follows NESC 234F1, p. 118] (Addition) Following 234F1, add exception and note to read:

Exception: Farm silos that are loaded by a blower through a vertical metal tube permanently attached to the side of the structure are not considered grain bins.

**Note:** Typical cylindrical farm silos are considered buildings for the purposes of this code and the clearance requirements of NESC Rule 234C, as amended herein, would apply.

**(11)** TABLE PSC 114.234-1. [NESC Table 234-1, pp. 130: feet]

(a) Table PSC 114.234-1 [NESC Table 234-1, p. 130: feet] (Change) Change the following values in the NESC Table 234-1 (feet):

1. The value in Item (Row) 1.b.(1), Column 2 is revised from "3.0" to "8.0."

2. The value in Item (Row) 1.b.(1), Column 3 is revised from "3.5" to "8.0."

(b) Footnote 19 [Follows NESC Table 234-1 Footnote 18, p.

132: feet] (Addition) Following Footnote 18 for Table 234-1 (feet), add Footnote 19 to read:

[19]This clearance may be reduced to 3 ft for supply conductors limited to 300 V to ground and communications conductors and cables if the roof has a slope of not less than 1 (vertical) to 3 (horizontal).

(c) Footnote 19 [NESC Table 234-1, p. 132: feet] (Addition) Add the reference for Footnote 19 to the values in Item (Row) 1.b.(1), Columns 2 and 3.

**(13)** TABLE PSC 114.234-6. [NESC TABLE 234-6, P. 136]

(a) Table PSC 114.234-6 [NESC Table 234-6, p. 136: feet] (Change) Change the following values from the NESC Table 234-6 (feet):

1. The value in the Items Row 4 (230C3, 230C2), Columns 6 and 7; Row 5 (230C1), Columns 6, 7 and 8; Row 6 (230D), Column 6; Row 7 (230C3, 230C2), Columns 3, 4, 6 and 7 Row 8 (230C1), Columns 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Row 9 (230D), Columns 3 and 6 is revised from 3.0 to 8.0.

(b) Footnote 3 [Follows NESC Table 234-6 Footnote 2, p. 136] (Addition) Following Footnote 2, add footnote 3, which reads as follows:

[3]This clearance may be reduced to 3 ft for supply conductors limited to 300 V to ground and communications conductors and cables if the roof has a slope of not less than 1 (vertical) to 3 (horizontal).

(c) Footnote 3 [NESC Table 234-6, p. 157: feet] (Addition) The reference to Footnote 3 is added to the value in Items Row 4 (230C3, 230C2), Columns 6 and 7; Row 5 (230C1), Columns 6 and 7; Row 6 (230D), Column 6; Row 7 (230C3, 230C2), Columns 3, 4, 6 and 7; Row 8 (230C1), Columns 3, 4, 6 and 7; Row 9 (230D), Columns 3 and 6.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; cr. PSC 114.234 (title) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., renum. (1) to (10) from PSC 114.234C1a, 114.234C1c, 114.234C3d, 114.234C6, 114.234C7, 114.234C8, 114.234C9, 114.234E1, and 114.234F1 under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. (1) (intro.), (2) (intro.), (3) (intro.), (4) (intro.), (5) (intro.), (6) (intro.), r. (7), am. (8) (intro.), (9) (intro.), r. and recr. (10), cr. (11) to (13) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. (1) to (9), r. (10), am. (11), r. (12), am. (13) Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.235 Clearance for wires, conductors, or cables carried on the same supporting structure.** [NESC 235C2b(1)(c), p. 142] (Change) Change to read:

For supply conductors of different utilities, vertical clearance at any point in the span need not exceed 75% of the values required at the supports for the same utility by Table 235-5.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; renum. PSC 114.235 from PSC 114.235C2b(1)(a) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

## Section 24. Grades of Construction

**PSC 114.242 Grades of construction for conductors.** [Follows NESC 242F, p. 174] (Addition) Following NESC 242F, add the following paragraph G to read:

G. Circuits exceeding 175 kV to ground

Grade B construction shall always be used if the voltage exceeds 175 kV to ground.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; renum. PSC 114.242 from PSC 114.242F under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

## Section 25. Loading for Grades B and C

**PSC 114.250 General loading requirements and maps. (1)** EXTREME WIND LOADING. Alternative to NESC 250C, p. 278] As an alternate to NESC Tables 250-2(a) and Table 250-2(b), the following Table PSC 114.250-2 and the related definitions and formulas for $k_Z$ and $G_{RF}$ may be used. (NESC Figure 250-2(b) "Grade C, 50 years Mean Recurrent Interval (MRI) 3 s gust wind speed map in mph (m/s) 33 ft aboveground (ASCE 7016)" is a part of this rule by reference.)

C. Extreme wind loading

If no portion of a structure or its supported facilities exceeds 18 m (60 ft) above ground or water level, the provision of the rule are not required, except as specified in Rule 261A1c, 261A2e, or 261A3d. Where a structure or its supported facilities exceeds 18 m (60 ft) above ground or water level, the structure and its supported facilities shall be designed to withstand the extreme wind load associated with the Base Wind Speed as specified by NESC Figure 250-2(b). The wind pressures calculated shall be applied to the entire structure and supported facilities without ice.

The following formula shall be used to calculate wind load.

Load in Newton = $0.613 \bullet (V_{m/s})^2 \bullet k_Z \bullet G_{RF} \bullet I \bullet C_d \bullet A(m^2)$

Load in pounds = $0.00256 \bullet (V_{mi/h})^2 \bullet k_Z \bullet G_{RF} \bullet I \bullet C_d \bullet A(ft^2)$

Where:

| | |
|---|---|
| 0.613<br>0.00256 | Ambient Air Density Value, reflects the mass density of air for the standard atmosphere, i.e., temperature of 15ºC (59ºF) and average sea level pressure of 760 mm (29.92 in) of mercury. (No adjustment in the velocity to pressure coefficient has been made relative to changes in air density with altitude.) The dimensions associated with this coefficient are, for metric, 0.613 $N\dot{I}s^2/m^4$; and, for English, 0.00256 $lb\dot{I}hr^2/mi^2\dot{I}ft^2$. |
| $k_Z$ | Velocity-Pressure Exposure Coefficient, as defined in Table PSC 114-250-2 |
| V | Basic wind speed, from NESC 250C, Figure 250-2 given in m/s at 10 m (mi/h at 33 ft) above ground |
| $G_{RF}$ | Gust Response Factor, as defined in Table PSC 114-250-2 |
| I | Importance factor equal to 1.0 for utility structures and their supported facilities |
| $C_d$ | Shape Factor as defined as defined in NESC Rule 252B |
| A | Projected wind area, $m^2$ ($ft^2$) |

**Table PSC 114.250-2 (Metric)**
**Velocity Pressure Exposure Coefficient, $k_Z$**
**Gust Response Factor, $G_{RF}$**

| | $k_Z \bullet G_{RF}$ | |
|---|---|---|
| | For Structures: | For Wires: |
| For structures with a total height of 30 m or less above ground or water level | 1.0 | 0.85 |
| For structures with a total height exceeding 30 m above ground or water level | 0.93+0.00245(h) | 0.78+0.00245(h) |

**Table PSC 114.250-2 (English)**
**Velocity Pressure Exposure Coefficient, $k_Z$**
**Gust Response Factor, $G_{RF}$**

| | $k_Z \bullet G_{RF}$ | |
|---|---|---|
| | For Structures: | For Wires: |
| For structures with a total height of 100 ft or less above ground or water level | 1.0 | 0.85 |
| For structures with a total height exceeding 100 ft above ground or water level | 0.93+0.00075(h) | 0.78+0.00075(h) |

Where:

h = height of the structure above ground or water level. For wind loads on wires attached to the structure, the height of the highest wire attachment above ground or water level may be used if less than the height of the structure. In unique terrain where the height of the wire above ground at mid-span may be substantially higher than at the attachment point, engineering judgment may be used to determine an appropriate value the height of the wire.

**Note 2:** The height of all wire attachments should be based on the height of the highest attachment or total structure height. The formulas to determine $k_Z IG_{RF}$ were based on this premise, not the height of each attachment.

The wind pressure parameters ($k_Z$, V, and $G_{RF}$) are based on open terrain with scattered obstructions (Exposure Category C as defined in ASCE 7-98). Exposure Category C is the basis of the NESC extreme wind criteria. Topographic features such as ridges, hills, and escarpments may increase the wind loads on site-specific structures. A topographic Factor, $k_{zt}$, from ASCE7-98 may be used to account for these special cases.

**(2)** LONGITUDINAL CAPABILITY. [Follows NESC 250D, p. 180] (Addition) Following NESC 250D, add the following paragraph E:

E. Longitudinal capability

Each supply line designed to operate at 300 kV phase to phase or above shall be constructed to limit the effects of a cascading-type failure to a line segment not exceeding 9.6 km (6 mi) to 16 km (10 mi) in length. Such construction requirement may be met by providing, at appropriate intervals, structures and associated facilities having full dead-end capability under the loading provisions of Rules 250 A, B, C and D. Consideration shall be given to factors such as structure type and material, length of line, distance between dead-end or heavy angle structures, and other basic design criteria in determining the length of such individual line segments. For lines supported by "flexible" structures designed with plastic, energy-absorbing capability in failure, this requirement may be met if such design and construction will provide equivalent limitation to longitudinal cascading.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; cr. PSC 114.250 (title) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., renum. (1) and (2) from PSC 114.250C and 114.250E under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. (1), Table PSC 114-250-2 (Metric), Table PSC 114.250-2 (English), (2) (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; correction in (1) (formula) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register February 2020; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.253 Load factors for structures, cross arms, support hardware, guys, foundations, and anchors.** Table PSC 114.253-1 [NESC Table 253-1, p. 199] Load factors for structures[1], crossarms, support hardware, guys, foundations, and anchors to be used with the strength factors of Table 261-1 (Changes)

**(1)** Change Footnote 2 to read:

[2]For guys and anchors associated with structures supporting communications conductors and cables only, this factor may be reduced to 1.33. For guys associated with structures supporting supply conductors or supply conductors and communications conductors and cables, this factor may be reduced to 1.5.

**(2)** Add Footnote 11 to read:

[11]For guys associated with structures supporting only supply conductors or supply conductors and communications conductors and cables, this factor may be reduced to 2.00.

**(3)** The reference to Footnote 11 is added to the value located at Transverse loads, Wind for Grade C, At line crossings.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; cr. PSC 114.253 (title) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., renum. (1) and (2) from PSC 114.253-1 under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; correction in PSC 114.253 (title) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., Register June 2015 No. 714; CR 18-007: am. (intro.), (2) (intro.), (footnote), cr. (3) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. (intro.), (2), (3) Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26; correction in (3) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2026 No. 847.**

## Part 3. Safety Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Underground Electric Supply and Communication Lines

### Section 30. Purpose, Scope, and Application of Rules

**PSC 114.302 Application of rules.** [NESC 302, p. 220] (Change) Change Rule 302 to read:

302. Application of Rules

The general requirements for application of these rules are contained in s. PSC 114.005.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

### Section 31. General Requirements Applying to Underground Lines

**PSC 114.310 Referenced sections.** [NESC 310, p. 221] (Change) Change Rule 310 to read:

310. Referenced Sections

The Introduction (Section 1) as amended by s. PSC 114.010, Definitions (Section 2) as amended by Section 2 of Chapter PSC 114, List of Referenced Documents (Section 3), and Grounding Methods (Section 9) as amended by Section 9 of Chapter PSC 114, shall apply to the requirements of Part 3.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.317 Outdoor location of oil-insulated padmounted transformers near buildings.** [Follows NESC 316, p. 223] (Addition) Following NESC 316, add the following section:

317. Outdoor location of oil-insulated padmounted transformers near buildings.

A. Noncombustible and Combustible Walls

For the purposes of this section, combustible walls are walls of Type No.V buildings as determined by Wisconsin Building Code (Construction Classification IBC Chapter 6). All other walls are considered to be non-combustible.

B. Noncombustible Walls

Padmounted oil-insulated transformers may be located directly next to noncombustible walls if the following clearances

are maintained from doors, windows and other building openings.

1. Padmounted oil-insulated transformers shall not be located within a zone extending 6.1 m (20 ft) outward and 3.0 m (10 ft) to either side of a building door. See Figure PSC 114-317B1.

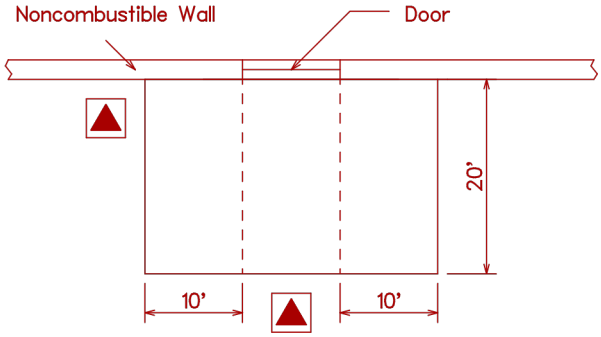


Figure PSC 114-317B1.

2. Padmounted oil-insulated transformers shall not be located within a zone extending 3.0 m (10 ft) outward and 3.0 m (10 ft) to either side of an air intake opening. Such transformers may be located within said zone beneath an air intake opening provided there is not less than 7.6 m (25 ft) diagonal separation between the transformer and said opening. See Figure PSC 114-317B2.

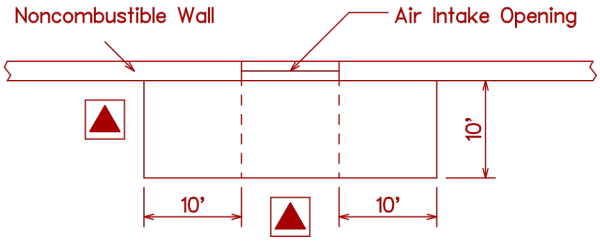


Figure PSC 114-317B2.

3.a. Padmounted oil-insulated transformers shall not be located within a zone extending 3.0 m (10 ft) outward and 0.9 m (3 ft) to either side of a building window or opening other than an air intake. See Figure PSC 114-317B3a.

Exception: This does not apply to a glass block or fire window meeting the requirements of the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code (Fire Window IBC Chapter 7, Section 716.3).

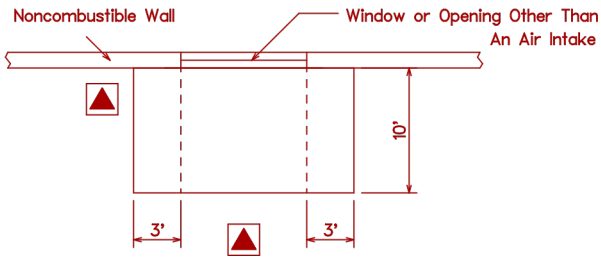


Figure PSC 114-317B3a.

3.b. For second story windows, the transformer shall not be located less than 1.5 m (5 ft) from any part of the window. See Figure PSC 317B3b.

Exception: This does not apply to a glass block or fire window meeting the requirements of the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code (Fire Window, IBC Chapter 7, Section 714.3).

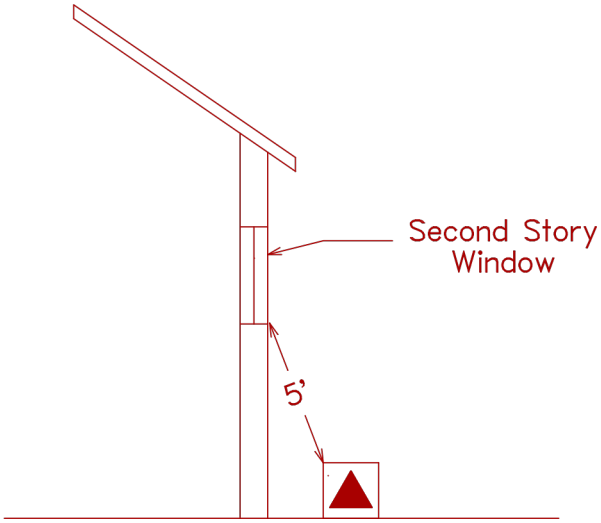


Figure PSC 114-317 B3b.

C. Combustible Walls

1. Padmounted oil-insulated transformers in sizes up to and including 100 kVA shall be located according to the provisions set forth in Subsection B for noncombustible walls.

2. Padmounted oil-insulated transformers in sizes above 100 kVA shall be located a minimum of 3.0 m (10 ft) from the building wall in addition to the clearances from building doors, windows and other openings set forth for noncombustible walls.

D. Barriers

If the clearances specified in PSC 114.317 cannot be obtained, a fire-resistant barrier may be constructed in lieu of the required separation. The following methods of construction are acceptable:

1. Noncombustible Walls

The barrier shall extend to a projection line from the corner of the padmounted transformer to the furthest corner of the window, door or opening in question. The height of the barrier shall be 0.3 m (1 ft) above the top of the padmounted transformer. See Figure PSC 114-317D1.

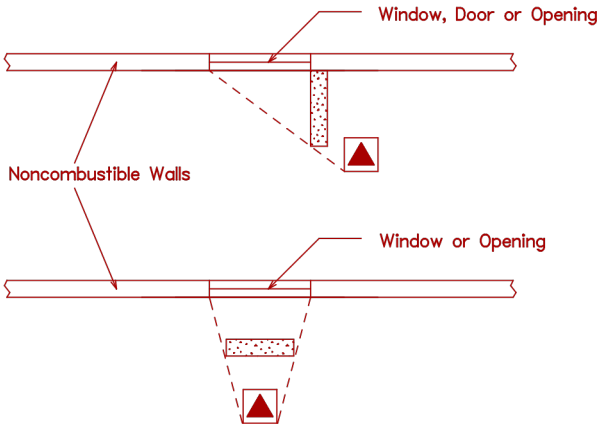


Figure PSC 114-317D1.

2. Combustible Walls

The barrier shall extend 0.9 m (3 ft) beyond each side of the padmounted transformer. The height of the barrier shall be 0.3 m (1 ft) above the top of the transformer. See Figure PSC 114-317D2.

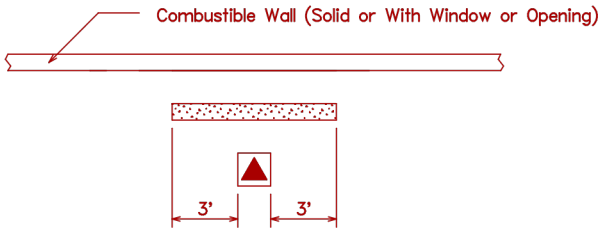


Figure PSC 114-317D2.

E. Fire Escapes

1. Padmounted oil-insulated transformers shall not be located within a zone extending 6.1 m (20 ft) outward and 3 m (10 ft) to either side of the point where a fire escape meets the ground. See Figure PSC 114-317E1.

2. Padmounted oil-insulated transformers located beneath fire escapes shall have a vertical clearance of not less than 3 m (10 ft) from the top of the transformer to the bottom of the fire escape. See Figure PSC 114-317E2.

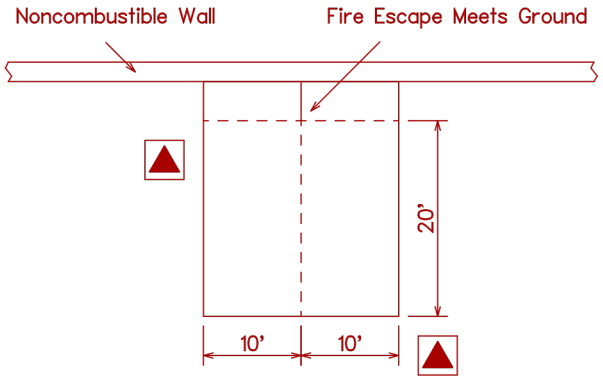


Figure PSC 114-317E1

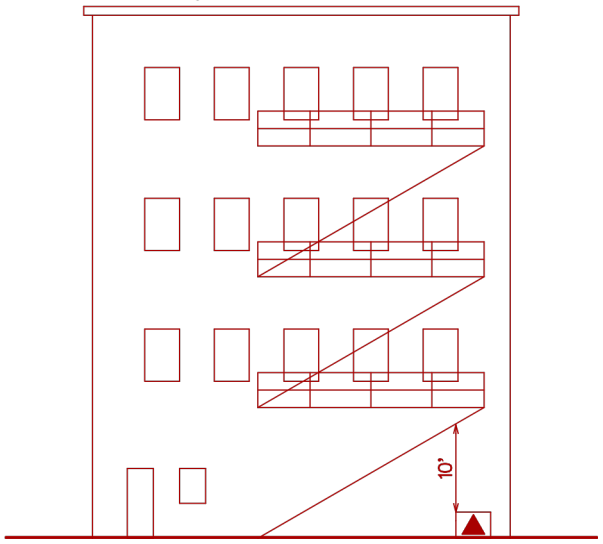


Figure PSC 114-317E2

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007:am. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

## Section 35. Direct-Buried Cable

**PSC 114.350 General.** [NESC 350F, p. 236] (Change) Change paragraph F to read:

F. All direct-buried jacketed supply cable meeting Rule 350B and all direct-buried communication cables shall be legibly marked as follows:

The appropriate identification symbol shown in Fig 350-1 shall be indented or embossed in the outermost cable jacket at a spacing of not more than 1m (40 in). The symbol may be separate or sequentially combined with other data, or symbols, or both, printed on the jacket. If the symbol is sequentially combined, it shall be separated as indicated in Fig 350-1. If optional supplemental striping is used, only supply cables or non-metallic duct containing or intended to contain supply cables may have three equally separated longitudinal red stripes.

This rule applies to cable installed on or after January 1, 1996.

Exception 1: Cables with jackets that cannot be effectively marked in accordance with Rules 350F need not be marked.

Exception 2: Unmarked cable from stock existing prior to 1 January 1996 may be used to repair unmarked direct-buried jacketed supply cables and communication cables.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; PSC 114.350 renum. from PSC 114.350F under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.352 Installation.** Table PSC 114.352-1 [NESC Table 352-1, p. 239] Supply cable, conductor, or duct burial depth (Change and Addition)

**(1)** Change the present "Exception" after the table to "Exception 1".

**(2)** Add a new Exception 2 as follows:

Exception 2: Installations of insulated secondary underground cables operating at less than 600 volts between conductors shall be permitted to be laid on the ground during winter months provided they are suitably protected.

**(3)** (Addition) Add Note to read:

**Note 2:** Grounding and bonding conductors are covered by Rule 093.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; cr. PSC 114.352 (title) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., number (1) to (3) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; correction in (intro.) under s. 35.17, Stats., Register June 2015 No. 714; CR 18-007: am. (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. (intro.) Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.353 Deliberate separations—Equal to or greater than 300 mm (12 in) from underground structures or other cables. (2)** [Follows NESC 353D, p. 238] (Addition) Following NESC 353D, add the following paragraph E to read:

E. Gas lines

The separation in any direction of gas pipelines from direct-buried electric supply and communication facilities shall be a minimum of 0.3 m (12 in).

Exception: If this clearance cannot be attained, the gas line shall be protected from damage that might result from the proximity of the electric supply or communication direct-buried system.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; renum. PSC 114.353 from PSC 114.353E under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: renum. PSC 114.353 to (2) and am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

**PSC 114.354 Random separation — separation less than 300 mm (12 in) from underground structures or other cables. (1)** SUPPLY AND COMMUNICATION CABLES OR CONDUCTORS. [NESC 354D1g, p. 241] (Change) Change paragraph g to read:

g. Adequate bonding shall be provided between the effectively grounded supply conductor or conductors and the communication cable shield or sheath at intervals that should not exceed 300 m (1,000 ft). At each above or below grade transformer or above or below grade pedestal, all existing grounds shall be interconnected. These include the primary neutral, secondary neutral,

power cable shield, metal duct, or sheath and communication cable sheath. Communication protectors, communication service cable shields and secondary neutrals shall be connected to a common ground at each customer's service entrance when communication circuits are underground without separation from power conductors.

**(2)** INSULATING JACKETED EFFECTIVELY GROUNDED NEUTRAL SUPPLY CABLES. [NESC 354D3 Exception, p. 242] (Omission) The exception in Rule 354D3 of the NESC-2023 is omitted and not incorporated as part of the Wisconsin State Electrical Code, Volume 1.

**(3)** SUPPLY AND COMMUNICATION CABLES OR CONDUCTORS AND NON-METALIC WATER AND SEWER LINES. [NESC 354E, p. 242] (Change) Change paragraph E to read:

E. Supply and communication cables or conductors, foundations and water and sewer lines.

1. Supply cables and conductors and water and sewer lines or foundations may be buried together with no deliberate separation between facilities and at the same depth, provided all parties involved are in agreement.

2. Communication cables and conductors and water and sewer lines or foundations may be buried together with no deliberate separation between facilities and at the same depth, provided all parties involved are in agreement.

3. Supply cables or conductors, communication cables or conductors, water and sewer lines or foundations may be buried together with no deliberate separation between facilities and at the same depth, provided the applicable rules in Rule 354D are met and all parties involved are in agreement.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; renum. PSC 114.354 from PSC 114.354D1g under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., cr. (1) (title) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., number (1) and renum. (2) from PSC 114.354E under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: r. and recr. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

## Section 38. Equipment

**PSC 114.381 Design.** [Follows NESC 381G, p. 273] (Addition) Following NESC 381G, add paragraph H to read:

H. Warning signs

1. Where a padmounted transformer, switchgear, pedestal, or similar above-grade enclosure is not within a fenced or other protected area and contains live parts in excess of 600 volts, a permanent and conspicuous warning sign shall be provided on the outside of the enclosure which meets the requirements as to format and color of American National Standards Institute standard ANSI Z535.1-2011, ANSI Z535.2-2011, ANSI Z535.3-2011, ANSI Z535.4-2011, and ANSI Z535.5-2011 for safety signs.

2. Electric supply equipment installed prior to July 1, 2003 shall be signed to comply with these rules or the rule in effect in 2003. Warning signs installed as replacements or installed on new facilities shall comply with the standard as prescribed in s. PSC 114.381H1 above. The "Mr. Ouch" symbol may be used as the optional pictorial part of this sign.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; renum. PSC 114.381 from PSC 114.381H under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register March 2015 No. 711; CR 18-007: am. (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20.

# Part 4. Work Rules for the Operation of Electric Supply and Communications Lines and Equipment

## Section 40. Purpose and Scope

**PSC 114.402 Referenced sections.** [NESC 402, p. 251] (Change) Change first sentence of NESC Rule 402 to read:

The Introduction (Section 1) as amended by s. PSC 114.010, Definitions (Section 2) as amended by Section 2 of Chapter PSC 114, List of Referenced Documents (Section 3), and Grounding Methods (Section 9) as amended by Section 9 of Chapter PSC 114, shall apply to the requirements of Part 4.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. (intro.) Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**

## Section 41. Supply and Communications Systems—Rules for Employers

**PSC 114.410 General requirements.** [Follows NESC 410A3b Note 5, p. 251] (Addition) Add the following clarifying note to Rule 410A3b:

**Note 6**: It is the intent of this rule that the facility owner and equipment owner cooperate to provide the necessary arc assessment of their respective areas of responsibility where work is to be performed. Either the facility owner or the equipment owner may request the appropriate information from the other party and perform the assessment on behalf of the other.

**History:** CR 07-021: cr. Register January 2008 No. 625, eff. 2-1-08; CR 13-039: r. and recr. Register June 2014 No. 702, eff. 7-1-14; CR 18-007: am. Register February 2020 No. 770, eff. 3-1-20; **CR 26-017: am. Register July 2026 No. 847, eff. 8-1-26.**