

ORDINARY PROPOSAL #3 – Amend NECA Standing Policy Statement #9, Electrical Inspections
(Submitted by the NECA Codes & Standards Committee)

Current Language

POLICY 9
Electrical Inspections

NECA supports the inspection of electrical installations by qualified inspectors. Inspection services provided by qualified inspectors protect the public, both owners and users, from harm to life and property, by reducing the possibility of hazards resulting from incorrectly installed electrical products and systems. In addition to decreasing hazards, properly installed electrical systems are more reliable and efficient, which adds to their long-term value. The association believes that electrical inspection jurisdictions should provide consistent and fair application of codes and standards to electrical installations and systems. To that end, NECA believes electrical inspection jurisdictions should reference and perform their responsibilities in a manner consistent with the practices outlined in *NFPA 78 Guide on Electrical Inspections*. NECA endorses the following principles with respect to electrical inspections:

1. In order to protect public safety, most states and localities require electrical installations to comply with the National Electrical Code®, and electrical products to be certified (listed) by qualified electrical testing laboratories. Electrical inspections help confirm that electrical wiring and systems are installed “according to Code,” using only properly evaluated listed products meeting applicable U.S. safety standards.
2. The benefits of electrical inspections are not limited to power or line-voltage wiring systems, including alternative energy systems and energy storage systems. In order to ensure safety, all installations of wiring and equipment covered by

Proposed Language

(~~strikeover~~ indicates deleted language;
underline indicates new language)

POLICY 9
Electrical Inspections

NECA supports effective inspector relations and the inspection of electrical installations by qualified electrical inspectors. Inspection services provided by qualified electrical inspectors protect the general public, ~~both~~ owners, and users, from harm to life and property, by reducing the possibility of hazards resulting from incorrectly installed electrical products and systems. In addition to decreasing hazards, properly installed electrical systems are more reliable and efficient, which adds to their long-term value. The association believes that electrical inspection jurisdictions should provide consistent and fair application of codes and standards to electrical installations and systems. To that end, NECA believes electrical inspection jurisdictions should reference and perform their responsibilities in a manner consistent with the practices outlined in *NFPA 78, Guide on Electrical Inspections*. NECA endorses the following principles with respect to electrical inspections:

1. In order to protect public safety, most states and localities require electrical installations to comply with the *National Electrical Code*®, and electrical products to be certified (listed) by qualified electrical testing laboratories. Electrical inspections help confirm that electrical wiring and systems are installed in a Code compliant manner, “according to Code,” using only properly evaluated, listed products, as required, and meeting applicable U.S. safety standards.
2. The benefits of electrical inspections are not limited to power or line-voltage wiring systems, including alternative energy systems and energy storage systems. In order to ensure safety, all installations of wiring and equipment covered by

the *National Electrical Code*® should be required to secure applicable jurisdictional permits and required inspections. This includes, but is not limited to, low-voltage and limited-energy systems as telecommunications, security, nurse call, computer networks, audio and video distribution, optical fiber, power over ethernet (POE), emergency voice/alarm signaling systems, digital electricity (pulse power) systems, and cable television.

3. In addition to their public safety benefits, electrical inspections confirm that qualified electrical contractors are on the job and help protect the public against untrained or unprofessional contractors and electricians.

Too often, unqualified installers perform improper electrical installations out of ignorance, cut corners in order to reduce costs, and use products that don't meet national safety requirements or local laws and codes. The result can be unsafe installations that pose shock and fire hazards to users, and which also damages the public's confidence in the safety of, and therefore the value of, properly constructed electrical installations.

4. The cost of electrical inspection services should be supported by permit and inspection fees paid directly by builders and electrical contractors. The cost of this vital public safety function should not be paid indirectly out of general funds, because this makes it vulnerable to fiscal cycles experienced by state and local governments. By the same token, revenues from electrical permit and inspection fees should be used only to provide and maintain a strong, professional electrical inspection function that protects public safety. They should not be regarded as a source of general public revenue.

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3. In addition to their public safety benefits, electrical inspections confirm that qualified electrical contractors are on the job and help protect the public against untrained or unprofessional contractors and electricians.

Too often, unqualified installers perform improper electrical installations out of ignorance, cutting corners ~~in order~~ to reduce installation costs, and ~~use~~ using inferior products that ~~do not~~ don't meet national safety standards requirements or local laws and codes. The result can be unsafe installations that pose shock and fire hazards threatening safety, life, and property. ~~to users, and which also~~ These types of incidents also damage the public's confidence in the safety of, and therefore the value of, properly constructed electrical installations.

4. The cost of electrical inspection services should be supported by permit and inspection fees paid directly by owners, builders, and electrical contractors. The cost of this vital public safety function should not be paid indirectly out of general funds, ~~as because~~ this makes ~~it~~ inspection services funding vulnerable to fiscal cycles experienced by state and local governments. By the same token, revenues from electrical permit and inspection fees should be used only to provide and maintain a strong, professional electrical inspection function that protects public safety. They should not be regarded as a source of general public revenue.

5. NECA believes that electrical inspectors should be trained electricians with at least five years practical field experience in electrical construction, and that they should be licensed or certified by a nationally recognized organization such as the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) and the International Code Council (ICC). NECA also believes that such certification or equivalent credentials should include mandatory continuing education for renewal processes as new NEC editions are published. Only persons with substantial National Electrical Code® knowledge and experience, which has been verified by an independent agency, should be entrusted with performing this important public safety function. NECA also believes that electrical inspection jurisdictions should follow all practices and requirements outlined in NFPA 1078 *Standard for Electrical Inspector Professional Qualifications*.

6. NECA members are progressive and are continuously implementing effective improvements to their operations to promote safety, productivity, and profitability. To that end, the association encourages inspection jurisdictions to recognize prefabrication processes and to coordinate off-site inspection and approval processes in a cooperative fashion that reduces delays and downtime on projects. The association also recognizes that remote inspections are becoming common in the industry and encourages inspection jurisdictions to foster continuous coordination between inspectors and contractors as these newer technologies are deployed. Inspection jurisdictions should utilize the latest technologies to enhance the services they provide their customers.

(Adopted Oct. 25, 1997)

(Revised Oct. 3, 2015, Oct. 7, 2017, Sept. 14, 2019, Oct. 9, 2021)

5. NECA believes that electrical inspectors should be trained, and preferably former electricians, with at least five years practical field experience in electrical construction, and that they should be licensed or certified by a nationally recognized or accredited certifying organization such as the *International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI)* and the *International Code Council (ICC)*. NECA also believes that such certification or equivalent credentials should include mandatory continuing education for renewal processes as new *NEC®* editions are published. Only persons with substantial *National Electrical Code®* knowledge and experience, which has been verified by an independent agency, should be entrusted with performing this important public safety function. NECA also believes that electrical inspection jurisdictions should follow all practices and requirements outlined in NFPA 1078, *Standard for Electrical Inspector Professional Qualifications*.

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(Revised Oct. 3, 2015, Oct. 7, 2017, Sept. 14, 2019, Oct. 9, 2021, Sept. 29, 2023)

Comment from NECA National Office: The proposed changes clarify the intent of the standing policy; therefore, this proposal is recommended **FOR** adoption.