

CHAPTER 162

ELECTRICAL CODE

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162.01 PURPOSE AND SCOPE. It is the purpose of this chapter to adopt a complete electrical code, including provisions for the inspection and regulation of electrical installations, issuance of permits, and collection of fees therefor in order to protect the public safety, health, and welfare. The provisions of this chapter apply to and govern the supply of electricity and all sales, rentals, leases, uses, installations, alterations, repairs, removals, renewals, replacements, disturbances, connections, disconnections, and maintenance of all electrical equipment. For the purposes of this chapter, the term “electrical equipment” means all materials, wiring, conductors, fittings, devices, appliances, fixtures, signs, and apparatus or parts thereof. The following activities are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

1. The installation, alteration, or repair of electrical generation, transmission or distribution equipment, but not utilization equipment, owned and operated by an electrical public utility company or the City.
2. The installation, alteration, or repair of electrical signal or communication equipment owned or operated by a public utility company or the City.
3. Any work on or in boats, railway cars, trackless trolleys, buses, aircraft, and motor vehicles.
4. Any work in connection with electrical equipment used for radio and television transmission, but not including supply wire to such equipment.
5. Any work involved in the manufacturing or testing of electrical equipment or apparatus, but not including any permanent wiring or equipment.
6. Any work associated with:
 - A. The repair of plug connected electrical appliances or devices.
 - B. Permanently connected electrical appliances or devices that have been electrically and mechanically disconnected and separated from all sources of electrical supply by a licensed electrician. The opening of switches or the blowing or removal of fuses shall not be considered an electrical or mechanical disconnection or separation.
7. The installation or replacement of approved fuses.
8. The installation or replacement of pin type lamps, screw base lamps, or plug-connected portable appliances.

162.02 ADOPTION OF NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE. The *National Electrical Code*, 2005 Edition, as recommended by the National Fire Protection Association, is hereby adopted in full except for

the portions that are deleted, modified, or amended by this chapter. From the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter, all electrical work as defined in Section 162.01 shall be performed in accordance with the provisions of this code as modified in this chapter. A copy of the *National Electrical Code* as adopted and a certified copy of the ordinance codified herein are on file in the office of the Clerk for public inspection.

162.03 AMENDMENTS. The following amendments, modifications, additions, and deletions to the *National Electrical Code* are hereby made:

– NONE –

162.04 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT. It is the duty of the Building Inspector to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. The Building Inspector shall keep complete records of all permits issued, inspections and re-inspections made, and other official work performed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

162.05 SURETY BOND REQUIRED. Any firm or corporation installing, removing, altering, or making addition to any electrical equipment in the City shall first file a bond with the Clerk in the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Said bond is to be approved by the Council conditioned on the faithful performance of all duties and regulations required by this chapter and the *National Electrical Code*; on the prompt payment of all fines or penalties imposed upon said firm or corporation for a violation of this chapter or *National Electrical Code* during the life of the bond; or indemnifying the City and keeping it harmless from liabilities or damages arising from their negligence and unskillfulness in doing, protecting, and completing the work as required by this chapter and the *National Electrical Code*.

162.06 INSTALLATION BY OWNER. In cases where the owner/occupant desires to install wiring or apparatus in the owner/occupant's own residence, the owner may appear before the Building Inspector and show that said owner is competent to do the specific work for which the permit is desired and upon such showing, may obtain a permit by paying to the City the proper fees.

162.07 PERMIT FOR ELECTRICAL WORK. No electrical work as defined in Section 162.01 of this chapter shall be done unless a permit authorizing the work has been issued by the Building Inspector. A permit shall be issued if the electrical work, as proposed in the application for a permit, meets all the requirements of this chapter. If plans and specifications are requested by the Building Inspector, they must meet the requirements of this chapter.

162.08 PERMIT ISSUED. Permits shall be issued only to electrical contractors licensed by the City. However, any permit required by this chapter may be issued to the owner of a single-family dwelling (or mobile home) used exclusively for living purposes, to do any work regulated by this chapter in that dwelling, including the usual accessory buildings and quarters, provided that the dwelling will be occupied by the owner, that the owner appears before the Building Inspector and shows himself or herself competent to do the specific work for which the permit is desired, and that the owner personally shall purchase all materials and perform all labor in connection with the work. All work done in accordance with this exception must meet all the requirements of this chapter and shall be inspected like other work.

162.09 APPLICATION FOR PERMIT. Applications for permits shall be made to the Building Inspector, on forms provided by the Clerk, prior to beginning the particular work, except for emergency work. The application shall include the name and business address of the person that is to do the work, a description of the property where the work is to be done, the name of the owner of the property, the name

of the occupant, and a general description of the materials to be used, and shall specify the particular part or parts of the work that must be inspected as required by this chapter. The applications shall be accompanied by fees in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted by resolution of the Council. Permits shall be valid for 90 days from date of issue.

162.10 PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS. Plans and specifications showing the proposed work in the necessary detail shall be submitted if requested by the Building Inspector. If a permit is denied, the applicant may submit revised plans and specifications without payment of any additional fee. If, in the course of the work, it is found necessary to make any change from the plans and specifications on which a permit was issued, amended plans and specifications shall be submitted. Fees in the amount of half the fees originally required shall be paid. A supplementary permit, subject to the same conditions applicable to the original permit, shall be issued to cover the change.

162.11 EMERGENCY WORK. In emergency situations work can be initiated and completed by licensed electricians without first obtaining a permit. However, a permit must be obtained within a reasonable time after the passage of the critical period. With this exception, all emergency work must be done in conformity with the provisions of this chapter and shall be inspected by the Building Inspector for full compliance.

162.12 FEES. Fees for permits to do electrical work are set by resolution of the Council, a schedule of such fees being on file in the office of the Clerk.

162.13 INSPECTIONS. Upon the completion of electrical work that has been done under a permit, the person doing the work shall notify the Building Inspector in person, by phone, or by mail. The Building Inspector shall inspect the work within 24 hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, after receipt of notice, or as soon thereafter as practicable. If the Building Inspector finds the work to be in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, the Building Inspector shall issue the person that has done the work a certificate of approval and shall deliver a duplicate copy of the certificate of approval to the owner of the premises where the work was done. This certificate shall authorize the use of the work and its connection to the supply of electricity. The Building Inspector shall send written notice or phone this authorization to the agency supplying the electricity. A certificate of approval may be issued authorizing the connection and use of a temporary installation. Such certificate shall be issued to expire at a stated time and may be revoked by the Building Inspector for any violation of this chapter. If any electrical equipment is to be hidden from view by the permanent placement of parts of a building, structure, or grounds, the person installing the equipment shall notify the Building Inspector. Such equipment shall not be concealed until it has been inspected and approved by the Building Inspector or until twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, shall have elapsed after the receipt of such notification by the Building Inspector. On installations where the concealment of equipment proceeds continuously, the person installing the equipment shall give the Building Inspector due notice. Inspections shall be made periodically during the progress of the work.

162.14 RIGHT OF ENTRY. The Building Inspector shall have the right, during reasonable hours and upon consent of the occupant, to enter any building or premises in the discharge of official duties to make any inspection, re-inspection, or test of electrical equipment that is reasonably necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Where the building or premises is unoccupied, the consent of the owner shall be obtained. If the Building Inspector has reasonable cause to believe that electrical installations or equipment within the building or premises constitute an extreme hazard to persons or property, the Building Inspector shall have the right to enter immediately and inspect such installations or equipment, and may use any reasonable means required to effect such entry and make such inspection, whether such property be occupied or unoccupied and whether or not permission to inspect has been obtained.

162.15 STOP WORK ORDER. Upon notice from the Building Inspector that work in or on any building or structure is being done contrary to the provisions of this chapter or in a dangerous or unsafe manner, such work shall be immediately stopped. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property or to an agent or to the person doing the work and shall state the conditions under which the work may be resumed.

162.16 REVOCATION OF PERMIT. The Building Inspector may revoke a permit or approval issued under the provisions of this chapter in case of false statement or misrepresentation as to a material fact in the application or plans on which a permit or approval was based.

162.17 SHUTTING OFF SUPPLY. If the Building Inspector finds that any electrical equipment or installation is defective or that it has been installed in conflict with the provisions of this chapter, the Building Inspector shall notify the person responsible for the electrical equipment or installation of such findings and orders. If the necessary changes or repairs are not completed within 15 days (or longer periods as specified in the notice), the Building Inspector shall have the authority to disconnect or order the discontinuance of electrical service to the equipment or installation in question. No disconnection shall be made during the pendency of an appeal to the Electrical Appeal Board. In cases where maintenance of electrical service to electrical equipment or installations constitutes an extreme hazard to persons or property, the Building Inspector shall have authority to cause immediate discontinuance of such service. If fires have damaged the wiring of any building or structure, reconnection to electrical supply shall not be made until authorized in writing by the Building Inspector.

162.18 APPROVAL OF MATERIALS. The Building Inspector may approve in advance electrical materials inspected and approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. and other materials of equal or higher quality. The Building Inspector shall keep on file a list of such approved materials; this list shall be accessible for public reference during regular office hours.

162.19 APPEALS. The City's Board of Adjustment shall be the Electrical Appeal Board for the purposes of this chapter. Necessary and actual expenses shall be allowed to members of the board, but no other compensation shall be paid to them. Any person aggrieved by any ruling, decision, interpretation or order of the Building Inspector pursuant to this chapter shall have the right to appeal to the Electrical Appeal Board by filing a written notice of such appeal with the Clerk within 10 days from the date of the ruling, decision, interpretation, or order. If such a notice is filed, the Appeal Board shall set a time and place for a hearing, and notify the party that has filed the appeal. The date of the hearing shall be not more than 15 days after the date the notice of appeal was filed. The notice of the hearing shall be sent by certified mail. The hearing shall be open to the public; all interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard. The Electrical Appeal Board, by majority vote, shall affirm, modify, or reverse any appealed ruling, decision, interpretation, or order of the Building Inspector. The Electrical Appeal Board may permit variance from the strict terms and provisions of this chapter if such variance can be made without increasing the hazards to health or safety of persons or property and when the granting of such variance will not violate the intent and purposes of this chapter. Mere inconvenience to the appellant shall not be grounds for the granting of such variance. The aggrieved party may appeal the decision of the Electrical Appeal Board to the Council by filing written notice of appeal within 10 days from the date of the final action of the Appeal Board. The Council shall give five days' written notice by certified mail to the appealing party, the Appeal Board and the Building Inspector of the date, time, and place of hearing. All interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard. The Council shall affirm, modify, or reverse the decision of the Appeal Board. Action taken by the board shall be affirmed by the Council if such action is supported by substantial evidence upon the whole record.

162.20 ELECTRICAL POWER SUPPLY. It is unlawful for any person to make connection from a supply of electricity or to supply electricity to any electrical equipment for the installation of which a

permit is required unless such connection has been authorized by the Building Inspector. It is unlawful to make connections to equipment that has been disconnected or ordered to be disconnected by the Building Inspector.

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