

2026 National Electrical Code Approved Revisions



What You Need to Know

Work on the 2026 NEC® is complete, with the update expected to unify standards and streamline installation practices.



Three key changes are being introduced:

- 1 Removal of Chapter 8's Independence**
- 2 Definition of Limited-Energy Cables**
- 3 Reorganization of Articles in Chapter 7**

Removal of Chapter 8's Independence

Historically, Chapter 8 (communications systems) was separate from Chapters 1-7 due to distinct installation methods. The 2026 code eliminates Chapter 8's exemption to create a more cohesive standard.

Definition of Limited-Energy Cables

To support the removal of independence of Chapter 8, the 2026 NEC® introduces the term "limited-energy cables" in Article 100. Cables for Class 2, 3 and 4 circuits; optical fiber; CATV; broadband; fire alarms; and premises communications will now be treated consistently across the code, ensuring clear installation guidelines.

Limited-Energy Cables

A factory assembly of one or more conductors or optical fibers used for the following circuits and systems:

- Class 2 circuits
- Class 3 circuits
- Class 4 circuits and systems
- Optical fiber systems
- Communications circuits
- Community antenna television circuits (CATV)
- Network-powered broadband low-power communications circuits
- Premises communications circuits and systems
- Power-limited fire alarm (PLFA) circuits

Reorganization of Articles in Chapter 7

Articles from Chapters 7 and 8 will be consolidated for better alignment with NEC® structure. Redundant information will be removed, and a general article will outline requirements, directing users to specific sections as needed. Key articles include installation standards, power sources, cable specifications, grounding, fire alarm systems and broadband communication.

General Requirements

- **Article 720:** Limited-Energy System Installation
- **Article 721:** Limited-Energy Power Sources
- **Article 722:** Limited-Energy Cable
- **Article 723:** Raceways, Cable Routing Assemblies, and Cable Trays for Limited-Energy Systems
- **Article 742:** Overvoltage Protection of Limited-Energy Systems
- **Article 750:** Limited-Energy System Grounding

Specific Requirements

- **Article 725:** Class 2 and Class 3 Power-Limited Circuits and Equipment
- **Article 726:** Class 4 Fault-Managed Power Circuits and Equipment
- **Article 760:** Fire Alarm Systems
- **Article 772:** Fire-Resistive Cable Systems — Type FR
- **Article 810:** Antenna Systems
- **Article 820:** Community Antenna and Television and Radio Distribution Systems
- **Article 830:** Network-Powered Broadband Low-Power Communications Systems
- **Article 840:** Premises-Powered Broadband Communications Systems

Learn More



The 2026 National Electrical Code® is available in print or digital format. The best way to learn more about the code is to spend time reading it.

[Access it online at no cost](#)

Questions?



Several FMP Alliance members are active in NFPA Code-Making Panels and can provide additional information on these changes.

Contact us via [LinkedIn](#) or the [FMPA website](#)



The FMP Alliance is an association of industry-leading organizations focused on driving the adoption of safe, sustainable Fault Managed Power technology.