

Chapter 88

ELECTRICAL STANDARDS

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Upper Southampton 4-3-1990 by Ord. No. 273. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Building construction — See Ch. 56.
Contractors — See Ch. 75.

Fire prevention — See Ch. 96.

§ 88-1. Adoption of Electrical Code. [Amended 12-6-1994 by Ord. No. 312¹]

- A. Upper Southampton Township hereby adopts and incorporates herein as part of its Electrical Code the National Electrical Code, 1999 Edition, published by the National Fire Protection Association, and the whole thereof, save and except for those parts which are amended by this chapter. Only the materials, fittings, and devices enumerated in the List of Inspected Appliances of the Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc., as revised from time to time, shall be used in electrical work regulated by the National Electrical Code and this chapter.
- B. Two copies of the National Electrical Code, as adopted in Subsection A hereof, shall be kept on file in the office of the Code Enforcement Official for use by the public during regular business hours.

§ 88-2. Short title. [Amended 12-6-1994 by Ord. No. 312²]

The provisions of the National Electrical Code, 1999 Edition, adopted by § 88-1 hereof, and the provisions of § 88-1 through § 88-16 hereof shall collectively comprise and be referred to as the "Upper Southampton Township Electrical Code" or just the "Electrical Code."

¹ Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I).

² Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I).

§ 88-3. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

APPRENTICE ELECTRICIAN — Any person who has qualified as an apprentice electrician and registered in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

APPROVED ELECTRICAL UNDERWRITER — Such inspecting agencies which are hereafter approved by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

CHIEF PLANT ELECTRICIAN — Any person who has qualified and registered as a chief plant electrician in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR — Any person who has qualified and registered as an electrical contractor in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

ELECTRICAL WORK — Any installation, construction, alteration, repair, maintenance, replacement or assembly of any device, equipment, apparatus or other object which is used for the transfusion of an electrical energy or impulse, except when performed by or on behalf of any regulated public utility or any regulated radio or television transmission system on equipment, cables, wires or equivalent facilities or on electrical circuits connected to or supported by such equipment or facilities if the use of the equipment or facilities is required in the operations of or services rendered by the regulated entity. It shall not include the manufacturing of any device, equipment, apparatus or other object used or intended to be used for the transmission of an electrical energy or impulse, but shall include electrical wiring systems connected to air conditioning equipment, protective signaling devices (fire and burglar) and swimming pools.

JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN — Any person who has qualified and registered as a journeyman electrician in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

§ 88-4. Prohibition of aluminum wiring. [Amended 12-6-1994 by Ord. No. 312³]

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the National Electrical Code, 1999 Edition, or in any of the codes and ordinances of Upper Southampton Township, in no event and under no circumstances shall the use of aluminum wire be permitted in any way, in any building heretofore or hereinafter erected in Upper Southampton Township except as follows:

- A. Service conductor. Aluminum service conductors only shall be permitted to extend from a point of contact with the local utility company through exterior meter sockets to a point inside the building or structure at the line side only of the service disconnect. Service conductors may enter the building or structure either underground or on the exterior of the building or structure.
- B. Aluminum conductors may not be extended from the service panel or service disconnect.
- C. All service aluminum conductors are to have an oxide inhibiting joint compound applied to all termination points and splices.

³ Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. D).

- D. Aluminum lugs shall be connected to aluminum bussbars with aluminum bolts and heavy flat aluminum washers, or with steel bolts and heavy flat cadmium or zinc washers.
- E. Equipment. Meter socket load center and distribution panels with aluminum conductors shall be Underwriter Laboratory Listed.
- F. Aluminum conductors shall not be used for exterior grounding connectors.

§ 88-5. Amendments to Electric Code.

- A. Metal raceways shall be provided to protect at the following locations in all new residential dwellings: exposed basement walls, hot water heaters and oil burners.⁴
- B. All residential dwelling units built after the effective date of this chapter of two or more stories shall provide a minimum of one electrical outlet in all hallways.
- C. The provisions of NEC 210-8(a)(5) requiring ground fault circuit interrupter equipment to be installed six feet from a kitchen sink to also include wet bars and laundry tubs. (Exception: receptacles supplying current exclusively for washers and dryers.)
- D. All receptacles installed in public accommodation areas of commercial or, industrial buildings, consistent with the locations delineated in NEC Article 210-8, shall have ground fault circuit interrupter protection for personnel.
- E. Whenever electrical work is to be performed in connection with a gas or oil burner installation in any existing building or structure or in the construction, reconstruction, alteration or repair of a building or structure, there shall be installed an emergency shutoff switch with a red plate thereon marked "Oil Burner" or "Gas Burner," as the case may be, at the entrance to the basement or heating room. In cases where more than one entrance exists, such switch shall be located at the entrance which permits normal access to the living quarters. The height of such switch shall be six feet above the finished floor.

§ 88-6. Fees.

Fees shall be those adopted by the Upper Southampton Board of Supervisors by resolution as it deems necessary.

§ 88-7. State laws and regulations.

Where any provision or requirement of the statutes or regulations of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is more strict than any provision or requirement of this chapter or of any of the aforesaid national codes adopted by this chapter, the applicable provision or requirement of the statute or regulation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall supersede any provision or requirement of this chapter or any of the aforesaid national codes.

⁴ Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I).

§ 88-8. License requirements.

- A. No person shall engage in the business or occupation of electrical contractor, chief plant electrician, journeyman electrician or apprentice electrician without first applying to the Code Enforcement Official for a license and registration therefore as herein required. If the Inspector finds that the applicant presenting himself has a reasonable knowledge of electricity and the natural laws and functions of electrical energy and of the provisions of the Regulations of the National Board of Fire Underwriters for Electric Wiring and Apparatus (in accordance with the current edition of the National Electrical Code) and is possessed of skill and knowledge in matters pertaining to the science of electricity sufficient to be an electrical contractor, chief plant electrician, journeyman electrician or apprentice electrician, then the Code Enforcement Official, upon proof of the payment of the fee provided by resolution, shall issue to such person a license as an electrical contractor, chief plant electrician, journeyman electrician or apprentice electrician as the case may be. Such license shall continue in full force and effect following its issuance until and including December 31 in the year of its issuance, unless sooner revoked.
- B. An electrical contractor, chief plant electrician or journeyman electrician, as the case may be, desiring to continue to practice the profession or trade for the year following the expiration of his or her license shall, between December 1 and 31 of each year, surrender his or her license for the then current year to the Code Enforcement Official who shall forthwith, upon proof of the payment of the fee provided in Subsection A hereof, issue to the applicant a proper license for the ensuing year.
- C. Any electrical contractor, chief plant electrician, journeyman or apprentice electrician duly licensed by another township or municipality in the state which has adopted an ordinance substantially similar to this chapter, or who has been duly tested by approved agencies of model codes subscribing to NEC Standards shall be permitted to operate in the township upon applying for a license, accompanied by proof that the proper fee has been paid to the Code Enforcement Official.
- D. Electrical underwriters.
- (1) No person shall engage in the business or occupation of electrical underwriter unless he first obtains a license therefor from the Code Enforcement Official, approved by resolution from the Board of Supervisors.
 - (2) Each applicant shall submit, to the Code Enforcement Official for review by the Board, a list of all persons who have either financial, operational, legal or beneficial interest in the company; a list of all inspectors to be working within Upper Southampton Township, their experience, qualifications, and any ongoing instructional programs; proof of liability insurance in a minimum amount of \$750,000, per inspection and shall be resubmitted each calendar year to the License and Inspection Department; a report in sufficient detail of the underwriters method of operation, completeness of inspection activities, types of reports issued, and a schedule of fees charged.
 - (3) If the Board of Supervisors finds that the applicants presenting themselves have demonstrated, by the documents submitted, reasonable knowledge required for the inspection of electrical work performed in the township, upon proof of the payment

for a fee provided by the resolution, shall cause to be issued, by the Department of License and Inspections to such person or company, a license to perform electrical inspections within Upper Southampton Township. Such license shall continue in full force and effect following its issuance until and including December 31 in the year of its issuance, unless sooner revoked.

§ 88-9. General requirements for electrical work.⁵

All electrical work in the township shall be performed in accordance with the requirements and standards of the 1999 National Electrical Code and this chapter. No electrical work performed in the township shall be performed by an apprentice electrician except under the direct supervision and control of an electrical contractor.

§ 88-10. Permit required.

- A. No person shall perform any electrical work in the township unless he first obtains a permit therefor from the Code Enforcement Official. An applicant for permit shall make application on a form supplied by the township, setting forth:
- (1) The nature of the electrical work to be performed.
 - (2) The place where the electrical work will be installed.
 - (3) Plans and specifications for the electrical work to be installed. Electrical drawings will be required for all new commercial, public and industrial buildings and apartments, signed by an architect or a professional electrical engineer qualified in the commonwealth to prepare such final drawings, plans and specifications, unless the estimated cost of electrical work is less than \$2,500.
 - (4) The name and address of the person who will perform the electrical work.
 - (5) Any other pertinent information which the Code Enforcement Official deems necessary or desirable relating to the work to be performed.
- B. Certificates of Insurance for Liability and Workmen's Compensation, such as will protect the residents of the township, shall be attached to the application.

§ 88-11. Inspections and tests.

- A. The Township Code Enforcement Official and/or Electrical Underwriters as approved by the Code Enforcement Official and by the Upper Southampton Township Board of Supervisors shall be and are hereby designated as the sole person or persons to make inspections of electrical wiring equipment and apparatus and the manner of installation thereof in or on any lot, piece of ground, building or structure or to service any lot, piece of ground, building or structure in Upper Southampton Township. Upon completion of any electrical work, a certificate of inspection and approval issued by an approved electrical

⁵ Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I).

underwriter shall be furnished to the Code Enforcement Official not later than 15 days after such completion. Schedules of the fees charged by each inspecting agency shall at all times be kept on file at the Department of License and Inspections at the Township Building and be open to public inspection.

- B. All decisions as to whether or not electrical work complies with the provisions of the National Electrical Code and this chapter shall be made by the Code Enforcement Official who is hereby authorized to stop any electrical work in progress and order the removal thereof if he determines that such work is not being installed in conformity with the provisions of the National Electrical Code and this chapter.
- C. The Code Enforcement Official is hereby authorized to waive inspection of all or that portion of electrical work for which he has received a duplicate record of approval from an approved electrical underwriter certifying that such work complies with the provisions of the National Electrical Code and this chapter. Notice of such waiver of inspection shall be given to the applicant so that the approved work can thereafter be concealed.
- D. The Code Enforcement Official shall not accept any certificate of inspection from an electrical underwriter that has not been approved by resolution of the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors shall investigate the qualifications, method of operation, completeness of inspection activity and type of report before approving such agency.
- E. The Code Enforcement Official or his designee may enter and examine any building or premises at reasonable times and shall have free and unhindered access thereto for the purpose of inspecting the same.

§ 88-12. Revocation of permits.

- A. The Code Enforcement Official may revoke any permit when:
 - (1) Any work for which a permit has been granted is done in violation of any of the provisions of the National Electrical Code or this chapter or of the approved final drawings therefor or is otherwise done in an unsafe and dangerous manner.
 - (2) Any condition of the permit is violated.
 - (3) Active work under the permit is not commenced within six months from the date of its issuance.
- B. When the Code Enforcement Official determines that grounds exist for the revocation of a permit, he shall serve notice upon the holder of such permit, stating the nature of the violation and stating that all requirements must be complied with within 30 days of receipt of such notice. The notice may also prescribe a course of remedial action. If, at the expiration of the time allowed for compliance, the violation has not been corrected, the Code Enforcement Official shall revoke the permit.

§ 88-13. Existing unsafe electrical work.

- A. In order to safeguard persons and property against the hazards and perils of existing defective electrical wiring, apparatus or equipment, the Code Enforcement Official is hereby given the authority and the duty to inspect at reasonable times any building, structure (including swimming pools) or premises in the township to determine whether any electrical work theretofore installed is defective or unsafe.
- B. If the Code Enforcement Official determines that any electrical work in any building, structure (including swimming pools) or premises is in an unsafe and dangerous condition or not in compliance with the provisions of the National Electrical Code or this chapter, he shall serve notice upon the owner or occupant thereof, stating the nature of the violation and stating that all requirements must be complied with within the period of time specified in the notice. The notice may also prescribe a course of remedial action. The Code Enforcement Official and/or the township may allow a designated electrical underwriter to recommend remedial action. If, at the expiration of the time allowed for compliance, the violation has not been corrected, the Code Enforcement Official or his designee shall institute proceedings to enforce the penalties specified in § 88-16 for violations of this chapter.
- C. It shall be the duty of the Code Enforcement Official to investigate and examine or cause to be investigated by a designated electrical underwriter every structure in which there occurs a fire whose nature and/or origin is electrical in nature or whose nature and/or origin is suspected of being electrical in nature, as determined by the Fire Marshal, for violations of this Electrical Code and for defective electrical wiring, apparatus or equipment.

§ 88-14. Appeals.

Any applicant may appeal from the decision of the Code Enforcement Official by giving to the Code Enforcement Official notice in writing that he does so appeal and by filing a copy of his appeal with the Township Manager. If the appeal is from an order refusing to issue a license or refusing a permit or revoking a permit, it shall be taken within 15 days from such refusal or revocation and not thereafter; if the appeal is from an order to remove any work or correct any condition, it shall be taken within three days from the issuing of such order and not thereafter. All cases where appeals have been taken as above provided shall, be referred to the Board of Supervisors as a Board of Appeal, whose decision shall be final and recorded in the minutes of the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Appeal shall, after hearing, direct the Code Enforcement Official to issue his permit under such conditions, if any, as it may require, or to withhold the same, or to make such other and further orders in the premises as the Board deems proper. A decision of the Code Enforcement Official not appealed from, in accordance with this section, shall be final and conclusive.

§ 88-15. Nuisance.

- A. Any building or structure or any part thereof or the service equipment of any building or structure erected, altered, reconstructed, repaired, removed or added to or maintained contrary to any of the provisions of this chapter is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and abatable as such.

- B. The Code Enforcement Official or his designated agent shall enforce all the provisions of this code and shall act on any question relative to the materials or mode/manner of construction/installation or made to existing buildings.

§ 88-16. Violations and penalties.⁶

Any person who violates or permits a violation of this chapter, shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding brought before a District Justice under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, be guilty of a summary offense and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, plus costs of prosecution. In default of payment thereof, the defendant may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 90 days. Each day or portion thereof that such violation continues or is permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense, and each section of this chapter that is violated shall also constitute a separate offense.

⁶ Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. D).