



National Electrical Installation Standards Development Procedures

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1. Scope of NECA Standards Activities.

NECA develops voluntary standards covering recommended installation and maintenance practices for electrical products and systems. These practices supplement and illustrate the requirements contained in ANSI/NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*, and ANSI/IEEE C2, *National Electrical Safety Code*, and shall not conflict with these requirements. NECA does not develop safety requirements for electrical products and systems.

NECA standards are intended to establish a minimum level of electrical construction quality, and to define what is meant by a “neat and workmanlike” installation. NECA standards are written to provide advice and guidance only, and adherence to them is wholly voluntary.

1.1. Definitions.

Association - National Electrical Contractors Association.

Balance – is defined as a development process that should have a balance of interests. Participants from diverse interest categories shall be sought with the objective of achieving balance. While balance is desired it is not required.

Consensus – is defined as substantial agreement has been reached by the directly and materially affected interests. This signifies the concurrence of more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. Consensus requires that all views and objections be considered, and that an effort be made toward their resolution.

Consensus Body – consists of persons or organizations responding to the Canvass Invitation call to participate in the approval process for a proposed American National Standard.

Codes and Standards Committee (CSC) - The Codes and Standards Committee is the supervising and appeal body for NECA standardization activities. CSC is appointed by the NECA President.

NECA Standard - A publication that covers some aspect of electrical construction and maintenance, and which has been developed in accordance with these procedures.

Openness – Participation in the standards development shall be open to all persons who are directly and materially affected by the proposed standard. There shall be no undue financial barriers to participation. Voting membership on the consensus body shall not be conditional upon membership in the Association.

Lack of dominance – The standards development process shall not be dominated by any single interest category, individual or organization. Unless claimed in writing (including electronic communications) by a directly and materially affected party that a single interest category, individual or organization dominated the standards development process, no test for dominance is required.

Resolved – is defined as a negative vote cast by a member of the consensus body or a comment submitted as a result of public review where the negative voter agrees to change his/her vote, or the negative commenter accepts the proposed resolution of his/her comment.

Standards Steering Committee (SSC) – A group responsible for the formal review of any appeals filed regarding the *NEIS® Development Procedures*. Members of the SSC shall be unbiased and shall be appointed by the Codes and Standards Committee and the Executive Director of Codes and Standards.

Subject Matter Expert (SME) – an individual responsible for development and revision of any NECA standard. SMEs are appointed by the Codes and Standards Committee and the Executive Director of Standards and Safety.

Substantive Change – is defined as a change that directly and materially affects the use of the publication. Examples of substantive changes are:

- (1) “Shall” to “should” or “should” to “shall”.
- (2) addition, deletion, or revision of requirements, regardless of the number of changes.
- (3) addition of mandatory compliance with referenced standards.

Technical Subcommittee (TSC) - A group responsible for development and revision of any NECA standard. TSCs are appointed by the Codes and Standards Committee and the Executive Director of Standards and Safety.

Unresolved – is defined as either a negative vote submitted by a consensus body member or written comments submitted by a person during the public review expressing disagreement with some or all of the proposed standard, that have not been satisfied and/or withdrawn after having been addressed according to NECA’s approved procedures.

2. Standards Development Process

NECA is accredited by ANSI to develop standards using a Canvass process. The Canvass process will be used for approving the creation, revision, reaffirmation, or withdrawal of an American National Standard (ANS).

- 2.1. ANSI Notification of a New Project.** All new projects for proposed ANSs must be initiated by submitting the *ANSI Project Initiation Notification System (PINS) Form*. ANSI will provide notice to the public via *ANSI Standards Action* when an ANS is contemplated. Comments resulting from the announcement of the PINS will be addressed in accordance with clause 2.5 of the current version of the *ANSI Essential Requirements*.
- 2.2. Discontinuance of a Proposed ANS Project.** NECA may decide to abandon the processing of a proposed new or revised American National Standard ANS or portion thereof at its own discretion and without a vote of the relevant Consensus Body. NECA shall notify ANSI immediately of such actions for announcement in *Standards Action*.
- 2.3. PINS Notification Submission Process.** A PINS form shall be submitted to ANSI in accordance with the following:
 - 2.3.1. New Standard.** The submission of a PINS form shall be prompted by the approval of a new NECA Standard by the *Codes and Standards Committee (CSC)*.
 - 2.3.2. Revision of a Standard.** The submission of a PINS form shall be prompted by the Executive Director of Codes and Standards decision to move forward with the revision of a proposed ANS.
- 2.4. Industry Review.** After completion of the first draft of a new standard by the author, the proposed ANS will be sent to industry representatives, as determined by the Association, for review and approval for ANS ballot. The Association reserves the right to initiate an industry review of any revised standard.
- 2.5. Canvass Request.** Canvass Invitation will be sent to those persons identified as having a potential interest in the subject matter of the ballot. A Canvass Invitation is sent for both ANSI and non-ANSI standards. The Canvass Invitation for an ANS will be for no less than 30 days (until the ANSI Canvass Invitation closes). Participants shall declare their interest category at this time. At the same time that the internal ANSI Canvass Invitation (for proposed ANS) is sent out, ANSI is notified to publish a Canvass Invitation in the next available *Standards Action*. Once the ANSI 30-day invitation closes, the proposed standard is sent out to the

Canvass List for review and comment. Non-ANSI Canvass Request close date is not dependent upon the close date for comment announced in *Standards Action*.

2.6. Balance and Dominance.

All appropriate interests that may be directly and materially interested by the standards activity of NECA shall have the opportunity for fair and equitable participation without dominance by any single interest category, individual or organization. Each Canvass List participant shall designate its own interest category as appropriate and in accordance with NECA's established categories. Interest categories appropriate to the development of consensus in any given standards activity are functions of the nature of the standards being developed. In defining the interest categories appropriate to a standards activity, consideration shall be given to the following:

- 2.6.1. Construction** – Those who are predominantly involved with the construction of buildings and similar structures. This category typically includes contractors, architects, engineers, electricians, inspectors, etc.
- 2.6.2. Producer** – Those who are predominantly involved with the manufacture of products and systems installed by electrical contractors. This category usually includes manufacturers and trade associations.
- 2.6.3. Government** – This category typically includes government agencies that contract for electrical construction work.
- 2.6.4. General Interest** – Those who are not associated with electrical construction. This category typically includes professional and lay people employed by academic and scientific institutions, experts, government agencies, insurance companies, consumers, etc.
- 2.6.5. Balance.** The standards development process should have a balance of interests. Participants from diverse interest categories shall be sought with the objective of achieving balance. Historically, the criterion for balance is that no single interest category constitutes a majority of the membership of a consensus body dealing with other than safety-related standards (*ANSI Essential Requirements* Section 2.3).
- 2.6.6. Dominance.** Dominance means a position or exercise of dominant authority, leadership, or influence by reason of superior leverage, strength, or representation to the exclusion of fair and equitable consideration of other viewpoints. Unless it is claimed in writing by a directly and materially affected party that a single interest category, individual, or organization dominated the standards development process, no test for dominance is required (*ANSI Essential Requirements* Section 2.2).

- 2.7. Openness.** Participation in the NECA Canvass process is open to any person or company having a direct and material interest in the subject of that subcommittee. NECA Membership is not a prerequisite to participation.
- 2.8. Ballots.** Standards shall be produced by consensus (see Definitions). Consensus is achieved through a balloting process.
- 2.8.1. First American National Standard (ANS).** Ballots ANS ballots for the creation of ANSs are sent to the responders of the canvass invitation. This ballot is open for no less than thirty (30) calendar days. If the closing date should fall on a weekend or holiday, the ballot close date will be the next business day.
- 2.8.2. Recirculation of ANS Ballots.** Should the proposed ANS be revised as a result of substantive comments received, the revised document shall be sent to the established canvass list. The recirculation ballot shall be open for no less than 30 days. Should the ballot closing date fall on a weekend or holiday, the ballot close date will be the next business day.
- 2.8.2.1. Notice of Ballot Period Ending.** NECA shall send email notification requesting immediate return of a ballot, to any Consensus Body participants whose ballots have not been returned. This notification shall be sent no less than ten (10) calendar days before the ballot closing date.
- 2.8.2.2. Unresolved Objection Recirculation Report.** If all reasonable attempts have failed to resolve a continuing technical objection, NECA will send an Unresolved Objection Recirculation Report out to the entire established canvass list. This report will include the continuing objection all correspondence regarding the attempts to resolve the objection, and the comment resolution report. The canvass participants will be asked to review the accompanying documentation and determine if they want to respond, reaffirm, or change their vote. The canvass participants will have 15 days to respond. Should the close date fall on a weekend or holiday, it will close the next business day.
- 2.8.3. First Non-ANS Ballots.** Non-ANS ballots are for the creation of standards not being approved as ANSs. Non-ANS ballots are open for no less than 45 days. If the closing date should fall on a weekend or holiday, the ballot close date will be the next business day.
- 2.8.3.1. Re-circulation of Non-ANS Ballots.** Should the proposed non-ANSI standard be revised as a result of substantive comments received, the revised document shall be sent to all the participants on the established canvass list, whether they returned the original ballot or not. The recirculation ballot shall be open for no less than 15 days. Should the ballot close date fall on a weekend or holiday, the ballot close date will be the next business day. Only those sections of the draft standard revised as a result of comments received will be open for consideration and approval. Any comments received outside the designated section(s) will be considered during comment resolution.

- 2.9. ANSI BSR-8 Form.** Prior or simultaneous to the opening of the ANS ballot, a BSR-8 form should be completed and submitted to ANSI for announcement in the *ANSI Standards Action* (see *Completing BSR-8 Form Procedures*).
- 2.10. Ballot Responses with Definitions.** Consensus Body participants responding to a ballot for approval of a proposed new or revised ANS shall cast their vote using one of the responses listed and defined in (1)-(4) of this Section.
- 2.10.1. Affirmative** - A ballot response indicating the Consensus Body participant is in full agreement with the proposed ANS, not indicating any technical, procedural, or philosophical objection to its approval.
- 2.10.2. Affirmative, with Comment(s)** - A ballot response indicating general agreement with the proposed ANS but suggests enhancements or changes to the proposed ANS text that, if not acted on, would not cause the Consensus Body participant to change their vote.
- 2.10.3. Negative, with Reason(s)** - A ballot response indicating disagreement or objection, for technical reason(s) related to the proposed ANS and when possible, the response should include specific wording or actions that would resolve the objection.
- 2.10.4. Abstain, with or without Reason(s)** - A ballot response indicating that a Consensus Body participant (with or without reason) is declining to cast their ballot using one of the ballot responses provided in Section 2.10.1 – 2.10.3, as to, in no way, indicate agreement, disagreement or objection with the proposed ANS.
- 2.11. Additional Information on Consensus Body Ballots.** Each ballot shall indicate conspicuously that negative votes must be accompanied by comment(s) or reason(s) related to the proposed ANS, and that ballots returned unaccompanied by such comment(s) or reason(s), shall be recorded as **“Negative, Without Comment(s)”**
- 2.12. ANSI Request for Public Review (BSR-8).** A 45-day, instead of the normal 60-day, Public Review may be requested if the proposed document meets the ANSI guidelines for 45-day Public Review. All proposed ANS ballots designated for 45-day Public Review must be available electronically to the requestor. The availability of the document must be announced in *ANSI Standards Action*.
- 2.13. ANSI Request for Additional Public Review (BSR-8).** If the recirculation ballot is a result of substantive changes to the original ballot, and the changed sections are no more than or up to five (5) pages of changes to be published in *ANSI Standards Action*, the second public review shall be thirty (30) calendar days.

2.14. Evidence of Consensus and Consensus Body Vote. Consensus is demonstrated by a vote of the consensus body. Consensus is reached by the return of more than a simple majority fifty-one percent (51%) and must have an “*Affirmative*” response by two-thirds (2/3) **minus abstentions** of those returning ballots. Such a vote shall be conducted and reported in accordance with the rules set forth herein.

Votes for the approval of proposed standards or portions thereof may be obtained by letter or fax.

NECA will not change a vote unless instructed to do so by the voter. This change will only be made via the *Vote Change Form* completed by the voter and returned to NECA by mail (snail or electronic). An email stating that all objections have been addressed to the satisfaction of the voter will also be accepted. All outstanding negative votes will be recorded on the BSR-9 form.

NECA will consider all relative comments received as a result of the ANS ballot votes and public review comments.

The vote change form or the email will be filed with the original ballot.

2.14.1. Notice to the Voter. Further notice to the voter shall not be required if **all** of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The ballot response is covered by Section 2.15.2.4 of these procedures.
- (2) The ballot provides instructional information in accordance with Section 2.11 of these procedures.

2.14.2. Quorum. If instructions in accordance with Section 2.11 are indicated on the ballot, the ballot responses covered in Section 2.15.2.4 shall be permitted to be factored into the numerical requirements for determining a quorum.

2.14.3. Consensus. Ballot responses covered by Section 2.15.2.4 **shall not** be factored in the numerical requirements for achieving consensus.

2.15. Comment Resolution.

2.15.1. Consensus Body Reason(s) or Comment(s). Reason(s) or comment(s) submitted by the Consensus Body participants, along with the specified ballot responses identified in Section 2.10, shall be submitted using the appropriate NECA “Comments Matrix Form” provided to the Consensus Body participants, by NECA, at the time the proposed ANS ballot opens. Incomplete forms or comments submitted without using the approved form, shall be recorded as ballots submitted without comments.

2.15.1.1. Failure to Properly Submit Comments. Consensus Body participants shall be advised of following:

- (1) **Incomplete Comment Forms.** Submitting an incomplete “Comment Matrix” form(s) shall result in the submitted ballot being recorded as.
- (2) **Not Using the Provided Form.** Submitting Comment(s) or Reason(s) without using the provided approved form, shall result in the submitted ballot being recorded as “*Without Comment(s) or Reason(s)*”.

2.15.2. Recording and Documenting of Comment(s) or Reason(s). Reason(s) or comment(s) shall be documented and recorded in accordance with the following:

2.15.2.1. Comment(s) Accompanied by Affirmative Ballot. Comment(s) accompanied by an affirmative ballot response shall be documented as “Affirmative” vote. The comments shall be acknowledged by NECA and shall be considered during the current comment resolution process. Comments not adopted, shall be recorded for review at the next revision of the proposed ANS.

2.15.2.2. Negative Ballot Responses with Comment(s) or Reason(s). Negative ballots responses accompanied by comment(s) and/or reason(s) related to the proposed ANS, shall be recorded, and documented as such. Reason(s) or comment(s) shall be reviewed through the resolution process for the current proposed ANS in accordance with Section 2.15 of these procedures.

2.15.2.2.1. Providing Remedial Language. Whenever possible, ballots returned as “Negative” should be accompanied by comments providing additional language to the proposed ANS that would rectify the objection causing the negative vote. Negative ballots returned without additional language shall be documented as such. **Ballots or comments shall not be dismissed solely because remedial language is not provided.**

2.15.2.3. Negative Ballot Responses, without Comment(s) or Reason(s). Ballots returned as “Negative” votes without reason(s) or comment(s), or “Negative” votes with reason(s) or comment(s) **not** related to the proposed ANS text, shall be recorded by NECA as such. These ballots shall be reported as “Negative, without Comment(s)”, when making the final submission to the BSR.

2.15.2.4. Abstention Ballot Responses with or Without Reason(s). Ballots returned as “Abstentions, with or without reason(s)” shall be recorded and documented as such.

2.15.3. Public Comments. NECA shall provide prompt consideration to public comments submitted during the public review period of a proposed ANS. Public comments may be submitted by any interested party, by contacting NECA as specified in ANSI *Standards Action*. NECA shall send the interested party the appropriate “*Comments Matrix Form*” (or electronic equivalent).

2.15.3.1. Failure to Properly Submit Comments. Individuals submitting Public Comments shall be advised that failure to submit comments in accordance with ALL of 2.15.3.1(1) - 2.15.3.1(3), shall result in the Comment(s) being documented and considered in the same manner as a new proposal.

- (1) **Timely Manner.** Public comment(s) submitted after the proposed ANS open public review period has closed, will not be accepted.
- (2) **Incomplete Public Comments.** Public Comment(s) submitted with incomplete information, or incomplete "Comment Matrix" form shall be considered in the same manner as a new proposal.
- (3) **Incorrect Form.** Public Comment(s) submitted using an unauthorized form shall be considered in the same manner as a new proposal.

2.15.4. Types of Ballot Comments.

2.15.4.1. Substantive Changes/Technical Changes. A substantive change in a proposed Standard is one that directly and materially affects the use of the Standard. If there is any question on the matter as to whether the change is substantive or editorial, it will be sent to the Consensus Body for a decision. Examples of substantive changes:

- (1) "shall" to "should"; "should" to "shall".
- (2) addition, deletion, or revision of requirements, regardless of the number of changes; or
- (3) addition of mandatory compliance with referenced Standards.

2.15.4.2. Editorial Changes. An editorial change in a proposed Standard is one that corrects typographical errors, grammatical errors, or clarifies a concept without making a substantive change. Any other changes to an ANS Standard may only be made by a revision to the proposed Standard.

2.15.5. Resolution of Comments. Purely editorial comments, once acknowledged, do not require further coordination with the originator. Technical comments received during balloting and public review shall be acknowledged when received, and the originator shall be advised, in writing, of the disposition of the comments. If NECA incorporates the comments, the proposed Standard shall be re-circulated and sent to ANSI to be listed in *Standards Action* for a second public review. All reasonable attempts shall be made to resolve the negative ballot or comment in one of the following ways:

- (1) by explaining to the originator, the rationale followed in arriving at the proposed Standard. NECA shall maintain a detailed written record of all correspondence and contacts on this matter,

- (2) by proposing changes to the proposed Standard which are editorial only and which do not result in changes in the technical requirements of the proposed Standard,
- (3) by proposing revisions to the technical requirements of the proposed Standard which would remove the objections of the originator. Such revisions shall be supported by a consensus of canvass participants. If the revisions result in changes in the technical requirements, the proposed Standard shall be re-circulated and sent to ANSI for an additional public review to be listed in *Standards Action*.

2.15.6. Withdrawal of Negative Votes/Comments. If negative voters or public review commenters agree to withdraw their objections without technical changes in the proposed Standard, they will be asked to do so in writing (vote change form or email or fax for consensus body members and a form of written communication from a public review commenter) and sent to NECA as proof that the negative vote or comment has been withdrawn. When all objections have been resolved, or all attempts to resolve continuing objection have been exhausted, processing will continue.

2.15.6.1. Negative Vote/Comment Change Notification Not Returned. If the negative voter or any public review commenter does not return the vote change form or inform NECA in writing, within fifteen (15) business days, to indicate agreement or disagreement with the rationale followed by NECA in arriving at the proposed Standard, then publication processing will continue.

2.15.6.2. Recording Negative Vote/Comment Change. The negative vote or comment will be recorded as such on the BSR 9 form. If one or more unresolved "Negative" ballots or public review comments remain in spite of reasonable efforts to resolve them, and if a consensus is believed to exist among the canvass participants (see Section 2.14), the proposed Standard will be processed for publication.

2.16. Recirculation of Ballots. Text for a ballot shall be recirculated and have a public review period of not less than 30 days. If revisions have been made which change the technical requirements or increase the range of products to which the Standard applies. A recirculation ballot is prepared and issued. If the recirculation is the result of a continuing objection vote the canvass participants will have 15 days to respond, reaffirm or change their vote.

2.16.1. Consideration of Continuing Views and Objections. Prompt consideration shall be given to the written views and objections of all participants.

2.16.1.1. Ballot or Public Review Objections. In connection with an objection articulated during a public review comment period, or submitted with a ballot, an effort to resolve all expressed objections accompanied by comments related to the proposal under consideration shall be made, and each such objector shall be advised in writing (including electronic communications) of the disposition of the objection and the reasons, therefore. If resolution is not achieved, the objector shall be informed in writing that an appeal process exists (see 3.8).

2.16.1.2. Unresolved Objections. Each unresolved objection and attempt at resolution, and any substantive change made in a proposed American National Standard shall be reported to the consensus body in order to afford all members of the consensus body an opportunity to respond, reaffirm, or change their vote. If the consensus is reviewing a single unresolved objection, they will have 15 days to respond, reaffirm, or change their vote (multiple unresolved objections will have a 30-day response time). If no response is received from the consensus participants their vote will stand as originally cast on the previous ballot.

When the results of the reported continuing view and objections show a consensus in favor of approval of the proposed Standard, NECA will proceed toward approval of the Standard. If after all reasonable attempts to resolve negative ballots have been exhausted, and there is consensus to go forward with the publication, the proposed Standard will be prepared for publication.

2.16.2. Right to Appeal Notification. If after re-circulation balloting, any negative ballots or public review comments remain unresolved, then all parties with unresolved objections shall be advised in writing, including electronic means, of the efforts of NECA to resolve them and those parties shall be advised in writing, including electronic means, of their right to file an Appeal (see Section 3.8).

2.17. Standards Approval.

2.17.1. ANSI BSR Approval (BSR-9). When the proposed ANS has completed balloting, public review, and comment resolution, the proposed ANS will be sent to ANSI for Board of Standards Review (BSR) approval. The BSR-9 form will be completed (see Completing BSR-9 Form Procedures) and sent along with the appropriate ANS ballot summary sheet. Should the proposed ANS have continuing objections, all correspondence detailing the resolution process must also be sent to ANSI for BSR review. When the BSR has determined procedures have been followed, the proposed ANS will be declared an ANS and a BSR Notification of Approval will be sent to NECA. The approved standard will be announced in the next ANSI Standards Action.

- 2.17.2. Declaration as an American National Standard.** After receipt of the ANSI BSR Notification of Approval, the proposed Standard is declared to be an ANS. Notification is issued to the industry by NECA through the NECA Public Relations Department and other media means. The Notification of Approval will be attached and filed with the original BSR-9 form.
- 2.17.3. Publication of American National Standards.** American National Standards shall be published as soon as possible, but no later than six months after approval as an American National Standard. The standards developer shall publish the standard or shall grant the right of publication to ANSI.
- 2.17.4. Approval of an ANS.** A proposed new American National Standard or a proposed revision or reaffirmation of an American National Standard to be approved by the BSR shall be submitted to the secretary of the BSR within one (1) year from the close of the comment period listed in *Standards Action* using the appropriate form provided by ANSI, unless the standards developer notifies the secretary of the BSR in writing of good cause for a different schedule for submittal.
- 2.17.5. Failure to Submit for Approval.** Failure to make the submittal within two (2) years from the close of the comment period listed in *Standards Action* shall require consideration from the BSR, i.e., withdrawal, extension for cause, or another listing in *Standards Action*.

3. Maintenance of Standards.

- 3.1. General.** NECA shall maintain its standards library by revising each standard in a timely manner in accordance with ANSI's Essential Requirements.
- 3.2. Review.** NECA shall review its library of ANS on a Quarterly basis, to determine when appropriate action is needed for each standard and identify where each standard is at in the ANSI process.
- 3.3. Reconciliation.** NECA shall reconcile its list of **ANS** with ANSI's list of **ANS**, using ANSI's "Public Document Library" database. This reconciliation shall be done on a Quarterly basis.

NOTE: A current list of all ANSI accredited Standards with historical information can be found at ANSI's "Public Document Library" at www.ansi.org/asd

- 3.4. Procedures to Initiate Five Year Review.** If the review process (reaffirmation, revision, or withdrawal) cannot be completed within the five-year period, NECA will request an extension of time by completing the ANSI BSR-11 (Request for Extension of Time) form and submitted to ANSI for approval. If a PINS or BSR-8 for the ANS has been submitted to ANSI by the fifth year, then a BSR-11 is not required. The request shall include a specific date by which the review will be completed and submitted to ANSI for approval. NECA can request an extension for up to five years (for a total of 10 years review). If the document has not completed the ANSI BSR Review by the end of the 10th year, the standard is withdrawn. The ANSI approval process will have to be completed as if the standard was a new project from the beginning. The BSR-11 must be completed in order to extend the review period. The only exception to this procedure would be in the case of a standard that has been nationally adopted.
- 3.5. Procedures for Revising American National Standards.** The process of revising a Standard is similar to the development of a new Standard in that consensus shall be reached by industry ballot on changes to the technical content or meaning of the Standard. Usually, the revision takes the form of a complete revision and re-issuance of the Standard. Revision of or addition to the technical content of an existing ANS requires that the procedures for the development of a new Standard be followed. Revision, Reaffirmation or Withdrawal takes the form of a periodic review wherein NECA shall determine whether the document in question should be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn. Unless otherwise noted, all American National Standards shall be reviewed every five years. NECA shall initiate action to:

- (1) **Revise** the Standard to incorporate additional language or delete language that will change its technical content or meaning.

- (2) **Reaffirm** that a review of the Standard resulted in a decision that the technical content is valid and does not need change; or
- (3) **Withdraw** the Standard following determination that the technical content is no longer of value.

Note: Revisions require a proposed standard be developed and processed in the same manner as that of a new proposed ANS. Reaffirmation and withdrawal of an ANS does not require a PINS form to be completed and sent to ANSI.

3.5.1. Substantive Change. A substantive change in a Standard is one that directly and materially affects the use of the Standard. Examples of substantive changes:

- (1) “shall” to “should”; “should” to “shall”.
- (2) addition, deletion, or revision of requirements, regardless of the number of changes.
- (3) addition of mandatory compliance with referenced Standards.

3.5.2. Editorial Change. Once approved as an American National Standard, no changes shall be made in a Standard document without going through the full consensus, comment and balloting process prescribed for a proposed Standard. A NECA Standard shall also go through the consensus process for changes, but it need not be submitted for a public review process at ANSI. The only exception to this rule allowed by ANSI is the issuance of an erratum to correct a manifest mistake or omission in the original text or an error subsequently discovered, and that only where the error should have been obvious to the user of the Standard. Any other changes to a NECA Standard shall be made only by following the procedures for a revision.

3.6. Procedures for Reaffirmation of American National Standards. NECA shall recommend reaffirmation of a Standard if it finds the technical content valid and does not require change. Reaffirmation shall be accomplished without any substantive change to the main text of the Standard. Reaffirmation requires a formal industry balloting process. The procedures for the development of a new ANS shall be followed. Copies of the Standard will not be distributed with the industry ballots. A copy of the Standard may be requested by contacting NECA. As required by section 4.2.1.2 of the ANSI *Essential Requirements* any reaffirmed standard shall clearly indicate on its cover or title page that it is a reaffirmation.

3.7. Procedures for Withdrawal of ANS – ANS Ballot. NECA shall recommend withdrawal of an ANS if it determines that the ANS is no longer required to meet the purpose for which it was written. Withdrawals do not require a formal industry balloting process. Should the withdrawal be done by formal ballot, procedures for the development of a new ANS shall be followed. Copies of the Standard will not be distributed with the ballots. A copy may be requested by contacting NECA.

3.7.1. Procedures for Withdrawal of ANS – Without Balloting. At the discretion of the NECA Executive Director of Standards and Safety, an ANS can be withdrawn without balloting by making a formal request in accordance with 4.2.1.3.4 of ANSI *Essential Requirements* to withdraw ANSI approval. A request is sent to the PSA Department requesting ANSI approval be withdrawn. The request will be announced in the next ANSI *Standards Action*. At the conclusion of the 30-day notice, ANSI will withdraw its approval.

3.8. Appeals.

3.8.1. Informal Meeting. An attempt to resolve any objections concerning NECA Standards shall be made by way of an informal meeting with Executive Director of Codes and Standards. This meeting shall take place before an official appeal is filed and an appeal hearing is scheduled. In the event the objections cannot be resolved by way of informal meeting the interested party may file an appeal in accordance with Section 3.8.3 for Non-ANS NECA Standards and 3.8.4 for ANS-NECA Standards.

3.8.2. Non-ANS NECA Standards. Any Association member may file a written appeal concerning procedural or substantive matters related to a **non-ANS NECA** standards.

3.8.2.1. Filing Appeals for Non-ANS Standards. Appeals shall be filed in writing (or equivalent electronic means) with the NECA Executive Director of Standards and Standards within fifteen (15) calendar days after the date of notification of action or at any time with respect to inaction. The appeal shall state the nature of the objection(s), the Section(s) of these procedures or the standard at issue, actions or inactions that are at issue, and the specific remedial actions(s) that would satisfy the appellant's concerns.

3.8.3. ANS-NECA Standards In the case Parties who are directly and materially interest and who have been, or will be adversely affected, by procedural matters related to NECA standards shall have the right to appeal such action, inaction, or decision. This right of appeal shall be extended to parties who are not members of the Association.

3.8.3.1. Filing Appeals for ANS-NECA Standards. Appeals shall be filed in writing (or equivalent electronic means) with the NECA Executive Director of Codes and Standards withing fifteen (15) calendar days after the date of notification of action or at any time with respect to inaction. The appeal shall state the nature of the objections, actions, or inactions, citing the specific Section(s) of these procedures.

3.8.4. Failure to File a Timely Appeal. The request for an appeal shall be filed within the timeline given in **Section 3.8.2.1 for Non-ANS**, and **Section 3.8.3.1 for ANS**. Failure to file an appeal within the specified timeline shall result in closure of the appeal.

3.9. Appeals Hearing. All appeals concerning NECA Standards shall be reviewed by the *Standards Steering Committee (SSC)*.

NOTE: See Section 1.2 for definition of Standards Steering Committee (SSC).

3.9.1. Conflicts of Interest. The SSC members hearing the appeal, shall be unbiased, and free of any conflicts of interest. Any member deemed to be directly and materially affected by the outcome, shall recuse themselves from the appeal hearing proceedings and vote. If necessary, an alternate, unbiased, SSC member shall be appointed for the hearing proceedings.

3.9.2. Appeal Hearing Timeline. The *Standards Steering Committee (SSC)* shall take action within thirty (30) calendar days of the appeal filing date.

3.9.3. Appeal Resolution. A simple majority fifty-one percent (51%) of the *Standards Steering Committee (SSC)* results in upholding or denying an appeal.

3.10. Notification. Appellants shall be notified in writing (or equivalent electronic means) of the Committee's decision.

3.11. Documentation. Informal meetings and appeal hearings shall be documented. The records related to informal meetings and appeal hearings shall be retained in accordance with Section 6.1.1. of these procedures.

3.12. Copyrights and Submissions. The finished document will be copyrighted and published by the NECA. Joint standards may be copyrighted by all pertinent Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) involved in development and as determined by the signed agreement. If Joint Standards Documents are being produced, the language may need slight modification to include all SDOs who will hold copyright. The applicable statements mentioned below grant NECA the right to copyright and sell NEIS, which contain the submission in whole or in part, and to allow publication of excerpts from the NEIS Publications. The statements also extend these rights to NECA's existing policy of allowing and encouraging other regional, national, or international standards bodies to adopt NECA Publications as their own. (These statements make it clear that a license to use the NECA's copyrighted material contained in a NECA Publication granted to another region, nation, or SDO does not automatically convey rights to Essential Patents or copyrights required for conformance with the NECA Publication.)

4. Standards Technology and References.

4.1. Mandatory Provisions. The words *shall, must, required*, shall be permitted (in lieu of may) and equivalent language indicate mandatory provisions of a NECA standard, in the sense that compliance with these provisions is necessary to achieve minimum acceptable quality for an electrical installation.

Note: This terminology does not indicate mandatory requirements in the sense of being suitable for adoption into law. NECA Standards are intended to provide advice and guidance only, and adherence to them is wholly voluntary.

4.2. Optional Provisions. May, should, recommend and equivalent language indicates optional provisions of a NECA Standard.

4.3. References. NECA Standards shall reference the latest edition of standards or other publications in effect at the time the NECA Standard is published. Obsolete standards or publications shall not be referenced.

5. Interpretations of NECA Standards.

5.1. Informal Interpretations. Association staff a may provide explanations and opinions about the intent or meaning of a NECA standard, based on best technical judgment. Such explanations and opinions shall clearly state that these informal interpretations are not to be construed as expressing an official position of the Association.

5.2. Formal Interpretations.

5.2.1. Formal Interpretation Requests. A request for formal interpretation shall be filed in writing (or equivalent electronic means) with the NECA Executive Director of Codes and Standards.

5.2.2. Formal Interpretation Review. The request shall be reviewed by the *Technical Sub-Committee (TSC)*, responsible for the standard noted in the formal interpretation filing. The review shall take place within ten (10) business days of the filing date.

5.2.3. Responses. The *TSC* shall formulate a written response (or equivalent electronic means) supported by explicit technical reasoning.

5.2.3.1. Outside of Scope. The *TSC* may conclude that the request is outside the scope of the standard or concerns a subject that the standard was not intended to address.

5.2.3.2. Approval. All formal interpretations shall be approved by ALL of the following prior to publication or release to the requestor:

- (1) **Technical Sub-Committee (TSC).** The *TSC* shall approve the response by a simple majority fifty-one percent (51%) vote.
- (2) **Executive Director of Codes and Standards.** The response formulated by the *TSC* shall be approved by the Executive Director of Codes and Standards.
- (3) **General Council.** The response shall be approved by NECA's General Council before publication.

5.2.4. Notification. The requestor shall be notified in writing (or equivalent electronic means) within thirty (30) business days of the request filing date.

5.2.5. Publication. Approved Formal Interpretations shall be published in the NEIS™ Website for public access within thirty (30) business days of the request filing date.

6. NECA Policies

6.1. Evidence of Compliance.

6.1.1. Record Retention. NECA has developed a document retention policy to maintain and control important NECA records, eliminate unnecessary or duplicative documents, and save space. The determinative factors in deciding whether to discard documents should be the practical value of the document and any legal reason for keeping it. For each document, the following criteria are used:

- (1) There is some practical reason for keeping it.
 - (a) Will it be referred to as it is part of an on-going project, or
 - (b) Does it have historical value, and will someone know how to access it?
- (2) There is a valid legal reason for keeping it.
 - (a) It affects the obligations of NECA.
 - (b) It may be discoverable in pending litigation.
- (3) The document falls within a category for which NECA has set retention periods:
 - (a) **Correspondence, agreements** – At signing of agreement, all correspondence will be discarded except that having special significance regarding interpretation of agreement. All correspondence associated with American National Standards shall be retained for at least one complete standard cycle or until it is revised or reaffirmed, whichever is longer. Records of withdrawn standards shall be kept for five (5) years from the date of withdrawal.
 - (b) **Mailing Lists** – as a rule, mailing lists should be destroyed when modified. However, when mailing lists are part of standards development balloting process, refer to standards-setting documents.
 - (c) **Correspondence, general** – Maintain correspondence relevant to the development of a standard in the same manner as correspondence associated with the standards-setting documents detailed above.

6.1.2. NECA Printed and Digital Publications. NECA shall maintain at least one copy (hard and soft) of NECA printed and digital publications.

6.1.3. Non-ANS NECA Standards. All documentation related to the development of a new, revised, or reaffirmed non-ANS NECA standards shall be maintained in accordance with all applicable requirements found Section 6.1.4 of these procedures.

6.1.4. ANS - NECA Standards. All ANSI required documentation for the approval of an ANS shall be retained for one complete standards cycle, or until the standard is revised, whichever is longer. Records for **all** ANS NECA Standards shall be maintained in accordance with (1)- (3):

- (1) **New NECA Standard.** All records relating to the approval of a new NECA Standard including, but not limited to; ballots, ballot summaries, response letters, consensus body rosters, evidence of consensus, comments matrix forms, BSR Forms, and vote change forms shall be retained for at least one complete standards cycle.
- (2) **Revision or Reaffirmation of a NECA Standard.** All records relating to the approval of a revised or reaffirmed NECA Standard including, but not limited to; ballots, ballot summaries, response letters, consensus body rosters, evidence of consensus, comments matrix forms, BSR Forms, and vote change forms, shall be retained for at least one complete standards cycle.
- (3) **Withdrawal of a NECA Standard.** All records related to a withdrawn NECA Standard shall be kept for five (5) years from date of withdrawal.

6.1.5. ANSI Audit Records. All records related to ANSI audits of NECA's standards development activities and procedures shall be maintained in accordance with Sections 6.1.5.1 - 6.1.5.3:

6.1.5.1. Working Files:

- (1) All records related to the most recent ANSI audit shall be kept as working files, saved in a location to permit ready access for review and training purposes. These records shall be kept as such, until the next audit is completed.
- (2) All records related to the ANSI audit preceding the audit in Section 6.1.5.1(1), shall be kept as working files, saved in a location to permit ready access for review and training purposes. These records shall be kept as such until the next audit is completed.

6.1.5.2. Archived Files. Records related to ANSI Audits preceding the records in covered in Section 6.1.5(1) shall be maintained as archived files in accordance with NECA's Record Retention Policy found in Section 6.1.1 of these procedures.

6.1.5.3. Destruction of ANSI Audit Records. All records related to any ANSI audit of NECA's standards development activities and procedures shall require approval from the Executive Director of Codes and Standards before being deleted or destroyed.

6.2. Metric Policy. NECA's metric policy is in compliance with the ANSI Essential Requirements. All proposed standards shall use the International System of Units (SI) for measurements referred to in ANSs. When NECA Standards use the metric measurement (SI) in the text it will be followed with the equivalent U.S. Customary Units of Standards (inch) in parenthesis.

6.3. Commercial Terms and Conditions. NECA shall adhere to the requirements set forth in the ANSI *Commercial Terms and Conditions Policy* in Section 3 and 3.2 of the ANSI *Essential Requirements*.

- 6.4. Patent Policy.** NECA shall adhere to the requirements set forth in the Patent Policy in Section(s) 3.0 and 3.1 of the ANSI *Essential Requirements*.
- 6.5. Antitrust Policy.** American National Standards developed by NECA, shall be developed in accordance with applicable antitrust and competition laws and meetings amongst competitors to develop American National Standards.

7. Revision of Procedures. From time to time the NECA Standards Development Procedures Manual will require modification as a result of changes made by ANSI in its procedures, or as a result of problems experienced by NECA with a particular Section of the Procedures. Some areas of change may also be highlighted as part of normal review of processes and procedures to make the standards process more efficient and effective, or as a result of issues discovered during a routine ANSI audit. Such proposed modifications should be brought to the attention of the Director of Standards. The updated Procedures shall be effective within NECA and sent to ANSI for its review. Depending on the nature of the change, ANSI may call for a public review period in its Standards Action on the revision or make such other requests, as it deems appropriate.

8. Training.

8.1. General. The Executive Director of Codes and Standards shall provide training on all activities related to the ANS development process. This training shall be provided to any new or current staff involved in NECA's standards development activities.

8.2. Required Training. The training content and intervals shall be in accordance with Section(s) 8.2.1 – 8.2.6:

8.2.1. NECA Standards Development Procedures. NECA's *Standards Development Procedures* shall be given to any new NECA staff that will be directly involved with the development of the National Electrical Installation Standards (*NEIS™*).

8.2.2. Standards Development Process. Training on the standards development processes specified in Chapter 2 of these procedures, shall be given to any new NECA staff that will be directly involved with the development of the National Electrical Installation Standards (*NEIS™*).

8.2.3. Maintenance of Standards. Training on the maintenance of standards as specified in Chapter 3 of these procedures, shall be given to any new NECA staff that will be directly involved with the development of the National Electrical Installation Standards (*NEIS™*).

8.2.4. NECA Policies. Training on the NECA policies specified in Chapter 7 of these procedures, shall be given to any new NECA staff that will be directly involved with the development of the National Electrical Installation Standards (*NEIS™*).

8.2.5. Audit Findings. Training on any current or past ANSI audits shall be given to any new staff that will be directly involved with the development of the National Electrical Installation Standards (*NEIS™*). The content and topics of this training shall include but is not limited to (1) & (2) of this Section:

(1) Audit findings Procedural concerns/corrective actions.

(2) NECA's audit responses.

8.2.6. ANSI. Training on the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) shall be given to any new NECA staff that will be directly involved with the development of the National Electrical Installation Standards (*NEIS™*). The content and topics of this training shall include, but are not limited to those specified in Sections 8.2.6.1 – 8.2.6.2:

8.2.6.1. Essential Requirements. Training shall be given on the use of the ANSI website, and available resources. The content and topics shall include but are not limited to (1)-(3) of this Section.

(1) Where to find the most recent version of ANSI's *Essential Requirements*.

- (2) Information about the standards development rules contained in the requirements.
- (3) How the ANSI Essential Requirements work in conjunction with NECA's Standards Development Procedures.

8.2.6.2. ANSI Website and Resources. Training shall be given on the use of the ANSI website, and available resources. The content and topics shall include but are not limited to (1)-(3) of this Section.

- (1) How to find various information on the ANSI website.
- (2) How to find, and when to utilize the various ANS Forms available on the ANSI website.
- (3) How to use ANSI's "*PUBLIC DOCUMENT LIBRARY*" to regularly review the list of open NECA projects ANSI has in their records using the following resources:
 - (a) ANSI Accredited Standards Developer List.
 - (b) ANS Under Continuous Maintenance.
 - (c) List of Approved and Proposed ANS.
 - (d) Periodically review the ANS Webinar Training Slide Deck (*The American Way*).

8.3. Refresher Training. Refresher training on the topics specified in Sections 8.2.1 – 8.2.6 shall occur annually for NECA staff directly involved in the development of the *National Electrical Installation Standards (NEIS™)*