

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF STANDARDS
WASHINGTON

LC-261
3-8-29

MGL:MWB

I-8

Subject: National Electrical Safety Code.

Dear Sir:

The attached Letter Circular No.261 shows the extent of legal application of the National Electrical Safety Code by the various state authorities in this country. It has been prepared to answer inquiries on this subject and represents the most complete information we have on it up to March 1, 1929.

Respectfully,

George K. Burgess
George K. Burgess, Director.

Attached:
LC 261.

Subject: National Electrical Contractors Association

Enclosed letter Director National Electrical Contractors Association of the National Electrical Contractors Association is being furnished to you for your information. It has been determined that the National Electrical Contractors Association is a labor organization and is not a labor union. It is a labor organization and is not a labor union. It is a labor organization and is not a labor union.

Very truly yours,
Director

March 8, 1929.

APPLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY CODE.

The National Electrical Safety Code, issued by the Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce, is generally recognized as a standard for electrical construction which establishes good practice from the standpoint of accident prevention. It has been widely used by contractors and by utility companies operating in the fields of electric light, power, railways, telephone, telegraph, and electrified railroads. It is frequently referred to by state and municipal officials and is a standard of reference for matters in dispute.

The federal government does not administer the Code and does not have any legal powers of supervision over electrical construction in general. The services of the Bureau of Standards have been confined to the technical work of preparing an acceptable Code which represents good current practice, in establishing it as a recognized standard, in assisting in its interpretation where necessary, and in its periodical revision. Enforcement of the Code requirements rests with local officials who may have legal jurisdiction. The Code has been recognized as an American standard by the American Engineering Standards Committee (now the American Standards Association). It has been legally adopted by a few cities, and parts of it have been incorporated in municipal rules. Its principal application, however, has been by state public service commissions, and

industrial commissions or departments of labor. It has been adopted in whole or in part by about half of the states, as shown in the table below, and has been applied also in some of the Canadian provinces.

The state commissions adopting the Code have, in most cases, limited jurisdiction so that no one commission has power to apply all parts of the Code. In a few of the states, however, the entire Code has been adopted; in a few cases, the Code has been established by action of the state legislature.

In California, in 1918, the Industrial Accident Commission adopted Electrical Station Safety Orders based upon Part 1 of the National Electrical Safety Code, but in 1926 this order was rescinded, and since then the Code itself has been used as a standard of reference. It is expected that revised rules will be promulgated in 1929 by the California Railroad Commission and also in North Dakota and in Wisconsin. In Colorado and Pennsylvania the Public Service Commissions are expecting to issue new orders dealing with line construction. In Maryland, the Code has been adopted by the Industrial Accident Commission, and during the current year it is expected that the Public Service Commission will take similar action which will govern utilities coming under its jurisdiction.

Part 2 of the Code, dealing with overhead and underground construction, is the part which has received most attention from the Public Utility Commissions of the various states and hence it is the part that has had the widest legal application. Part 5, dealing with radio rules, has been adopted separately by only one

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state, Nevada. The definitions appearing in Section 1 of the Code have usually been adopted in connection with the use of the rules in the various parts of the Code, and the action with reference to such definitions has not been separately listed in the following table.

State Actions Respecting the National Electrical Safety Code.

<u>States Using the Code Verbatim or with Slight Modifications.</u>	<u>Section or Part of Code Concerned</u>	<u>Edition of NESC Used.</u>	<u>Date in Force.</u>
Arizona	All	4	1928
Colorado	Sec.9	4	1917
Idaho	2	4	1927
Iowa	2	4	1927
Maine	1,2,3,4,9	4	1928
Maryland	All	4	1927
Montana	All construction	4	1917
New Jersey	All	4	1927
North Dakota	2	3	1920
Oklahoma	2	3	1921
Oregon	3, 9	4	1919
Oregon	1,2,4	4	1927
Pennsylvania	1,3,4,9	2	1917
Utah	2	4	1928

States Adopting Rules Based on NESC

California	1	2	1918
California	2,3,9	3	1922
Connecticut	2 (Joint Use)	3	1922
Illinois	2	4	1927

