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12/10/07

**LOG OF MEETING**  
**DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

**SUBJECT:** *National Electrical Code (NEC), Code-Making Panel 2 Meetings to discuss proposals to revise the 2008 NEC.*

**DATE OF MEETING:** November 28- December 1, 2006

**PLACE OF MEETING:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, Redondo Beach, California

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Doug Lee, ESEE *DL*

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** January 10, 2006

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:** Doug Lee, ESEE  
Andrew Trotta, ESEE

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

Ray Webber, Panel 2 Chair, International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI)  
Jean O'Connor, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)  
Bill McGovern, IAEI  
Bob LaRocca, Underwriters Laboratories (UL)  
David Dini, UL  
Michael Toman, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)  
Don King, Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)  
Janet Skipper (IBEW)  
Jim Pauley, National Elec. Mfrs. Assoc. (NEMA)  
Dan Kissane, NEMA  
Dick Becker, Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE)  
James Degnan, IEEE  
Robert Wilkinson, Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)  
Cliff Rediger, IEC  
Brian Nenninger, American Chemistry Council  
Ronald Purvis, Electrical Light and Power Group/Edison Electric Institute (EEI)  
Larry Brown, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)  
Frank Coluccio, New York City Department of Buildings  
Bill Burr, Canadian Standards Association  
Jack Wells, Pass & Seymour  
Steve Campolo, Leviton  
Alan Manche, Square D Company  
Dick Loyd  
John Wafer, Eaton Corporation  
Steven Montgomery, Safe Plug  
Randy Dollar, Siemens Energy & Automation  
And others

## SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Mr. Lee participated in discussions of comments on proposals received by the NFPA to revise the 2008 edition of the *National Electrical Code (NEC)*, Articles 210, 215, and 220. The NEC is revised in a 3-year cycle and the new edition will be known as the 2008 edition. The topics covered included branch-circuits, feeders, and branch-circuit, feeder, and service calculations. Many of the proposals involved expansion or revision of the Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter (AFCI) and Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter (GFCI) requirements. The CPSC technical staff submitted five proposals that were reviewed by Code-Making Panel 2 (Panel 2). Two of the proposals were editorial (*NEC* proposal 2-137 changing the verb tense and *NEC* proposal 2-119 adding the acronym for AFCI) and were accepted by the panel unanimously.

The CPSC staff proposal (*NEC* proposal No. 2-87) to extend GFCI protection for hard-wired boat hoists not exceeding 240 V was unanimously accepted at the proposal stage and did not receive further comments. The CPSC staff proposal (*NEC* proposal No. 2-136) to require a luminaire on an AFCI protected branch circuit supplying power to the smoke alarm circuit received some support in discussions at the proposal stage but did not pass the 2/3 majority needed for acceptance. No comments on this proposal were received. However, the panel added a fine print note during the proposal stage that will require AFCI protected smoke alarms to have a secondary power source that should address the concern expressed in public proposals.

The CPSC staff proposal (*NEC* proposal No. 2-138) that would require AFCIs for older homes when the electrical service is upgraded received some support but was below the 2/3 majority required for acceptance. At this time, Panel 2 was not willing to expand the scope of AFCI installations for older dwellings because of the wide range of wiring practices that may be encountered in the field. The panel would like to see alternative methods to improve safety in older homes.

Other significant comments that Panel 2 acted on will allow AFCIs to be installed at the first receptacle as long as metal raceway or AC cable is used up to the first receptacle. Panel 2 acted on comments to uphold the proposals to remove exceptions to the GFCI requirements for receptacles not readily accessible and receptacles for appliances that are not easily moved.

Panel 2 discussed and acted upon 272 comments on proposals. Ballots during the meeting are provisional until the final balloting is conducted by mail. Details of the disposition of the 272 comments on proposals will be published subsequently by the NFPA. The CPSC staff is a non-voting member of the *NEC* Code-Making Panels.