

Chapter 5-4

ELECTRICAL CODE AND REGULATION OF ELECTRICIANS

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Section 5-4-1 Purpose

The purpose of this Chapter shall be to establish the authority of the City with regard to the supervision of all electrical installations within the City and the supervision of the electricians making those installations; to make provision for an Electrical Code to be applicable within the City; and to designate the responsibilities of the Electrical Inspector in connection with the administration of this Chapter.

Section 5-4-2 Application

The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to all installations of electrical conductors, fittings, devices, appliances and fixtures hereinafter referred to as electrical equipment, when located, maintained or installed within or on all public or private buildings and premises within the City except that the provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to installations in water craft, railway cars or automotive equipment, or communication agencies in the generation, transmission or distribution of electricity, or for the operation of signals, or the transmission of intelligence, while located in or on buildings or premises used exclusively by such agencies or on public thoroughfares.

Section 5-4-3 Electrical Code Adopted

After published notice and public hearing as required by law, the National Electrical Code, 2014 Edition, as published and approved by the National Fire Protection Association but as adopted and amended from time to time by the electrical examining board within the division of state fire marshal of the Iowa Department of Public Safety pursuant to Iowa Code Section 103.6 and administrative rules pursuant thereto is hereby adopted as the Electrical Code for the City and it is hereby incorporated by reference. All installations, repair or replacement of electrical equipment within the City shall be made in conformance with the Electrical Code for the City and no permit shall be issued by the Electrical Inspector for such a project if the plans and specifications are not in conformance with that Code.

A copy of the National Electrical Code, 2014 Edition, as adopted and amended by the electrical examining board within the division of state fire marshal of the Iowa Department of Public Safety, shall be maintained in the office of the Building Official and shall be available for public inspection during all normal business hours.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the National Electrical Code, 2014 Edition, as adopted and amended by the electrical examining board within the division of state fire marshal of the Iowa Department of Public Safety , , the following provisions shall apply:

(A) All business buildings (either erected, altered or converted for such purpose), public buildings, schools, churches, oil stations, warehouses, bulk oil plants, institutional buildings, apartment houses and all buildings except dwelling houses of not more than two (2) families, shall be wired throughout with rigid conduit, armored cable, flexible steel conduit, metal raceway, electrical metallic tubing, or electrical non-metallic tubing in accordance with NEW requirements, provided, however, that armored cable or flexible steel conduit may be used only where it is impractical to use rigid conduit or electrical metallic tubing, and further provided that in remodeling work in the buildings above mentioned, metal surface raceway may be used in remodeling, where, in the opinion of the Electrical Inspector, it is impractical to install rigid conduit or electrical metallic tubing. However, in all structures having four (4) or more dwelling units, a feeder must be installed to each dwelling unit branch circuit panel and run in conduit or electric metallic tubing. Each individual dwelling unit may be wired in metallic armored cable (BX) or non-metallic sheath cable (Romex).

(B) Basements of all dwelling houses shall be wired in rigid conduit or electric metallic tubing with the same provision for the use of armored cable or flexible steel conduit as provided in the preceding paragraph, provided that where the entrance switch or panel is on a floor other than the basement, the conduit must be continuous from such switch or panel and connect to the basement conduit. The balance of buildings used as dwelling houses for not more than two (2) families and private garages may be wired with non-metallic sheathed cable.

(C) All sign boards or poster boards shall be wired in rigid conduit or electric metallic tubing.

(Ord. No. 019697, Amended, 08/19/96) (Ord. 01-O-2016-2017, Amended, 09/06/2016; Ord. 08-O-2008-2009, Amended, 01/05/2009; Ord. 10-O-2000-2001, Amended, 12/04/2000)

Section 5-4-4 Electrical Inspector

The Building Official is hereby designated as the Electrical Inspector and charged with the responsibility for performing all of the administrative and inspection functions required by the City by this Chapter and not otherwise delegated.

(Ord. 08-O-2008-2009, Amended, 01/05/2009)

Section 5-4-5 Authority

The Electrical Inspector shall have the right, during reasonable hours, to enter any building or premises in the discharge of any of his/her duties, for the purpose of making any inspection, reinspection or the testing of any electrical equipment contained therein. When any electrical equipment is found by the Electrical Inspector to be dangerous to persons or property because of defective installation, he/she shall forthwith notify, in writing, the person owning, maintaining or responsible for such equipment; such notice shall specify the particulars wherein said equipment is defectively maintained or installed, and require that changes be made therein at the earliest possible time deemed reasonable by the Inspector and which will, in the judgment of the Inspector, render such equipment or installation safe, under penalty of having such equipment or installation removed or disconnected. In cases of emergency, or if necessary, for the safety of persons or property, or when such equipment or installation might interfere with any signal system maintained by the Fire or Police departments of the City, the Electrical Inspector shall immediately disconnect or order the disconnection of such electrical equipment.

Section 5-4-6 Permits

No electrical equipment shall be installed within or on any building, structure or premises, publicly or privately owned, nor any alterations or additions made in existing equipment, without first securing a permit therefore from the Electrical Inspector except that a permit shall not be required to construct, maintain or install any of the following classes of electrical work:

(A) Minor work and repairs where cost of material shall not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

(B) The installation, alteration or repair of electrical equipment installed by or for any electrical supply agency, for the use of such agency, in the generation, transmission, distribution or metering of electricity.

(C) Any work involved in the manufacturing, testing, servicing, altering or repairing of electrical equipment or apparatus, except that this exemption shall not include any permanent wiring.

(D) Inspections and an electrical permit are not required if all of the following conditions apply:

1. The installation is performed by a licensed Electrical Contractor, Residential Electrical Contractor or their employees.
2. The installation does not in any way involve work within a new or existing switchboard or panelboard.
3. The installation does not exceed 30 amps.
4. The installation does not exceed 277 volts, single phase.

(Ord. 01-O-2016-2017, Amended, 09/06/2016)

Section 5-4-7 Application For Permits

Applications for permits describing the work to be done, shall be made in writing to the Electrical Inspector by the person installing the work. The Electrical Inspector may, in his/her discretion, waive the necessity of a written application and accept an oral application. The Electrical Inspector shall determine the type of information required to determine compliance with this Chapter and may require that written applications be in a particular format and he/she may also require that formal plans and specifications be

filed if necessary to determine compliance. When the Electrical Inspector determines that the electrical installation proposed complies with this Chapter, and upon payment of the required fee, he/she shall then issue a permit required by 5-4-6.

Section 5-4-8 Applicant Required To Be Licensed, Exception

No permits for the installation or alteration of any electrical equipment shall be issued to any person, unless the applicant therefor is the owner of a license entitling such applicant to secure permits for and to execute the work described in the application for the permit, except that a homeowner shall be entitled to a permit for an existing residence in which he/she resides, but not including a new electrical service, in accordance with State licensing requirements. New homes must be wired by a Master Electrician, licensed by the State of Iowa.

(Ord. 08-O-2008-2009, Amended, 01/05/2009)

Section 5-4-9 Fees And Permits For Inspection

Before any permit is granted for the installation, repair or alteration of electrical equipment, the person making application therefor shall pay to the City Clerk, in advance, the fees in the amount set by Council Resolution.

(Ord. 12-O-2004-2005, Amended, 12/06/2004)

Section 5-4-10 Inspection

Upon the completion of any installation or alteration requiring an electrical permit it shall be the duty of the person making the installation or alteration to notify the Electrical Inspector who shall inspect the installation or alteration within twenty-four (24) hours of the time such notice is given, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, or as soon thereafter as practical. If the Electrical Inspector shall find such installation or alteration in conformity with the provisions of this Chapter, he/she shall inform the person making such installation or alteration verbally of his/her approval. He/she shall also inform the agency supplying the electricity of his/her approval of the installation or alteration of electrical equipment by a written certificate, the duplicate going to the Electrical Supply Agency and the original to be retained by the Electrical Inspector. When any electrical equipment is to be hidden or concealed from view by the permanent placement of parts of the building, the person installing the equipment shall notify the Inspector and such equipment shall not be concealed until it has been inspected and approved by him/her, or until twenty-four (24) hours following notification, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays provided that on any large installation, where the concealment of equipment proceeds continuously, the person installing such equipment shall give the Electrical Inspector due notice, and inspection shall be made periodically during the progress of the work period.

Section 5-4-11 Reinspection

The Electrical Inspector may make any reinspections that he/she feels are necessary and he/she is hereby authorized to make inspections of any electrical installations or devices which are reported to him/her as dangerous or which he/she believes to be dangerous.

Section 5-4-12 Connections To Installations

It shall be unlawful for any person to make any connection from a supply of electricity, or to supply electricity to any electrical equipment for the installation of which a permit is required, or which has been disconnected or ordered to be disconnected by the Electrical Inspector, until a certificate of approval has been issued and authorized in connection with the use of such equipment.

Section 5-4-14 License Required

Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall plan, layout and supervise the installation of wiring, apparatus and equipment for electrical light, heat, power or other related purposes, nor shall they apply for a permit under the provisions of 5-4-7 and 5-4-8, unless that person: is licensed by the State of Iowa as a Master Electrician or is a Bonded Electrical Contractor with at least one Master Electrician in his/her employ.

(Ord. 08-O-2008-2009, Amended, 01/05/2009)

Section 5-4-19 Bond For Contractors

Any person, engaged as a contractor doing electrical wiring or installing any electrical wiring apparatus or equipment for electrical light, heat or power, must, before commencing the project, file with the City Clerk to be approved by the Council, a bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) conditioned on the faithful performance of all duties and regulations required by this Chapter; the prompt payment to the City of any sums that may become due or owing to the City by reasons of this Chapter, payment of all fines imposed upon him/her for violations of this Chapter during the life of said bond; and contractor pledging to indemnify and hold harmless the City from liabilities for damages arising from his/her negligence or lack of skill in doing, protecting or completing his/her work. The contractor shall be or have at least one Master Electrician in his/her employment in order to be duly bonded in the City to perform any kind of electrical installation of equipment or materials.

Section 5-4-20 Display Of Licenses

Every holder of a license shall keep his/her license displayed in a conspicuous place in his/her place of business at all times.

Section 5-4-22 Appeals

Any person may register an appeal in writing with the Board of Appeals for a review of any decision or order of the Electrical Inspector acting in that capacity, provided that such appeal be made within five (5) days after such person shall have been notified of such decision by the Electrical Inspector. Notice of such appeal shall be completed by filing a written notice with the Electrical Inspector. Upon receipt of such appeal, the Board of Appeals shall proceed to examine whether the action of the Electrical Inspector was in accordance with the provisions of the Code and after such investigation and hearing, the Board of Appeals shall within five (5) days issue its final determination in writing.

(Ord. Ord. 03-O-2001-2002, Amended, 08/20/2001)

Section 5-4-23 Liability Of City

This Chapter shall not be construed to relieve any person owning, operating, or installing any electrical wires, appliances, apparatus construction or equipment for damage to anyone injured by any defect therein, nor shall the City, or any agent thereof, be held to assume any such liability by reason of the inspection authorized herein or the certificate of inspection issued by the Electrical Inspector.

Section 5-4-24 Municipal Infraction

A violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter shall constitute a Municipal infraction subject to the penalties and alternative relief authorized by Title 1, Chapter 20 of this Code and by Section 364.22 of the Code of Iowa.