

NEC 2023 → 2026 Code Comparison

Lightwave Learning

Online Electrical Continuing Education

4 Hours | 4 Credits

This course covers 51 lessons drawn from across the 2023 and 2026 editions of the National Electrical Code, comparing verbatim code text and identifying every technical, editorial, relocated, new, and deleted change. Each lesson is structured with side-by-side code comparison cards, color-coded change markup, a field-focused explanation of why the change was made and what it means on the job, and a scenario-based Quick Check question designed for working journeyman electricians. Lessons are organized by article number in ascending code section order, spanning Chapters 1 through 8 of the NEC.

ARTICLE 100 — DEFINITIONS

Lesson 1 **Article 100 — Conductor, Grounding Electrode** [RELOCATED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC renamed the "Grounding Electrode Bonding Jumper" to "Bonding Conductor, Grounding Electrode" and formally added it as a standalone Article 100 defined term, replacing its prior use as an informal cross-reference in Article 250.

Lesson 2 **Article 100 — (Countertop)** [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC expanded the Counter (Countertop) definition to include beverage preparation and serving surfaces, broadening which surfaces trigger countertop-specific GFCI requirements for inspection and installation.

Lesson 3 **Article 100 — Self-Propelled Vehicle Power Export Equipment (ESVPE)** [NEW]

Students will learn the 2026 NEC's new definition of ESVPE and how it distinguishes power export equipment for off-road industrial vehicles under Article 624 from highway-type EV equipment governed by Article 625.

Lesson 4 **Article 100 — Terminals** [NEW]

Students will learn the 2026 NEC's new defined term "Generator Terminals" and how it establishes a code-defined output connection point used throughout Article 445 for conductor sizing, protection, and disconnect requirements.

Lesson 5 **Article 100 — Line-To-Ground** [NEW]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC formally defines "Line-To-Ground" for the first time in Article 100, specifying that it is a reference between a current-carrying conductor other than a neutral and an equipment grounding conductor, grounded equipment, or ground.

Lesson 6 **Article 100 — Protective Device (OCPD)** [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC replaced the "Branch-Circuit Overcurrent Protective Device" definition with the broader "OCPD" and how the new modifier framework (branch, feeder, service) applies across all levels of the electrical system.

ARTICLE 110 — GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

Lesson 7 110.15 — High-Leg Marking [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC requires orange visibility to be achieved specifically at all splices and terminations on high-leg conductors, not just somewhere along the conductor's length, and how this affects field marking practices.

Lesson 8 110.26 — Spaces About Electrical Equipment [REVISED]

Students will learn the multiple 2026 NEC changes to working space requirements, including expanded DC voltage ranges in Table 110.26(A)(1), a new 90-degree door qualifier, and a new suspended ceiling provision in 110.26(E)(1)(d).

Lesson 9 110.29 — In Sight From (Within Sight From, Within Sight) [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC expanded the "in sight from" definition to include buildings and structures as valid reference points — not just equipment — and how this affects disconnecting means evaluations in the field.

ARTICLE 120 — LOAD CALCULATIONS (RELOCATED FROM ARTICLE 220)

Lesson 10 120.1 — Scope [RELOCATED]

Students will learn that load calculation requirements moved from Article 220 (Chapter 2) to Article 120 (Chapter 1) in the 2026 NEC, that a new Part VIII for recreational vehicle parks was added, and where to find load calculation rules under the new code structure.

Lesson 11 120.5(D) — Direct-Current (dc) Loads [NEW]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC introduced Section 120.5(D) establishing that volt-amperes equal watts for dc equipment load calculations, providing a code basis for calculating dc loads within Article 120 that did not previously exist.

Lesson 12 120.83 — Existing Dwelling Unit [RELOCATED]

Students will learn that the Optional Calculation for existing dwelling units was relocated from Section 220.83 to Section 120.83 in the 2026 NEC and revised to include a unified Table 120.83, a reduced 2 VA/ft² lighting load based on LED technology, and updated EVSE demand factors.

Lesson 13 120.111 — Patient Care–Related Electrical Equipment [NEW]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC introduced Section 120.111 allowing demand factor reductions for patient care branch circuits in health care facilities and how this new allowance affects feeder and service sizing for clinical electrical systems.

ARTICLE 130 — ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (RELOCATED FROM ARTICLE 750)

Lesson 14 130.80 — Marking and Documentation [RELOCATED]

Students will learn that the marking, documentation, and directory requirements for Power Control Systems were moved from Article 750 (Chapter 7) to Article 130 (Chapter 1) and restructured into three subdivisions with a new mandatory documentation requirement for qualified persons.

ARTICLE 210 — BRANCH CIRCUITS

Lesson 15 210.8 — Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for Personnel [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC elevated the rooftop receptacle accessibility exception to the parent text of 210.8, making it apply across all occupancy types, and that a new Informational Note was added for GFCIs used with high-frequency leakage loads.

Lesson 16 210.13 — Ground-Fault Protection of Equipment [REVISED]

Students will learn how the 2026 NEC restructured 210.13 to add a new subdivision (B) extending ground-fault protection of equipment requirements to solidly grounded dc branch circuits rated 1000 amperes or more above 150 volts to ground and up to 1500 volts line-to-line.

Lesson 17 210.22 — Permissible Loads, Individual Branch Circuits [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC added a new Exception prohibiting 10-ampere individual branch circuits from supplying receptacle outlets, closing an interpretive gap between 210.22 and 210.23 that previously allowed undersized circuits to serve receptacles.

Lesson 18 210.52(A)(2) — Wall Space [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC simplified the wall space definition by excluding all fixed cabinets from receptacle spacing measurements regardless of whether they have a countertop, eliminating ambiguity that previously caused inconsistent inspections.

Lesson 19 210.63(B) — Other Electrical Equipment [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC removed the restriction against connecting the maintenance receptacle to the load side of the disconnecting means for equipment requiring dedicated spaces and consolidated the rule into a single paragraph covering all listed equipment types.

Lesson 20 210.70(C) — All Occupancies [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC added Item (3) prohibiting automatic lighting controls as the sole means of illumination in attics, underfloor spaces, and utility rooms unless a manual override is provided, and that this restriction does not apply to basements.

ARTICLE 225 — OUTSIDE BRANCH CIRCUITS AND FEEDERS

Lesson 21 225.31 — Disconnecting Means [REVISED]

Students will learn how the 2026 NEC revised 225.31 to reference 225.41 for emergency disconnects at detached structures, restructured the location requirements under (A) and (B) with a new 110.29 cross-reference, and clarified that compliance with 225.41 satisfies the general disconnect requirement.

ARTICLE 230 — SERVICES

Lesson 22 230.2(A) — Listed Equipment [NEW]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC created a new consolidated listing section at 230.2(A) pulling requirements from three predecessor sections, and that absence of voltage testers (AVTs) permanently mounted on the line side are a genuinely new item requiring a listed device.

Lesson 23 230.23(A) — General [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC simplified the service conductor ampacity requirement in 230.23(A), deleted the mechanical strength clause, and updated the load calculation cross-reference from Article 220 to Article 120 with a new Informational Note.

Lesson 24 230.62(C) — Barriers [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC added "identified" before barriers in 230.62(C), requiring barriers to be listed or manufacturer-designated rather than improvised, and added "energized and" to clarify that the hazard addressed is energized-and-uninsulated service busbars and terminals.

Lesson 25 230.70(A)(1) — & (B)(2) Residential Disconnect Location & Emergency Marking [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC now requires the service disconnect for one- and two-family dwellings to be located on the exterior of the building, and that all service disconnects must be marked "SERVICE DISCONNECT" in red letters on the outside front of the enclosure.

Lesson 26 230.70(D) — Identification of Other Source Disconnects [NEW]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC added a new requirement for a permanent plaque or directory at the service disconnect identifying the location of all other energy source disconnects not located adjacent to it, directly affecting installations with generators, solar, and battery storage.

Lesson 27 230.82 — Equipment Connected to the Supply Side of Service Disconnect [REVISED]

Students will learn how the 2026 NEC reorganized the supply-side equipment list into individually numbered items, removed voltage rating qualifiers from metering equipment items, and added permanently mounted absence of voltage testers (AVTs) as a new permitted item (12) requiring line-side labeling.

ARTICLE 240 — OVERCURRENT PROTECTION

Lesson 28 240.7 — Overcurrent Protective Devices [NEW]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC introduced Section 240.7 as a new consolidated list of six recognized OCPD types permitted for branch circuit, feeder, and service protection, eliminating the need to piece together acceptable devices from multiple locations in the code.

Lesson 29 240.21(C) — Transformer Secondary Conductors [REVISED]

Students will learn how the 2026 NEC restructured the transformer secondary conductor tap rules in 240.21(C) by adding a defined term and reorganizing conditions into labeled subdivisions, improving clarity for panelboard and transformer installation applications.

ARTICLE 250 — GROUNDING AND BONDING

Lesson 30 250.8 — Connection of Grounding and Bonding Equipment [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC added "grounding and bonding terminations" to the scope of 250.8(A), explicitly requiring that the eight approved connection methods apply to termination points as well as conductors and jumpers throughout the grounding system.

Lesson 31 250.64(C) — Continuous [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC added a third permitted method for splicing grounding electrode conductors — listed bonding equipment at accessible locations — giving installers a mechanical connector option that was prohibited under the 2023 edition.

ARTICLE 300 — GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WIRING METHODS AND MATERIALS

Lesson 32 300.7(D)(3) — Service Conductors and Raceways [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC replaced the broad term "underground" with "direct buried service conductors and raceways containing service conductors," clarifying that warning ribbon is required for raceway installations — not just direct-buried conductors.

ARTICLE 310 — CONDUCTORS FOR GENERAL WIRING

Lesson 33 310.15(E) — Neutral Conductor [REVISED]

Students will learn how the 2026 NEC restructured the neutral conductor current-carrying rules into two named subdivisions and explicitly added 2-wire circuits as a current-carrying condition, improving clarity for conductor bundling and ampacity derating decisions.

ARTICLE 334 — NONMETALLIC-SHEATHED CABLE: TYPES NM AND NMC

Lesson 34 334.2 — Listing Requirements [RELOCATED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC relocated and expanded the NM/NMC listing requirement from 334.6 to 334.2, adding cable ties, staples, straps, and hangers as explicitly required listed items — a change that affects what support hardware is permissible on residential rough-in work.

ARTICLE 406 — RECEPTACLES, CORD CONNECTORS, AND ATTACHMENT PLUGS (CAPS)

Lesson 35 406.26 — Tamper-Resistant Receptacles [RELOCATED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC relocated tamper-resistant receptacle requirements from 406.12 to 406.26, added park and recreation areas as a new required location under Item (11), and that this new location carries no height-based exception unlike all other listed locations.

ARTICLE 422 — APPLIANCES

Lesson 36 422.13 — Storage-Type Water Heaters [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC formally classifies fixed storage-type water heaters of 120 gallons or less as continuous loads, requiring 125% sizing at both the branch circuit and feeder level — correcting a gap that previously limited this rule to branch circuits only.

ARTICLE 430 — MOTORS, MOTOR CIRCUITS, AND CONTROLLERS

Lesson 37 430.98(A) — Motor Control Centers [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC requires MCCs supplied by feeders to be permanently marked with the identification and location of all disconnecting means using durable machine-produced labels per 110.21(B), and how this affects MCC labeling and inspection practices.

ARTICLE 445 — GENERATORS

Lesson 38 445.13 — Minimum Ampacity and Size [REVISED]

Students will learn how the 2026 NEC restructured 445.13 into four subdivisions separating protected, unprotected, neutral, and grounding/bonding conductors, with updated cross-references to Article 120 reflecting the reorganization from Article 220.

ARTICLE 500 — HAZARDOUS (CLASSIFIED) LOCATIONS — GENERAL

Lesson 39 500.30 — Bonding in Hazardous (Classified) Locations [NEW]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC consolidated bonding requirements for Class I, II, and III hazardous locations into a single new Section 500.30, specifying permitted and prohibited bonding methods and eliminating the need to reference three separate predecessor sections.

ARTICLE 512 — CANNABIS OIL PROCESSING

Lesson 40 **512.6 — Prohibited Locations** [NEW]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC introduced Section 512.6 prohibiting cannabis extraction operations from being located in any building containing assembly, educational, health care, residential, or detention occupancies — adopting language directly from NFPA 1 Fire Code.

ARTICLE 517 — HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Lesson 41 **517.20(A) — Receptacles and Fixed Equipment** [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC added Section 517.20(A)(3) prohibiting shared GFCI protection among multiple receptacles in operating rooms, requiring each receptacle to have its own individual GFCI device to prevent a single trip from de-energizing multiple outlets.

ARTICLE 525 — CARNIVALS, CIRCUSES, FAIRS, AND SIMILAR EVENTS

Lesson 42 **525.21 — Disconnecting Means** [REVISED]

Students will learn how the 2026 NEC restructured 525.21 into separate rules for moving and nonmoving attractions, including a new exception permitting a 15- or 20-amp cord-and-plug connection as the disconnecting means for small GFCI-protected nonmoving portable structures.

ARTICLE 545 — RELOCATABLE STRUCTURES

Lesson 43 **545.26 — Bonding of Exposed Non-Current-Carrying Metal Parts** [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC added an explicit requirement for bonding the metal chassis of multi-section relocatable structures using a minimum 8 AWG solid copper conductor with terminations per 250.8 and 250.12, separating bonding from grounding requirements.

ARTICLE 550 — MOBILE AND MANUFACTURED HOMES, MOBILE HOME PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS

Lesson 44 **550.51(A) — Mobile Home Service Equipment** [RELOCATED]

Students will learn that mobile home service equipment requirements were renumbered from 550.32(A) to 550.51(A) in the 2026 NEC and that a new Informational Note was added referencing Article 230 general service requirements for consistency with manufactured home provisions.

ARTICLE 555 — MARINAS, BOATYARDS, FLOATING BUILDINGS, AND COMMERCIAL AND NONCOMMERCIAL DOCKING FACILITIES

Lesson 45 555.15 — Servicing and Replacing of Equipment [REVISED]

Students will learn how the 2026 NEC restructured 555.15 into subdivisions (A) Servicing and (B) Replacing, each with distinct compliance standards, and added a mandatory circuit inspection requirement during replacements that must be resolved before the job is closed out.

ARTICLE 680 — SWIMMING POOLS, FOUNTAINS, AND SIMILAR INSTALLATIONS

Lesson 46 680.5 — GFCI and SPGFCI Protection [REVISED]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC revised 680.5(B) to create separate amperage thresholds for single-phase (60A or less) and three-phase (100A or less) circuits, requiring GFCI protection for three-phase branch circuits up to 100 amperes in Article 680 locations.

Lesson 47 680.30(B) — Additional Requirements [NEW]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC added Section 680.30(B) requiring storable pools that abut a permanent deck enclosing any portion of the perimeter for pool access to comply with the equipotential bonding requirements of Section 680.26.

ARTICLE 692 — FUEL CELL SYSTEMS

Lesson 48 692.7 — Maximum Voltage [NEW]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC introduced Section 692.7 establishing the first explicit DC voltage limits for fuel cell systems: 1000 volts for commercial and other buildings, and 600 volts for one- and two-family dwellings, harmonizing fuel cells with Article 690 solar PV standards.

ARTICLE 701 — LEGALLY REQUIRED STANDBY SYSTEMS

Lesson 49 701.9 — Surge Protection [NEW]

Students will learn that the 2026 NEC added Section 701.9 requiring listed surge protective devices (SPDs) on all switchgear, switchboards, and panelboards associated with legally required standby systems, aligning SPD protection with emergency systems already required under Article 700.

ARTICLE 800 — COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUITS

Lesson 50 800.24(A) — General [DELETED]

Students will learn that Section 800.24(A) was deleted from the 2026 NEC when the independence of Chapter 8 was removed, and that the general installation quality standard — "professional and skillful manner" — in Section 110.12(A) now applies uniformly to communications work.

Total Lessons: 51 | Each lesson generates one HTML training file via the NEC Code Comparison Workflow.