



# ORDINANCE

Ordinance Amending Title 27 - Electrical Code

SUBJECT

[ TITLE272013CSCC ]

BOS Template File Name

APPROVED:

INITIAL

DATE

COUNTY COUNSEL  
ATTORNEY

CBS

9-16-13

ASSISTANT  
COUNTY COUNSEL

AA

10/2/13

SENIOR ASSISTANT  
COUNTY COUNSEL

RICHARD D. WEISS  
CHIEF DEPUTY  
COUNTY COUNSEL

[Signature] RDW

10/21/13

WEBSITE:

YES

NO

Please initial and date above before submitting for signatures.

This Routing Sheet is to be attached to the file copy as a permanent record.

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*Handwritten notes:*  
9-25-13  
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10-3-13  
10/3/13



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

648 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

JOHN F. KRATTLI  
County Counsel

October 22, 2013

TELEPHONE  
(213) 974-7796  
FACSIMILE  
(213) 687-7337  
TDD  
(213) 633-0901  
E-MAIL  
csuzuki@counsel.lacounty.gov

Gail Farber, Director  
Department of Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, California 91803-1331

Attention: Hector Bordas, Assistant Deputy Director  
Building & Safety Division

**Re: Ordinance Amending Title 27 - Electrical Code**


Dear Ms. Farber:

As requested, we have prepared the proposed analysis and ordinance amending Title 27 – Electrical Code of the Los Angeles County Code to account for the recent changes in the State's Electrical Code as required by law.

The ordinance and its analysis may be presented to the Board of Supervisors for its consideration after a duly noticed public hearing.

Very truly yours,

JOHN F. KRATTLI  
County Counsel

By   
CAROLE B. SUZUKI  
Deputy County Counsel  
Public Works Division

APPROVED AND RELEASED:

  
RICHARD B. WEISS  
Chief Deputy

CBS:gm

Enclosure

HOA.1008985.1


## ANALYSIS

This ordinance repeals those provisions of Title 27 - Electrical Code of the Los Angeles County Code, which had incorporated portions of the 2010 Edition of the California Electrical Code by reference, and replaces them with provisions incorporating by reference portions of the 2013 California Electrical Code, published by the California Building Standards Commission, with certain changes and modifications. Unless deleted or modified herein, the previously enacted provisions of Title 27 continue in effect.

State law requires that the County's Electrical Code impose the same requirements as are contained in the building standards published in the most recent edition of the California Electrical Code except for changes or modifications deemed reasonably necessary by the County because of local climatic, geologic, or topographic conditions.

The changes and modifications to requirements contained in the building standards published in the 2013 California Electrical Code which are contained in this ordinance are based upon express findings contained in the ordinance, that such changes are reasonably necessary due to local climatic, geologic, or topographic conditions. This ordinance also makes certain modifications to the administrative provisions of Title 27.

JOHN F. KRATTLI  
County Counsel

BY:   
CAROLE B. SUZUKI  
Deputy County Counsel  
Public Works Division

CBS:gm

Requested: 8/08/13  
Revised: 10/21/13

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

An ordinance amending Title 27 – Electrical Code of the Los Angeles County Code by adopting portions of the 2013 California Electrical Code, by reference, with certain changes and modifications, and making other revisions thereto.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Sections 89.102 through 89.114 of Article 89, Article 90, Chapters 1 through 9, and Annexes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H which incorporate by reference and modify portions of the 2010 California Electrical Code, are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 2.** Section 80-1.5 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 80-1.5. California Electrical Code (CEC) Adoption by Reference**

Except as hereinafter changed or modified, Sections 89.102 through 89.114 of Article 89, Article 90, Chapters 1 through 9, and Annexes A, B, C, D, E, F, ~~G, and H,~~ and I of that certain Electrical Code known and designated as the ~~2010~~2013 California Electrical Code as published by the California Building Standards Commission are adopted by reference and incorporated into this Title 27 of the Los Angeles County Code as if fully set forth below, as Sections 89.102 through 89.114 of Article 89, Article 90, ~~and Chapters 1 through 9, and Annexes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H,~~ and I of Title 27 of the Los Angeles County Code.

A copy of the ~~2010~~2013 California Electrical Code, hereinafter referred to as the CEC, shall be at all times maintained by the Chief Electrical Inspector for use and examination by the public.

**SECTION 3.** Section 82-2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 82-2. Time Limit**

Every permit issued under the provisions of this Code shall expire by limitation and become null and void if the work authorized by such permit is not commenced within 180 days from the date of such permit, or if the work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned for a period of 180 days, or the permittee fails to obtain inspection as required by the provisions of Section 82-14 at any time after the work is commenced, for a period of 180 days, or more. Before such work can be commenced or recommenced, a new permit shall be first obtained and the fee therefor shall be one-half the amount required for a new permit for such work, provided no changes have been made or will be made in the original plans and specifications for such work; and provided, further, that the new permit is obtained no later than one year from the date of the expired permit, or the duration of suspension or abandonment has not exceeded one year.

**EXCEPTION:** Permits issued to abate violation(s) in conjunction with a code enforcement action shall expire and become null and void at a date determined by the Building Official.

~~Any permittee holding an unexpired permit may apply for an extension of time within which work may commence under that permit. The Chief Electrical Inspector may extend the time for action by the permittee for a period not exceeding 180 days from the date of expiration upon written request by the permittee and payment of a fee in an amount determined by the Chief Electrical Inspector, not to exceed equal to 25 percent~~

of the original permit fee. No permit shall be extended more than twice.

Once a permit, including any extension(s) thereof, has expired, the permittee shall file a new application as specified in Section 82-1. ~~In order to renew a permit after expiration, except as provided for above, the permittee shall pay a new full permit fee.~~

**SECTION 4.** Section 82-4 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 82-4. Application for Electrical Permits**

...

**(f) Expiration of Application.** ~~An application for permit for which no permit is issued within one year following the date of application shall expire by limitation.~~ When no permit is issued within one year following the date of the application therefor, the application shall automatically expire. Plans and specifications previously submitted may thereafter be returned to the applicant or destroyed by the Chief Electrical Inspector. The Chief Electrical Inspector may grant up to two extensions ~~of up to~~ not exceeding 180 days per extension beyond the initial one-year limit upon written request by the applicant showing that circumstances beyond the control of the applicant have prevented action from being taken and upon payment of an extension fee in an amount determined by the Chief Electrical Inspector, not to exceed 25 percent of the plan check fee.

Once an application ~~and~~, including any extension(s) have thereof has expired, the applicant shall file a new application, resubmit plans and specifications and pay a new plan checking or review fee.

**SECTION 5.** Section 83-3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 83-3. Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction and Modifications**

**(a) Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction.**

The provisions of this Code are not intended to prevent the use of any material, appliance, installation, device, arrangement method, design, or method of construction not specifically prescribed by this Code, provided any such alternate has been approved by the Chief Electrical Inspector.

The Chief Electrical Inspector may approve on a case-by-case basis any such alternate that is found to be satisfactory and does not lessen provisions for safety or health required by this Code.

Such approval shall be based upon submittal of substantiating data and including, but not limited to, performance characteristics, measurements, calculations, diagrams, equipment and construction factors, where applicable.

**(b) Modifications.**

Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this Code, the Chief Electrical Inspector may grant minor modifications on a case by case basis, provided the Chief Electrical Inspector shall first find that a special individual reason makes the strict letter of this Code impractical and that the modification is in reasonable conformity with the spirit and purpose of this Code and that such modification does not lessen any health, fire-protection, or other life-safety related

requirements. The details of any action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the files of the code enforcement agency.

**SECTION 6.** Section 83-7 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 83-7. Electrical Testing Certifications**

Electrical testing certifications will be accepted as complying with the requirements of this Code only when such certifications are issued in accordance with this Code and nationally recognized standards by electrical testing laboratories which have been accredited by the Chief Electrical Inspector.

The Chief Electrical Inspector recognizes three types of electrical testing laboratories:

- Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories;
- Field Evaluation Organization Laboratories; and
- Calibration and ~~startup~~ Laboratories.

**SECTION 7.** Section 83-8 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 83-8. Accreditation of Electrical Testing Laboratories**

(a) **Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories.** A Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) accreditation issued by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration is accepted by the Chief Electrical Inspector as meeting the accreditation requirements of this Code for listing and labeling testing laboratories.

(b) **Field Evaluation Organization Laboratories.** Field Evaluation Organizations laboratories shall be a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) which received its accreditation from the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration and must



apply to and be approved by the Chief Electrical Inspector to perform field evaluation on required electrical equipment. These laboratories must have a professional electrical engineer registered in California pursuant to the Professional Engineer's Act (California Business and Professions Code section 6700, et seq.) on their permanent full-time staff. For each individual project, The test reports shall be submitted for approval by the Chief Electrical Inspector and shall bear the professional electrical engineer's signature as required by the State of California Regulations.

**(c) Calibration and Startup Laboratories.** Calibration and startup laboratories must apply to and be approved by the Chief Electrical Inspector. These laboratories must have a professional electrical engineer registered in California pursuant to the Professional Engineer's Act (California Business and Professions Code section 6700, et seq.) on their permanent full-time staff.

**SECTION 8.** Section 690.19 is hereby added to Article 690 to read as follows:

**Sec. 690.19. Disconnecting Means for Multiple Arrays.**

Where more than one array is combined to form a single output, a disconnecting means rated for the output shall be installed immediately adjacent to the combiner box on the output side.

**EXCEPTION 1:** If the combiner box is located adjacent to the inverter(s), the disconnecting means as stated above shall not be required.

**EXCEPTION 2:** For a single-family dwelling with PV system rated up to 10 KW.

**SECTION 9.** The provisions of this ordinance contain additions to the 2013 Edition of the California Electrical Code. Some of these changes are administrative in nature in that they do not constitute changes or modifications to requirements contained in the building standards published in the California Electrical Code.

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 17958.5, 17958.7, and 18941.5, the Board of Supervisors hereby expressly finds that the additions to requirements contained in the building standards published in the California Electrical Code contained in this ordinance, which are not administrative in nature, are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions in the County of Los Angeles as more particularly described in the table set forth below.

**ELECTRICAL CODE AMENDMENTS**

CODE SECTION	CONDITION	EXPLANATION
690.19	Geological	Emergency situations caused by seismic events may require the disconnection of electrical power in a building. Presently, the CEC does not require a disconnecting means for conductors for multi-arrayed solar photovoltaic systems.

**SECTION 10.** This ordinance shall become operative on January 1, 2014.

[TITLE272013CSCC]