



# THE WIRE

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## March 2026

### The Presidents' Letter

Our February 2026 general membership meeting was well attended with 42 members. Personally, I am very pleased with the increased attendance at the meetings since we started back up in September. We had some very positive feedback with the presentation for February. Dennis Steier and myself answered code questions that Dennis had put together. There was a lot of interaction during the presentation. We will be doing the same format for the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. You can find the questions on the website. Earl Kiper won the 50/50 pot.

If you have not renewed your membership yet, please help us out and renew as soon as possible. In order to have better accounting, only the names of paid members will be on the sign-in sheet for the February 2026 meeting. If you plan on attending this meeting and have not had a chance to renew your membership you can simply add your name to the sheet. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a member bring them with you. They can attend the meeting at **no charge!** We had three new members that signed up last month.

Check out the article entitled "News from Frankfort". In this section, there will be up to date information regarding Department of Housing, Building, and Construction, legislation, and other governmental topics that impact the electrical industry. Let us know if you have any ideas on material to be included.

The Department of Housing, Building, and Construction has transitioned to the new data base. Please do not be surprised if you have issues with your next license renewal. If you do experience any issues, please contact one of the Board members for assistance or call Housing, Building, and Construction at (502) 782-6700.

The Sponsorship Form is on the website. If you know of any company that may be interested in becoming a sponsor, please print off the form

### March 9, 2026 Code Program

**Sign-in 6:30 P.M. - Program at 7:00 P.M.**  
**ELKS LODGE # 8 - 2824 KLONDIKE LN -**

The program for March will be a presentation by Steve Willinghurst & Dennis Steier. NEC questions were distributed at the February Membership Meeting. Answers and discussion will continue at the March meeting. NEC Questions are available at [echlky.com](http://echlky.com). Steve & Dennis are both a long time board members of the ECHL and always deliver an excellent presentation.

Our General Membership meetings are held at the Elks Lodge located at 2824 Klondike Lane. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm with sign-ins beginning at 6:30 pm.

Bring a friend and enjoy the program.

Dennis Steier will go over the Code Questions from the March 2026 Wire.

### News from Frankfort

There was a Senate Bill 225 that was filed on February 16<sup>th</sup> that contained language to basically postpone any building code adoption until 2029. This was the result of an Affordable Housing Task Force that was assembled last year.

Ed Devine, myself and three others scheduled a meeting with the sponsor of this bill. We met on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Senator Mills, the sponsor, assured all of us that the language we had issues with was going to be removed. So far, no other legislation effecting the electrical code or electrical licensing has been filed. March 2<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline to file a bill in the senate and March 4<sup>th</sup> has a similar deadline in the house.

The Department of Housing, Building, and Construction has begun the process of setting up a task force to review the 2026 code and make a recommendation to the Advisory Committee. This task force will have representation across the electrical industry. Our first meeting is scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Kentucky Electrical Coalition held a virtual meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>. It was very well attended. The discussion included the task force, adoption of the 2026 National Electrical Code, and Senate Bill 225.

### March 2026 Code Questions

1. What size AWG conductor is required for a medium base lamp holder for the pendant conductors feeding a incandescent filament lamp? Where would you find this answer in 2023 NEC?

- A. 16
- B. 4
- C. 18
- D. None of above

2023 NEC Code Section? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is a disconnecting means need to be in-sight of a Class 2 rated transformer? Where would you find this answer in the 2023 NEC?

- A. YES
- B. NO

2023 NEC Code Section? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Can a low voltage lighting system be reconditioned? Where would you find this answer in the 2023 NEC?

- A. YES
- B. NO

2023 NEC Code Section? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Does a resistant type boiler require you to install a overpressure limit control device? Where would you find this answer in the 2023 NEC?

- A. YES
- B. NO

2023 NEC Code Section? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Can a listed unfused motor-circuit switch be used as the disconnecting means for HP rated motor under 1,000 volts? Where would you find this answer in the 2023 NEC?

- A. YES
- B. NO

2023 NEC Code Section? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Are Design A motor limited to a maximum starting current or locked rotor current? Where would you find this answer in the 2023 NEC?

- A. YES
- B. NO

2023 NEC Code Section? \_\_\_\_\_

### Code Corner

#### Article 392

When you are looking for the ampacity rating of a conductor you would automatically refer to Article 310 Ampacity. There are tables in 310. that have conductors in raceways and open air, would conductors installed in a cable tray which is considered a raceway be considered open air conductors for ampacity rating? The answer is yes and you would need to refer to Article 392 section 392.80 **Ampacity of Conductors** for these ampacity rating for the conductors in Cable Tray. In an open an open air application 310.15(B) (17) is the Table you would use for allowable ampacity.

**392.80 (A)(1) Multiconductor Cables:** This section is for the allowable ampacity of Tray cable if the installation meets the requirements of Table 392.22(A) and refers you to 310.15(B) (16) the adjustment factor applies to multiconductor cables with more than 3 current carrying conductors. For continuously covered for more than 6ft you must adjust as well by using a .95 of the allowed ampacities of Table 310.15(B) (16) and Table 310.15(B) (18) for multiconductor cables.

**392.80(A)(2) Single Conductors Cables:** Single conductor cables 1/0 and above are allow to be installed in Cable Tray if they carry a Cable Tray rated listing. The ampacity of these cables shall be permitted by 310.15 (A)(2). The adjustment factor shall not apply to the ampacity of cables in cable tray, unless the tray is covered with 6 or more feet with a solid unventilated cover. I this type of installation you would have to de-rate the conductor's ampacity by 40%.

**392.80(A)(2)(c)** Where single conductors are installed in a triangular or square configuration in uncovered cable trays, with maintained free air space with a space of not less than one cable diameter between individual conductors, the ampacity of 1/0 AWG and larger shall not exceed the allowable ampacities in Table 310.15 (B) (17) and Table 310.15(B) (19). There is an Exception to his if you use solid bottom tray requirement of 310.15(C) would have to be applied.

When you use cable tray it will give you flexibility in your installation and future changes in the system. It also allows you to use a smaller conductor and meet your ampacity requirements for your application.

**Article Submitted By Dennis Steier**



## **Safety Best Practices When Using Electrical Testing Equipment-Part 3**

### ***Using a current clamp***

Unlike a probe, the clamp does not come into contact with energized terminals. But that doesn't mean the clamp makes measurement inherently safe. You're still going to be standing in front of an open enclosure and may be putting your hand close to an energized surface.

You will almost certainly need to lift and (slightly) twist cables to get the clamp around the conductor under test. You have to measure the field around one conductor at a time (the three conductors are out of phase, thus the fields will tend to cancel each other). And you need to get the center of each cable as close to the alignment marks as possible. Typically, these alignment marks delineate the center space of the jaw.

Take the same arc blast and shock prevention cautions that you would take if using probes. That includes using and/or wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), such as rubber blankets, insulated gloves, or even an arc flash suit.

### ***General safety practices***

The tips for safely using a DMM also apply generally to most test equipment. Arguably the most important safety tip is ensure you are a "qualified person" [NFPA 70E Sec. 110.6(A)].

To be a qualified person, you must have demonstrated the skills and knowledge to use the test equipment with the particular equipment under test and you must have received the safety training to identify the hazards and reduce the associated risk. That's a paraphrasing of the NFPA 70E Art. 100 definition.

But what if your company just bought a new piece of test equipment of a type that nobody on site has used before? Do you have to take a class on how to use it? Often, it will suffice for an employee seeking to become qualified to study the manual, make up a mock test, and demonstrate the correct use to a supervisor or other designated person who has also read the manual. This would also assume the employee is a "qualified person" on somewhat similar equipment used in the same environment. That can be a big assumption.

One solution is your electrical distributor may have someone who can perform the training, or they can get someone. The manufacturer may have training videos, conduct training webinars, or provide other means of remote training.

For work quality, the safety training is all well and good but often insufficient; there is just way too much to learn about how to use the test equipment and correctly interpret the test results. This problem is why we have courses and certifications for thermographers. "Do the job right the first time" is also a major safety principle. Some safety practices that apply to test equipment in general:

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**TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH**

**Top Three Code Violations  
Louisville Metro Inspections  
March 2026**

**These violations are costing you time  
and money.**

1. NEC Article # 408.41 Grounded Conductor Terminations.

Each grounded conductor shall terminate within the panelboard in an individual terminal that is not also used for another conductor.

*Exception: Grounded conductors of circuits with parallel conductors shall be permitted to terminate in a single terminal if the terminal is identified for connection of more than one conductor.*

2. NEC Article # 408.7 Unused Openings.

Unused openings for circuit breakers and switches shall be closed using identified closures, or other approved means that provide protection substantially equivalent to the wall of the enclosure.

3. NEC Article # 408.4(A) Field Identification—Circuit Directory or Circuit Identification.

Every circuit and circuit modification shall be legibly identified as to its clear, evident, and specific purpose or use. The identification shall include an approved degree of detail that allows each circuit to be distinguished from all others. Spare positions that contain unused overcurrent devices or switches shall be described accordingly. The identification shall be included in a circuit directory that is located on the face or inside of the panel door.

Each of these articles listed above are associated with a violation. Please review the articles for compliance and keep in mind to follow through with the current approved NEC.

You lose money when you are turned down on a project. It also costs you time, when you have to return to the job site to make the necessary changes to correct the violation, and that too, costs you money.

**Presidents Letter - Cont'd**

and give it out to any prospective sponsor. The cost for a company or organization to become a sponsor is \$100.

As mentioned, our next general membership meeting is scheduled for Monday March 9, 2026 at the Elks Lodge located at 2824 Klondike Lane. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm with sign-ins beginning at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

As Always Stay Safe and Work Safe

Steve Willinghurst

**LG&E NEWS**

**Are You Severe Weather Ready?**

When severe weather hits your area, being prepared is key. Here are some easy-to-follow safety tips to keep you and your family safe should nature's worst arrive.

- ⇒ Never take baths or showers during lightning and thunderstorms.
- ⇒ Always avoid using corded phones during lightning and thunderstorms.
- ⇒ Lost power? Be sure to turn off appliances but leave one light switch on. This will ensure you know when power is restored.
- ⇒ Keep at least half a tank of gas in your car.
- ⇒ In case of an extended power outage, always have a safe place to go.

Keeping an emergency kit ready is also a severe weather must-do. Basic items for your kit should include:

- ⇒ An up-to-date first-aid kit plus any required prescription medications.
- ⇒ Flashlights
- ⇒ A battery-operated radio, like a NOAA Weather Radio, which allows you to receive weather warnings.
- ⇒ Extra batteries.
- ⇒ A cell phone battery backup or power bank.
- ⇒ Water and nonperishable food.

## What's Wrong Here?



Every one of the white cables installed here are control circuits for air conditioning equipment. And every one of these cables is suffering from severe damage from sunlight. The jackets are brittle, broken, and falling off. The conductor insulation is cracked, and in some spots the conductors are exposed.

Section 722.3(J) of the 2023 Code requires power-limited cables to comply with “the applicable requirements in 110.11, 300.5(B), 300.6, 300.9, and 310.10(F) when installed in corrosive, damp, or wet locations.” Section 110.11 states “unless identified for use in the operating environment, no conductors or equipment shall be located in damp or wet locations; where exposed to gases, fumes, vapors, liquids, or other agents that have a deteriorating effect on the conductors or equipment; or where exposed to excessive temperatures.” Section 300.6 states “raceways, cable trays, cablebus, auxiliary gutters, cable armor, boxes, cable sheathing, cabinets, enclosures (other than surrounding fences and walls), elbows, couplings, fittings, supports, and support hardware shall be of materials suitable for the environment in which they are to be installed.”

When we look at these rules, we may be able to determine that these cables must be sunlight resistant, and wet location rated. Anything less results in the damage we can see in the photo.