



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

PROPOSED CHANGE OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE BUILDING CODE AND FIRE SAFETY CODE

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

CODE INFORMATION

Proposed change to: Building Code Fire Safety Code

Code section(s): NEC 250.50

PROPONENT INFORMATION

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PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Description of change and reason for change (attach additional information as needed):

CT has been amending NEC Section 250.50 as follows:(Amd) 250.50 Grounding Electrode Sys

Proposed text change, addition or deletion (attach additional information as needed):

Supporting data and documents (attach additional information as needed)

This Proposal is original material. (Note: Original material is considered to be the submitter’s own idea based on or as a result of his/her own experience, thought or research and, to the best of his/her knowledge, is not copied from another source.)

This Comment is not original material, its source (if known) is as follows: (such as material / code development proposal from a prior development cycle or proposal submitted to model code committee etc.)

I would like to make an in-person presentation of my proposal.

Release

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Proponent’s Signature

Earl Dean
Printed Name

PLEASE EMAIL (PREFERRED) TO DAS.CodesStandards@CT.GOV OR MAIL OR FAX (SEE BELOW)

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CT has been amending NEC Section 250.50 as follows:

(Amd) **250.50 Grounding Electrode System.** All grounding electrodes as described in 250.52(A)(1) through (A)(7) that are **available** at each building or structure served shall be bonded together to form the grounding electrode system. Where none of these grounding electrodes exist, one or more of the grounding electrodes specified in 250.52(A)(4) through (A)(8) shall be installed and used.

Exception: Concrete-encased electrodes of existing buildings or structures shall not be required to be part of the grounding electrode system where the steel reinforcing bars or rods are not accessible for use without disturbing the concrete.

The 2023 model code has the section as:

250.50 Grounding Electrode System. All grounding electrodes as described in 250.52(A)(1) through (A)(7) that are **present** at each building or structure served shall be bonded together to form the grounding electrode system. Where none of these grounding electrodes exist, one or more of the grounding electrodes specified in 250.52(A)(4) through (A)(8) shall be installed and used.

Exception: Concrete-encased electrodes of existing buildings or structures shall not be required to be part of the grounding electrode system where the steel reinforcing bars or rods are not accessible for use without disturbing the concrete.

CT State Building Inspector Chris Laux amended the CT code to exclude the requirement for contractors to be required to chip away concrete if it was discovered this electrode was forgotten. He did this the first year this one-word change was made by NFPA in 2005. Chris merely changed the word back to what it was in the prior code cycle (from “present” to “available”).

The change was made because proof was provided at the 2005 NFPA 70 code change meetings that contractors were routinely omitting the UFER (concrete encased) electrode based on this one word: “available”. So, it was changed to “present”. There was not an exception this code cycle. Chris felt this would be a “can of worms” for contractors and we inspectors, so he changed the section back to how it was in the 2002 NEC.

NFPA added the exception the following code cycle. But this amendment has been included unchanged every CT adoption cycle since. The exception allows existing footings to remain undisturbed.

Contractors have been educated by now. The exception is there. It is time CT removed this code change. The 2023 NFPA 70 verbiage is perfectly fine.

The one-word change was made by NFPA because the concrete encased electrode is an excellent grounding electrode, and it should always be tied into the grounding electrode system whenever it is present. Every footing inspection made by our inspectors should be looking for this and requiring the contractor to provide this most important bonding to the grounding electrode system. The CT amended change allows the contractor to “forget” to provide a connection to this electrode, and

once the concrete is placed, this CT amendment allows the contractor to forget it completely. It is no longer "available".

Please close this loophole.