NECA-IBEW commonly used terms and acronyms

NECA Labor Relations – 12/2024

- **501(c)(3)** – Is a corporation, trust, unincorporated association, or other type of organization Operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, literary, or scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code. It is one of the 29 types of 501(c) nonprofit organizations in the US. Most trade apprenticeship programs like JATCs are 501(c)(3)

- **501(c)(5)** – Are a labor organization, an agricultural organization, or a horticultural organization under section 501(c)(5) of Title 26 of the United States Code. Most trade unions like IBEW local unions are 501(c)(5)

- **501(c)(6)** – Operated to promote a common business interest, and to improve business conditions in the industry, as identified from federal income tax under section 501(c)(6) of Title 26 of the United States Code. Most trade associations like NECA Chapters are 501(c)(6)

- **5500** – IRS, DOL and the PBGC (Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation) jointly developed the Form 5500 for employee benefit plans to satisfy annual reporting requirements under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code

- **990** – IRS Tax annual reporting form used on all nonprofit organization. The specific filling status used under the tax code is 501(c)(3). tax fillings are made available to the public and the website Guidestar.org will provide search tools and access to such fillings

- **ACCE** – American Council for Construction Education

- **ABC** – Associated Builders and Contractors Association. Like the AGC but much more nonunion oriented. The ABC has a registered electrical apprenticeship program which is utilized by many merit shop electrical contractors on Davis Bacon projects

- **ACA** – Affordable Care Act

- **ACCSH** – Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health

- **ADR** – Alternative Dispute Resolution: A method used to resolve disputes without litigation, often included in NECA-IBEW agreements

- **AEI** – NECA term for Association Executive Institute, an annual meeting of Chapter Executives for education and convention planning

- **AGC** – Associated General Contractors. Members mainly consist of general contractors, but they do have "specialty" contractors who are also members such as electrical contractors. Depending on the area, they may have an electrical training program which the non-union EC utilize

- **AMF** – Administrative Maintenance Fund. A rate assessed to all employers, NECA or non NECA for the cost associated with administering the contract on their behalf.

- **Alter Ego** – An alter ego company is defined as the same owner and manager of one company shutting down operations and subsequently reopens doing the same thing but with a new name. Alter ego companies are generally formed to avoid union obligations

- **BA/BM** – Business Agent. Sometimes referred as the Business Manager or the official Bargaining Agent of a Local union

- **BAT** – The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship works in conjunction with both the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (BAT) states that report directly to the Federal government as well as independent State Apprenticeship Agencies to administer the program

- **BICSI** – Building Industry Consulting Service International. BICSI is a set of standards and best practices defined by the Building Industry Consulting Service International (BICSI). It defines standards in the areas of information technology and telecommunications. Technologies covered are electronic safety and security, data and voice technologies, as well as audio and video technologies. The BICSI standards also extend up to wireless systems and the areas of copper and optical fiber systems

- **Bargaining Agent** – A union named by the NLRB, or recognized voluntarily by the employer, as the exclusive representative of all employees in the bargaining unit for purposes of collective bargaining

- **Bargaining Unit** – A group of two or more employees who share a community of interest and may reasonably be grouped together for purposes of collective bargaining

- **Blacklisting** – Refers to denying people employment for either political reasons, history of trade union activity, or due to a history of whistleblowing. Illegal in most states

- **CATS** – NECA term for Chapter Administrative Training School held in conjunction with Staff Executive Training School (SETS)

- **CBA** – Collective Bargaining Agreement: The contract negotiated between NECA (representing electrical contractors) and IBEW (representing electrical workers) that outlines wages, working conditions, and benefits

- **CELI** – Chapter Executive Leadership Institute. NECA sponsored training for Chapter Executives (manager)

- **CIR** – Council on Industrial Relations. The arbitration panel that adjudicates grievances and contract disputes in a majority of NECA-IBEW CBAs

- **COBRA** – The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) gives workers and their families who lose their health benefits the right to choose to continue group health benefits provided by their group health plan for up to 18 months due to job loss

- **CW/CE** – Construction Wireman (CW) and Construction Electrician (CE). The classification is intended for those electrical workers who do not fit into the Journeyman or Apprentice model based on their experience level

- **Category One Language** - Contract language that has been agreed to by the IBEW and NECA to be included in all CBA. Different Category One language exist for different types of agreements such as Inside, Outside, and Residential agreements

- **Closed Shops** – Place of employment where employees must become members of the union before being hired. Closed shops are illegal and different from union shops which are not illegal

- **Collective Bargaining** – Refers to the negotiation process between an employer and a union comprised of workers to create a contractual agreement that will govern the terms and conditions of the workers' employment

- **DB Plan** - Defined Benefit pension plan. A DB plan promises a specified monthly benefit at retirement. DB plans typically state a promised benefit as an exact dollar amount, such as $100 per month at retirement or it may calculate a benefit through a plan formula that considers such factors as individuals total pension contributions and years of service. The employers shoulder the investment risk of the promised benefits although some protection is provided by federal insurance provided through the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). Trustees are governed by ERISA and the

Taft Hartley Act

- **DBA** – Davis-Bacon Act: A federal law that requires the payment of local prevailing wages on public works projects

- **DC Plan** – Defined Contribution pension plan. A DC plan has contributions made to the employee's individual account. The employee will ultimately receive the balance in their account, which is based on contributions plus or minus investment gains or losses. In DC plans, the individual takes on all the investment risk. Trustees oversee the investment options for the employees or make the investments for them. Trustees are governed by ERISA and the Taft Hartley Act

- **DFR** – Duty of Fair Representation. A duty of the union to represent all workers in the barging unit without discrimination, hostility or personal bias. Enforced by the NLRB

- **DOL** – Department of Labor

- **Daugherty 'Just Cause' Test** – In 1964, Arbitrator Carroll Daugherty established a single standard, Seven Steps to Just Cause, to determine if the discipline or discharge of an employee can be upheld as a just cause action

- **Davis-Bacon Act** – Requires prevailing wages for workers on federally financed construction work. Enforced by the DOL

- **Deferral** – The NLRB policy permitting the arbitration process under a CBA to resolve disputes that that could include claims that an employer violated the NLRA by committing a ULP

- **District Council** – NECA term consisting of Chapter Governors and Presidents that govern each NECA District. See NECA national bylaws

- **Double Breasted** – Refers to two construction firms that often share common ownership, one of which is signatory to a collective bargain agreement (the union firm) and the other that is not (the open shop firm)

- **Due Diligence** - is a measure of prudence, activity, or care, as is properly to be expected from, and ordinarily exercised by, a reasonable and prudent person under the circumstances. Obligations that Trustees, Board of Directors, Chapter Executives, and Local Union Bargaining Agents must demonstrate in most of their oversight and

investigative responsibilities

- **EMI** – NECA's Executive Management Institute
- **ER** – Eastern Region of NECA
- **ERISA** – Employee Retirement Income Security Act: Federal law that sets minimum standards for pension and health plans in private industry
- **ERTS** – Electronic Reciprocity Transfer System. ERTS is an IBEW/NECA web-based network, which is used by traveling employees to register for reciprocity of benefits, primarily health and pension, when working outside of their home local union jurisdiction
- **etA** – Electrical Training Alliance: A partnership between NECA and IBEW to provide training programs for electrical apprentices and journeymen. Formerly the NJATC
- **Evergreen Clause** – A contract provision that renews itself from one term to the next in the absence of contrary notice by one of the parties
- **FMCP** – Family Medical Care Plan. A nationally offered healthcare plan jointly managed by the IBEW and NECA. Originated in 2007ish to serve as an alternative to managing local plans and leverage economies of scale. Current participant numbers around 24K
- **FMLA** – The Family Medical Leave Act entitles eligible employees of covered employers to take unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons with continuation of group health insurance coverage under the same terms and conditions as if the employee had not taken leave
- **Favored Nations** – A clause within a CBA to allow an employer to obtain the best economic terms for labor from a union among all employers that union has collective bargaining relationships with. If the union enters an agreement providing for lower-cost wages or benefits with a different employer, the employer with a most favored nation clause (MFN) in its CBA can demand that the CBA be modified to adopt the lower-cost wages and benefits. This Standard Clause is based on the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA)
- **Fiduciary Responsibility** – A legal duty to act solely in another party's interests. Trustees on Taft Hartley plans have such responsibilities. Such individuals are known

as fiduciaries

- **GRC** – Grievance Resolution Committee: A committee formed to handle disputes between labor and management. Also referred to as Labor Management

- **General Presidents Maintenance Agreements** – The 14 Presidents of the North America's Building Trades Unions work with unionized contractors to win construction maintenance jobs across the country. Wages and bona fide benefits are paid in accordance with the local area collective barging agreement. All other terms may be similar but also may contain significant differences

- **Good Faith Bargaining** – The legal process to negotiate for a collective bargaining agreement. Good faith bargaining requires both sides to "meet and confer in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment." As described in the National Labor Relations Act, Section 8(d)

- **H&W** – Health and Welfare Fund: A fund that provides health benefits to IBEW members and their families

- **HRA** - Health Reimbursement Accounts or Health Reimbursement Arrangements are IRS sanctioned tax-advantaged employer health benefit plans that reimburse employees for out-of-pocket medical expenses and individual health insurance premiums. Using a Health Reimbursement Account yields "tax advantages to offset health care costs" for both employees as well as employers

- **Hiring Hall** – The location in which unions dispatch workers to employers on an as needed basis

- **IBEW** – International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers: The labor union representing electrical workers in the U.S. and Canada

- **IBS** - Integrated Building Systems

- **IFEBP** – International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. A nonprofit organization dedicated to Trustee and Administrator education specifically for ERISA employee benefits plan

- **IJW** – Another referenced for JW (Inside Journeyman Wireman)

- **IO** – International Officer of the IBEW

- **Impasse** – A point in negotiations when, after both parties have bargained in good faith, the negotiations become deadlocked on one or more of the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement

- **Industry Fund** – A fund that originally intended to promote union contractors on construction projects. Funding was discontinued once it was determined to be illegal by a federal court. The shell language still exists in all agreements in anticipation of the federal ruling being overturned

- **JATC** – Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. The local labor management board of trustees who direct the local apprenticeship and training program

- **JIB** – Joint Industry Board: Governs various funds (health, retirement, training) that benefit both workers and contractors in the industry

- **JW** – Journeyman Wireman

- **Just Cause** – A phrase applied to assessing an employer's rationale for disciplining an employee, including such issues as notice of rules, warning of discipline, fairness of the investigation, proof of actual misconduct, and appropriateness of the penalty

- **LM Reports** – Labor Management Reports. L-M Reports are the annual financial statement of income and expenses for labor unions, including salaries of union officers and staff, which unions must file with the Department of Labor

- **LMC** – Labor Management Committee. A local committee who attempts to resolve grievances and, in some area, proactively work together to further the interest of the industry through collective activities

- **LMCC** – Labor Management Cooperation Committee: A group that works to foster cooperation between labor (IBEW) and management (NECA)

- **LLMCC –** Local Labor Management Cooperative Committee, a contribution in the collective bargaining agreement that is jointly overseen and can be spent on the items listed for its intended purposes in the CBA

- **LMRDA** – Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act: Regulates labor unions' internal affairs and their officials' relationships with employers

- **Letter of Assent – (LOA)** - A contractual document used to bind an employer to a CBA and subsequent agreements. Outlines termination procedures and authorizes NECA as its (management's) bargaining representative. Three documents exist LOA A, B and C

- **MOU** – Memorandum of Understanding: An agreement between parties (often temporary or project-based) before a formal contract is drawn up

- **MPPAA** – Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act. The 1980 act amended ERISA to strengthen the pension protection program for multiemployer plans. The amendments established mandatory requirements for financially weak multiemployer plans and imposed financial requirements on employers dropping out of multiemployer programs

- **MPR** – Monthly Payroll Report

- **MWR** – Midwestern Region NECA

- **Management Rights Clause** – CBA provision recognizing management's right to direct their enterprise

- **Mandatory Subject of Bargaining** – A subject over wages, hours, terms or condition of employment. Also known as Non-Permissive Language

- **NCA** – National Construction Agreement – The National Construction Agreement is designed to promote efficiency of all construction operations. The agreement provides standard working conditions and is marketed as optimizing productivity by eliminating various factors that contribute to construction delays

- **NEAP** – National Electrical Annuity Plan. An annuity pension plan that some outside line and IBEW represented manufacturing workers participate

- **NEBF** – National Electrical Benefit Fund. A defined benefit pension plan that is in all inside wireman, VDV and residential CBA. All employers contribute 3% of gross labor payroll as defined by the NEBF Trustees

- **NEIB** – National Electrical Individual Benefit. a supplemental bargained benefit to the NEBF

- **NEIS** – National Electrical Installation Standards

- **NIOSH** - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

- **NLMCC** – National Labor Management Cooperative Committee

- **NLRA** – The National Labor Relations Act established guidelines for union and management relations. The NLRA established the National Labor Relations Board to address those relations between unions and employers. The 1935 Wagner Act which officially became known as the NLRA was later modified by the 1947 Taft Harley Act and 1959 Landrum-Griffin Act

- **NLRB** – National Labor Relations Board: The federal agency responsible for enforcing labor laws related to collective bargaining and unfair labor practices

- **NMA** – National Maintenance Agreement. Project specific agreements between the customer, contractor and the craftsman. Typically, wages and benefits are paid at the Inside Wireman rate but most other terms such as workday start time, overtime, shift premiums, and the settlement of dispute process are different. Some agreements exclude administrative maintenance fund contributions. Agreement interpretations are largely determined by the NMA's Book of Decisions

- **NTI** – National Training Institute. An annual education event for Training Directors, instructors, committee persons and contractors led by the Electrical Training Alliance

- **OSHA 10/30** – Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10-hour/30-hour Training: Required safety training for workers, often part of NECA/IBEW safety standards

- **Optional Language** – Contractual language that is common in many agreements but is not mandatory

- **PAC** - Political Action Committee

- **PBA** – Performance-Based Agreement: A type of agreement that ties compensation or other benefits to performance metrics

- **PBF** – Pension Benefit Fund: A retirement plan for eligible IBEW members
- **PBM** – Prescription Benefit Manager
- **PLA** – Project Labor Agreement - Is a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor organizations that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project. As a condition of being awarded a contract, the contractor must sign the negotiated PLA with the relevant union organizations
- **PLC** – NECA's Political Leadership Counsel
- **PTO** – Paid Time Off: A benefit where workers can take leave with pay
- **Past Practice** – In labor law, it refers to a practice that has been recognized and accepted by the parties and used in the past. It is sometimes the last resort for dealing with a grievance by considering the way a similar issue was resolved before the present grievance was filed
- **Permissive Subjects of Bargaining** – Negotiation subjects which bargaining is neither compelled nor prohibited. Neither party is required to agree to proposed language that is a permissive subject, and the matter cannot be pursued to the point of impasse. Also known as non-Mandatory Subjects
- **Piece Work** – Compensation based on the number of units completed is being paid for doing piece work
- **Prevailing Wage** – The wage and benefits allegedly paid to most workers, laborers, and mechanics within a particular area. Established by the DOL
- **QA/QC** – Quality Assurance/Quality Control: Standards or processes used to ensure work meets established requirements, often used in NECA/IBEW projects
- **RFI** – Request for Information
- **RIF** – Reduction in Force (layoff)
- **RTW** – Right to Work: Laws that prohibit union security agreements, making union membership and dues optional for workers in some states

- **SAP** – Substance Abuse Program

- **SETS** – Staff Executive Training School. NECA training for chapter staff and new executives

- **SPD** – Summary Plan Description. An outline of an employee benefit plan provided under Employment Retirement Income Security Act Plan (ERISA). It contains information such as the identity of the plan administrator, the requirements for eligibility and participation in the plan, circumstances that may result in disqualification or denial of benefits, and the identity of any insurers responsible for financing or administering the plan. A summary plan description must generally be furnished to all employee-benefit-plan participants and beneficiaries

- **SR** – Southern Region NECA

- **SWA** – Standard Work Agreement: The standard contract governing the work rules for IBEW members

- **Salt** - A person on the union payroll who secures a job with a non-union employer with the sole intention of gathering information for the purpose of organizing a union inside of that workplace

- **Surface Bargaining** – When one party in labor-management negotiations meets but just goes through the motions of bargaining instead of trying to reach agreements on contract language. Surface bargaining violates Section 8(a)(5) of the NLRA

- **ULP** – Unfair Labor Practice as defined by the NLRB

- **Unilateral Change** – Change made in the CBA without prior notice to the union or an opportunity to bargain

- **Union Shop** – A collective bargaining agreement provision that requires employees to belong to or pay dues to a union as a condition of continued employment. Union shops require employees to join the union within a predetermined amount of time after being hired. Union shops do not exist in Right to Work states

- **VDV** – Voice Data Video. Also referred to as Limited Energy (LE) or Sound and Communications (S&C)

- **VDVNA** – NECA IBEW Voice Data Video National Agreement

- **WR** – Western Region NECA

- **Weingarten Rights** – A National Labor Relations Board decision that employees have a right to union representation at investigatory interviews. These rights have become known as the Weingarten Rights which provide represented employees the right to insist on union assistance during an investigatory interview

- **Withdraw Liability** – The liability for a share of any unfunded vested pension benefits of multi-employer DB plans on employers who withdraw, complete or partial, from such plans as determined under MPPAA

- **Zipper Clause** – A provision in a labor agreement, sometimes also known as an integration clause, which states that the agreement is a full and complete understanding of the parties upon completion of negotiations

Electrical Trade Acronyms

- **AC** – Alternating Current: Electrical current that changes direction periodically.

- **AFCI** – Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter: Detects arcing conditions in wiring and shuts off power to prevent fires.

- **AWG** – American Wire Gauge: The standard for wire diameter sizing.

- **BX** – Armored Cable: Older term for flexible metal-clad cables.

- **CSA** – Canadian Standards Association: Canadian organization that develops standards, including electrical codes.

- **DC** – Direct Current: Electrical current that flows in one direction.

- **EFLI** – Earth Fault Loop Impedance: Measures the path taken by electrical current during an earth fault.

- **EICR** – Electrical Installation Condition Report: A report outlining the condition of an electrical installation.

- **EMI** – Electromagnetic Interference: Disruption caused by electromagnetic fields affecting electrical devices.
- **GFCI** – Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter: A safety device that cuts power to a circuit when a fault is detected.
- **HV** – High Voltage: Voltage levels above 1,000V for AC or above 1,500V for DC.
- **IEC** – International Electrotechnical Commission: Develops international electrical standards.
- **IEEE** – Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers: An organization for technical professionals in electrical and electronic engineering.
- **LED** – Light Emitting Diode: A type of energy-efficient lighting.
- **LV** – Low Voltage: Voltage levels below 1,000V for AC or below 1,500V for DC.
- **LOTO** – Lockout/Tagout: Safety procedure used to ensure that dangerous machines are properly shut off.
- **MC** – Metal-Clad: A type of armored cable used for electrical wiring.
- **MCB** – Miniature Circuit Breaker: A small automatic switch that stops the flow of current in case of an overload or short circuit.
- **NEMA** – National Electrical Manufacturers Association: Develops standards for electrical products.
- **NEC** – National Electrical Code: The standard for safe installation of electrical wiring and equipment.
- **NFPA** – National Fire Protection Association: Publishes the NEC and other safety codes.
- **NM** – Non-Metallic: Refers to a type of electrical cable commonly used in residential wiring (e.g., Romex).
- **Ohm** – Unit of electrical resistance.

- **OSHA** – Occupational Safety and Health Administration: Regulates workplace safety, including electrical safety.
- **PPE** – Personal Protective Equipment: Safety gear used to protect electricians (gloves, goggles, etc.).
- **PVC** – Polyvinyl Chloride: A type of plastic commonly used to insulate electrical wires.
- **RCD** – Residual Current Device: Another term for GFCI, more common outside the U.S.
- **RCD** – Residual Current Device: A component in a system that ensures protection against electrical shocks.
- **RMS** – Root Mean Square: A statistical measure of the magnitude of a varying quantity, often used for AC voltage.
- **SCADA** – Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition: A system used for controlling and monitoring industrial processes, including electrical systems.
- **SWBD** – Switchboard: The assembly that controls the distribution of electricity.
- **THHN** – Thermoplastic High Heat-resistant Nylon-coated: A common building wire used in residential and commercial applications.
- **UPS** – Uninterruptible Power Supply: Provides backup power when the main power source fails.
- **VA** – Volt-Ampere: A unit of apparent power in an electrical circuit (used for transformers and UPS systems).
- **VFD** – Variable Frequency Drive: Used to control the speed of an electric motor.
- **XLPE** – Cross-linked Polyethylene: Insulation used on high-voltage cables.
- **UL** – Underwriters Laboratories: Tests and certifies products for safety standards.
- **Watt** – Unit of electrical power

Basic Electrical Concepts

- **Voltage (V)**: The potential difference in electrical charge between two points in a circuit. Often thought of as "electrical pressure."
- **Current (I)**: The flow of electric charge, measured in amperes (amps).
- **Resistance (R)**: The opposition to the flow of current, measured in ohms (Ω).
- **Power (P)**: The rate at which electrical energy is transferred, measured in watts (W). Power is calculated as $P = V \times I$.
- **Frequency (Hz)**: The number of cycles per second in an AC (Alternating Current) waveform, measured in hertz.
- **Circuit**: A closed path through which electricity flows.
- **Conductor**: A material (usually copper or aluminum in wiring) that allows electricity to flow easily.
- **Insulator**: A material (like rubber or plastic) that doesn't conduct electricity, used to safely contain and route electricity.

Wiring and Equipment

- **Service Entrance**: The point where electricity from the utility connects to a building's wiring system.
- **Panelboard (Breaker Panel)**: A distribution board that divides the incoming electrical feed into subsidiary circuits, protected by circuit breakers or fuses.
- **Fuse**: A device that protects circuits by melting when current is too high, interrupting the flow.
- **Circuit Breaker**: A switch that automatically interrupts an electrical circuit to prevent overload or short circuit.
- **Grounding / Earthing**: Connecting part of an electrical system to the Earth to reduce the risk of electric shock and damage from surges.

- **Neutral Wire**: The return path for current in an AC circuit, typically at ground potential.
- **Hot or Live Wire**: The conductor that carries current from the source at a higher potential.
- **Switch**: A device for making and breaking the connection in an electric circuit.
- **Receptacle (Outlet)**: A contact device installed at the outlet for the connection of an attachment plug.

Cable and Conduit Types

- **Romex® (NM Cable)**: Nonmetallic sheathed cable commonly used for indoor residential wiring.
- **MC (Metal Clad) Cable**: Cable with metal sheathing for protection, often used in commercial applications.
- **EMT (Electrical Metallic Tubing)**: A thin-walled metal conduit used to route and protect electrical wiring.
- **PVC Conduit**: Plastic conduit used for outdoor and underground wiring due to its resistance to moisture.

Safety Devices and Codes

- **GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter)**: A device that protects against electric shock by tripping when it senses current imbalance.
- **AFCI (Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter)**: A device that trips when it detects dangerous arcing conditions that could lead to fire.
- **LOTO (Lockout/Tagout)**: A safety procedure ensuring equipment is de-energized and cannot be started without removing a lock or tag.
- **NEC (National Electrical Code)**: A regionally adoptable standard for safe electrical design, installation, and inspection in the U.S.
- **OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration)**: The regulatory body setting and enforcing workplace safety and health standards in the U.S.

Lighting and Loads

- **LED (Light Emitting Diode)**: An energy-efficient lighting technology.
- **Ballast/Driver**: A device used with certain types of lamps to regulate current and ensure proper operation.
- **Load**: Any device or component that draws electrical power, such as a light fixture, appliance, or motor.

Motor and Control

- **Motor Starter**: A device that starts and stops a motor safely and may include overload protection.
- **VFD (Variable Frequency Drive)**: A drive that controls motor speed by varying the frequency of the supplied voltage.
- **Relay**: An electrically operated switch used to control circuits.
- **Contactors**: Like relays but designed to handle higher electrical loads, commonly used in motor and lighting control.

Power Quality and Distribution

- **Transformer**: A device that changes voltage levels between circuits (e.g., stepping down power for use in a home).
- **Panel Schedule**: A listing of circuits, breakers, and loads associated with a particular distribution panel.
- **Single-Phase/Three-Phase**: Types of AC power supply; three-phase is common in commercial and industrial settings due to efficiency.
- **Harmonics**: Distortions in an AC waveform caused by certain loads (e.g., electronics), which can lead to inefficiencies and equipment damage.

Measurement and Testing

- **Multimeter**: A device to measure voltage, current, and resistance.
- **Continuity Test**: A test to see if a circuit is complete or if there's a break in the conductor.
- **Clamp Meter**: A meter that can measure current flowing through a conductor without making direct contact with the conductor's insulation.

Electrical Trade Terms

- **NEC** – *National Electrical Code*: The standard for safe installation of electrical wiring and equipment.
- **NFPA** – *National Fire Protection Association*: Publishes the NEC and other safety codes.
- **NEMA** – *National Electrical Manufacturers Association*: Develops standards for electrical products.
- **UL** – *Underwriters Laboratories*: Tests and certifies products for safety standards.
- **OSHA** – *Occupational Safety and Health Administration*: Regulates workplace safety, including electrical safety.
- **IEC** – *International Electrotechnical Commission*: Develops international electrical standards.
- **IEEE** – *Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers*: An organization for technical professionals in electrical and electronic engineering.
- **CSA** – *Canadian Standards Association*: Canadian organization that develops standards, including electrical codes.
- **AWG** – *American Wire Gauge*: The standard for wire diameter sizing.
- **THHN** – *Thermoplastic High Heat-resistant Nylon-coated*: A common building wire used in residential and commercial applications.