

**RULES
OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION**

**CHAPTER 0780-02-01
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS**

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0780-02-01-.01 SCOPE.

- (1) The provisions of this chapter shall apply to:
 - (a) Installation of electrical conductors and equipment within or on public and private buildings or other structures, including manufactured homes, modular building units and recreational vehicles not otherwise exempt under the provisions of Tenn. Code Ann. Title 68, Chapters 102 and 126; and floating buildings and other premises such as yards, carnivals, parking and other lots; and industrial substations.
 - (b) Installation of conductors that connect to the supply of electricity.
 - (c) Installations of other outside conductors on the premises.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143, and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Amendment filed July 15, 2003; effective September 28, 2003. Repeal and new rule filed November 14, 2008; effective January 28, 2009.

0780-02-01-.02 ADOPTION BY REFERENCE.

- (1) Unless otherwise provided by applicable law or the provisions of this chapter, the required minimum standards for materials, installations, use of facilities, equipment, devices and appliances conducting, conveying, consuming or using electrical energy in, or in connection with, any building, structure, or any premises located in the State of Tennessee shall be those prescribed in the National Electrical Code, 2017 edition, published by the National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02169, effective October 1, 2018, except that:
 - (a) Section 110.24, Available Fault Current shall be optional; and
 - (b) Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) shall be optional for bathrooms, laundry areas, garages, unfinished basements, which are portions or areas of the basement not

(Rule 0780-02-01-.02, continued)

intended as habitable rooms and limited to storage, work or similar area, and for branch circuits dedicated to supplying refrigeration equipment.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113 and 68-102-143. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Amendment filed June 27, 1990; effective August 11, 1990. Amendment filed September 22, 1993; effective January 28, 1994. Amendment filed November 4, 1996; effective March 28, 1997. Amendment filed July 13, 1999; effective September 26, 1999. Amendment filed July 15, 2003; effective September 28, 2003. Repeal and new rule filed November 14, 2008; effective January 28, 2009. Amendments filed December 19, 2017; effective March 19, 2018.

0780-02-01-.03 APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS.

(1) Approved Testing Laboratories.

- (a) Any materials, equipment, devices or applicants that meet one (1) of the following requirements will be accepted as compliant by the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance, or the Commissioner's designee, when properly installed or used:
 - 1. Bear a label, symbol or other identifying mark of one (1) of the independent testing laboratories approved by the Commissioner. A list of approved independent testing laboratories shall be maintained and published by the Division of Fire Prevention.
 - 2. Certification by another independent testing agency or laboratory to meet a standard which, in the judgment of the Commissioner, or Commissioner's designee, provides an adequate level of safety by being:
 - (i) Recognized nationally as an electrical product safety standard;
 - (ii) Revised periodically to accommodate the latest developments in electrical products and installations; and
 - (iii) Developed by the publisher in a manner which affords adequate opportunity for presentation and consideration of views of industry groups, experts, users, consumers, governmental authorities, and others having broad experience in the field involved.
 - (b) Any standard which is accepted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of (1)(a)2. above.
 - (c) Where there is no published standard for a product under consideration which meets the requirements of (1)(a)2. above, the testing agency or laboratory must identify, and justify the adequacy of, the standard or specifications on which its certification is based.
 - (d) Components of certified products must be evaluated for compliance with applicable safety standards, and determined to be suitable for use in such products.
- (2) In lieu of evaluation by a testing agency or laboratory in accordance with paragraph (1)(a) above, the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance, or designee, may consider other satisfactory evidence that a product meets safe and proper standards.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143, and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed

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April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Amendment filed June 27, 1990; effective August 11, 1990. Amendment filed November 14, 2008; effective January 28, 2009. Amendment filed September 17, 2010; effective December 16, 2010. Amendments filed September 30, 2014; effective December 29, 2014. Amendments filed June 20, 2019; effective September 18, 2019.

0780-02-01-.04 INSPECTIONS.

- (1) Inspections of electrical installations may be conducted by deputy inspectors appointed under contract with the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance pursuant to T.C.A. § 68-102-143. In circumstances where the need arises as determined by the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance, or designee, deputy fire marshals are authorized to conduct inspections of electrical installations.
 - (a) Fees for such inspections for services, including all circuits connected thereto, based on total ascertainable ampere capacity, are specified in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-01-.21. If the total ampere capacity is not ascertainable, the inspector may negotiate the fee based on the estimated number of required inspections; however, any such fee shall be subject to review and approval by the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance, or designee, prior to issuance of a permit.
 - (b) Fees charged for additional inspections, including inspections necessitated by rejections and inspections for circuits not previously connected to the service, shall be based on the ascertainable ampere capacity of the service or ascertainable ampere capacity of the previously unconnected circuit, and shall not exceed the maximum amounts specified in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-01-.21.
 - (c) Inspectors may not charge mileage in excess of the standard travel reimbursement rate, as determined by the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, per mile each way for any special trip(s) requested by a property owner or contractor. This mileage charge must be approved in advance by the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance, or designee.
- (2) (a) Inspections shall be required on:
 1. Complete new installations;
 2. HVAC equipment;
 3. New services, re-connections, or changes in services to existing installations;
 4. Additions to existing installations, such as swimming pools, water well pumps to the wellhead, motor installations, additional rooms or spaces to existing buildings, grain drying equipment and out buildings;
 5. Heat cable installations before being concealed by plaster, sheet rock, or other methods;
 6. Conduit or raceways in or under masonry before covering with concrete or other permanent materials;
 7. Conductors or raceways installed in all structures. This inspection is required prior to the concealing of such conductors or raceways by wall covering materials or by insulation;

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8. Temporary services, which include temporary service poles and temporary service releases;
 9. Electrical signs; and
 10. Floating cabins as defined by 18 C.F.R. § 1304.101.
- (b) A minimum of two (2) inspections shall be required on wiring installed within or on public and private buildings or other structures. The installer shall notify the electrical inspector in writing whenever any part of a wiring installation is to be hidden from view by insulation or the permanent placement of part of the building. No wiring or raceways shall be concealed until it has been inspected and approved by the inspector. A final inspection shall be requested upon completion of the entire electrical installation.
- (3) When the initial ("rough-in") inspection is conducted:
- (a) All applicable circuit conductors and outlet boxes shall be installed;
 - (b) All joints shall be made; and
 - (c) All grounding connections shall be in compliance with Section 300.10 of the 2017 edition of the National Electrical Code except as set forth in the exceptions enumerated in this subparagraph.
 1. Exception No. 1: Where that portion of an installation which constitutes service conductors and equipment is changed or modified.
 2. Exception No. 2: Where all wiring or raceway is exposed.
 3. Exception No. 3: The requirements of (a) above shall not apply where inspection is performed on raceway systems only.
- (4) The electrical contractor, the mechanical contractor, or the permit holder shall be responsible for ensuring the inspector has access to the site for inspection.
- (5) The permit holder shall notify the inspector when the electrical installation is ready for inspection.
- (6) Except as provided in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-01-.05(2) and for installers licensed in accordance with T.C.A. Title 69, Chapter 10, the inspector shall not issue a final certificate of approval on an installation performed by any person, firm, corporation or legal entity not duly licensed in accordance with T.C.A. Title 62, Chapter 6.
- (7) It is not intended that electric service to an existing installation be disrupted pending inspection of additions or changes to such service; however, an inspection shall be required within seven (7) days of re-connection by the Power Supplier.
- (8) Whenever service equipment has been changed out or upgraded on any existing structures, a safety inspection will be conducted pursuant to T.C.A. § 68-102-143.
- (9) Inspections shall not be required on:
- (a) Minor repair work, such as replacement of lamps or connection of portable devices to suitable receptacles which have been permanently installed; and

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- (b) Installation, alteration, or repair of electric wiring or equipment installed by an electrical distribution agency for use in the generation, transmission, distribution, or metering of electrical energy.
- (10) The inspector shall not issue a final certificate of approval on an installation if a building permit has not been obtained, if required, plans have not been reviewed and approved by the Department of Commerce and Insurance, if required, or all inspections have not been performed pursuant to Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-23-.07.
- (11) For residential and commercial buildings, electrical power shall be supplied to the building in order for the inspector to perform the final inspection. If a service release permit is purchased, the permit shall expire forty-five (45) days after the inspection has been performed, and a new permit will be required.
- (12) If an initial ("rough-in") inspection was not conducted as required and the covering of the wiring was inadvertent, the Commissioner, or designee, may accept a letter from a professional engineer registered in Tennessee verifying that the installation is compliant with the adopted electrical code and that it does not present any risks from electrical hazards or fire. Receptacles, switches, and light fixtures, however, must still be removed for inspection. Only one (1) letter may be obtained within a twelve (12) month period unless the person making the written request can show justifiable cause for granting a second request.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143, and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Amendment filed June 27, 1990; effective August 11, 1990. Amendment filed September 22, 1993; effective January 28, 1994. Amendment filed November 4, 1996; effective March 28, 1997. Amendment filed July 13, 1999; effective September 26, 1999. Amendment filed July 15, 2003; effective September 28, 2003. Amendments filed November 14, 2008; effective January 28, 2009. Amendments filed September 17, 2010; effective December 16, 2010. Amendments filed September 30, 2014; effective December 29, 2014. Amendments filed December 19, 2017; effective March 19, 2018. Amendments filed March 31, 2022; effective June 29, 2022. Amendments filed April 15, 2025; effective July 14, 2025.

0780-02-01-.05 PERMITS.

- (1) No electrical wiring on which an inspection is required by this chapter shall be installed without securing an electrical permit from the power distributor, local building official, Commissioner, or designee, or other issuing agent authorized by the Commissioner, or designee. Issuing agents may charge a fee of no more than five dollars (\$5.00) for the issuing of a permit. This fee is in addition to all applicable inspection fees in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-01-.21.
- (2) Residential and Non-Residential Property Owner's Permits
 - (a) Any person may perform electrical work (for which an inspection is required) upon his/her own residence provided he/she first applies for and obtains a residential property owner's electrical permit. This permit shall only extend to the applicant and the immediate members of the applicant's family. The permit shall not authorize assistance by any other person not duly licensed in accordance with T.C.A. Title 62, Chapter 6. A residential property owner's permit shall automatically expire upon completion of the work for which the permit was issued. All work done under such permit shall be subject to regular inspection requirements and fees and other applicable laws and regulations. Only one (1) property owner's permit may be obtained within a twelve (12) month

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period unless the property owner can establish loss of his/her home by fire, windstorm, etc.; and

- (b) Any non-residential property owner may obtain a permit for electrical work to be performed on his/her property by an employee(s) licensed pursuant to T.C.A. Title 62, Chapter 6, or T.C.A. Title 69, Chapter 10, if required, who will be performing the work in accordance with his/her duties as an employee(s) of the property owner. A nonresidential property owner's permit shall be limited to the specific property listed on the permit and shall automatically expire upon completion of the work for which the permit was issued. All work done under such permit shall be subject to regular inspection requirements and fees and other applicable laws and regulations.
- (3) No permit shall be required for installation of electrical systems by manufacturers of factory manufactured structures, recreational vehicles, or modular building units. This rule does not exempt owners of any manufactured home, recreational vehicle or modular building unit from the required installation permit and inspection governed by this chapter.
- (4) When applying for a permit, an applicant shall present:
 - (a) Payment in the amount of the permit fee; and
 - (b) Except for a residential property owner's permit, proof of licensure pursuant to T.C.A. Title 62, Chapter 6 or T.C.A. Title 69, Chapter 10. For a non-residential property owner's permit, the license number of the employee(s) to perform the work and certification that the employee(s) licensed pursuant to T.C.A. Title 62, Chapter 6 or T.C.A. Title 69, Chapter 10, will be performing the work in accordance with his/her duties as an employee(s) of the property owner.
- (5) All electrical permits are non-transferable.
- (6) In the event of rejection of an electrical installation by the inspector, a new electrical permit must be applied for and obtained.
- (7) Every electrical permit shall expire two (2) years from the date of issue unless:
 - (a) The inspector determines that substantial progress has been made in the work authorized by the permit;
 - (b) The permit holder is granted an exception after submitting a written request to the Commissioner, or designee. No electrical work for which a permit is required shall be commenced in any building or premises until a permit to perform such work is obtained; or
 - (c) The permit is for a service release, in which case, the permit shall expire forty-five (45) days after the inspection has been performed.
- (8) A copy of the permit shall be posted onsite where the inspection is to occur before the first inspection is conducted. Failure to post the permit may result in a rejected inspection.
- (9) If a refund for a permit fee for inspection is requested, eighty-five percent (85%) of the permit fee, the fee that would have been paid to the inspector for the inspection, will be refunded. The remaining fifteen percent (15%) of the permit fee is non-refundable to cover administrative and processing costs. Requests for refunds shall be made to the Division of Fire Prevention on the applicable form, completed in full, prior to an inspection being performed.

(Rule 0780-02-01-.05, continued)

- (10) Bad payment will result in the revocation of an issued permit. Bad payment includes, but is not limited to, a returned check, dishonored electronic payment, or declined credit card payment.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143, and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Amendment filed June 27, 1990; effective August 11, 1990. Amendment filed September 22, 1993; effective January 28, 1994. Amendment filed November 4, 1996; effective March 28, 1997. Amendment filed October 15, 1999; effective December 29, 1999. Amendment filed July 15, 2003; effective September 28, 2003. Amendments filed November 14, 2008; effective January 28, 2009. Amendments filed September 17, 2010; effective December 16, 2010. Amendments filed December 19, 2017; effective March 19, 2018. Amendments filed June 20, 2019; effective September 18, 2019. Amendments filed March 31, 2022; effective June 29, 2022. Amendments filed April 15, 2025; effective July 14, 2025.

0780-02-01-.06 EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

- (1) Power suppliers may energize services under emergency conditions resulting from windstorm, earthquakes or other catastrophic occurrences.
- (2) Connections for emergency or delayed inspections shall not be made unless a permit has been obtained.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113 and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987.

0780-02-01-.07 SPECIAL OCCUPANCIES.

- (1) All lighting fixtures in barns and other outbuildings shall be of the non-conductor type directly fastened to the outlet box. Drop lights shall not be installed in barns or other buildings, unless specifically approved for the purpose used. All convenience receptacles in outbuildings shall be at least three (3) feet above floor level. Wiring in hay mows shall be installed in conduit or otherwise protected against mechanical injury.
- (2) Conductors serving swimming pools which originate at a dwelling unit service equipment or sub-panel located on the interior of the dwelling unit may be installed utilizing the appropriate wiring methods contained in Chapter 3 of the 2017 edition of the National Electrical Code. The wiring method shall comply with Article 680, 2017 edition of the National Electrical Code regarding that portion of the installation on the exterior of the dwelling unit.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143, and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Amendment filed June 27, 1990; effective August 11, 1990. Amendment filed November 4, 1996; effective March 28, 1997. Amendment filed June 13, 1999; effective September 26, 1999. Amendment filed July 15, 2003; effective September 28, 2003. Amendment filed November 14, 2008; effective January 28, 2009. Amendments filed December 19, 2017; effective March 19, 2018.

0780-02-01-.08 METER LOCATION.

- (1) The power supplier will determine the physical location of the meter base.
- (2) For multi-occupancy structures, metering equipment shall be identified to indicate the occupancy serviced.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143, and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Amendment filed November 4, 1996; effective March 28, 1997.

0780-02-01-.09 INSTALLATIONS SERVED BY MULTIPLE SOURCES. Transfer equipment associated with installations served by alternate sources of supply shall be equipped with the necessary equipment to prevent backfeed of power onto the power supplier's system when the power supplier's local system is not energized by its own source of power. Protective equipment and installation of equipment to prevent backfeed shall be approved by the power supplier.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113 and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987.

0780-02-01-.10 SERVICE ENTRANCE CONDUCTORS. Service entrance conductors shall be installed in conduit where such conductors serve a structure with exterior walls of brick, stone, masonry, metal or metal-clad.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113 and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987.

0780-02-01-.11 DWELLING UNITS.

- (1) Where installed as separate units, ovens and cooktop units shall be served by individual circuits.
- (2) Only designated circuits shall be energized following a "service release" inspection. Such an inspection shall only be valid for a period of forty-five (45) days from the date of inspection.
- (3) All electrical connection, including HVAC equipment, shall be completed and inspected prior to final approval pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 68-102-143(c) and (e), except as defined in paragraph (2) of this section.
- (4) No newly constructed one-family or two-family dwelling shall be approved for connection of electric service on a permanent basis under T.C.A. § 68-102-143, unless the dwelling is equipped with a smoke alarm that has been:
 - (a) Listed in accordance with the standards of Underwriters Laboratories, or another testing agency or laboratory accepted by the state fire marshal; and
 - (b) Installed in accordance with the building construction safety standards adopted pursuant to T.C.A. § 68-120-101 and in accordance with the manufacturer's directions,

(Rule 0780-02-01-.11, continued)

unless those directions conflict with applicable standards adopted by the state fire marshal. Notwithstanding the building construction safety standards adopted pursuant to T.C.A. § 68-120-101, battery operated smoke alarms shall be permitted when installed in buildings without commercial power.

- (5) Service equipment shall have only one (1) main means of disconnecting services of two hundred twenty-five (225) amps or below.
- (6) The installation of receptacles for island counter spaces and peninsular counter spaces below the countertop shall be optional.
- (7) Receptacles shall not be required in the wall space behind doors which may be opened fully against a wall surface. Wall space measurement shall begin at the edge of the door when fully opened.
- (8) Light fixtures in crawl spaces shall have guarded covers.
- (9) Occupancy of a dwelling shall be prohibited before final inspection has been completed and approved.
- (10) In Article 334.15(C) of the 2017 edition of the National Electrical Code, Nonmetallic-Sheathed Cable shall not be required to be run through bored holes in unfinished basements and crawl spaces with less than four feet (4') and six inches (6") of clearance.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143, 68-102-150, and 68-120-111. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Amendment filed June 27, 1990; effective August 11, 1990. Amendment filed September 22, 1993; effective January 28, 1994. Amendment filed November 4, 1996; effective March 7, 1997. Amendment filed July 13, 1999; effective September 26, 1999. Amendment filed July 15, 2003; effective September 28, 2003. Repeal and new rule filed November 14, 2008; effective January 28, 2009. Amendments filed December 19, 2017; effective March 19, 2018.

0780-02-01-.12 OVERCURRENT PROTECTION. Circuit breakers used as overcurrent protection for circuits serving devices not requiring a grounded (neutral) conductor, such as a 240V water heater, shall be multipole breakers. Single pole circuit breakers with tie handles shall not be approved for this purpose.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113 and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Amendment filed June 27, 1990; effective August 11, 1990.

0780-02-01-.13 WORK SPACE ABOUT HVAC EQUIPMENT.

- (1) Installation in attic spaces.
 - (a) Entrance way providing access to equipment shall not be less than the largest piece of equipment to be replaced.
 - (b) There shall be a vertical clearance of at least four (4) feet and six (6) inches for use by those conducting necessary examination. In addition there shall be a walkway not less than twenty-four (24) inches wide on the ceiling joist running from the attic opening to the equipment, without an obstruction.

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- (2) Installation in crawl spaces underneath buildings.
 - (a) Entrance way providing access to equipment shall not be less than the largest piece of equipment to be replaced.
 - (b) There shall be a vertical clearance of at least four (4') feet and six (6") inches unobstructed crawl space to the unit.
 - (c) If four (4') feet and six (6") inches of clearance cannot be maintained, the unit shall be located no more than twelve (12') feet from the entrance opening and a clear unobstructed crawl space not less than thirty (30") inches in height and twenty-four (24") inches in width shall be maintained.
 - (d) Light fixtures in crawl spaces shall have guarded covers.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143, and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Amendment filed June 27, 1990; effective August 11, 1990. Amendment filed September 22, 1993; effective January 28, 1994. Amendment filed November 4, 1996; effective March 7, 1997. Amendment filed November 14, 2008; effective January 28, 2009.

0780-02-01-.14 REPEALED.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113 and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Repeal filed June 27, 1990; effective August 11, 1990.

0780-02-01-.15 USED MANUFACTURED HOMES.

- (1) Manufactured homes shall have listed, enclosed-type service-entrance equipment located inside the manufactured home, with proper rated overcurrent protection for each branch circuit. Overcurrent protection for circuits of twenty (20) amperes or less may be either circuit breakers, or plug fuses and fuse holders of Type "S", and shall be of the time-delay type. The manufactured home disconnecting means located inside shall be fed from an outside location with a feeder from the main service entrance for such manufactured home. If the supply or feeder from the main service to the disconnecting means located inside does not have a grounding conductor as required by Article 550 of the 2017 edition of the National Electrical Code, one shall be installed.
- (2) Inspection shall be both visual and mechanical; switch and receptacle plates and light fixtures will be removed to check conductor connections, insulation of splices, boxes, and general code requirements.
- (3) After the mechanical test and visual inspections have been made, a safety inspection certificate may be issued as determined by the inspector.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143, 68-102-147, and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Amendment filed October 24, 1974; effective January 17, 1975. Amendment filed April 20, 1978; effective May 22, 1978. Repeal and new rule filed October 27, 1981; effective December 11, 1981. Repeal and new rule filed June 28, 1984; effective July 28, 1984. Repeal and new rule filed March 12, 1987; effective April 26, 1987. Amendment filed June 27, 1990; effective

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August 11, 1990. Amendment filed September 22, 1993; effective January 28, 1994. Amendment filed November 4, 1996; effective March 28, 1997. Amendment filed July 13, 1999; effective September 26, 1999. Amendment filed July 15, 2003; effective September 28, 2003. Repeal and new rule filed November 14, 2008; effective January 28, 2009. Amendments filed December 19, 2017; effective March 19, 2018.

0780-02-01-.16 REPEALED.

Authority: T.C.A. § 68-102-113. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 27, 1990; effective August 11, 1990. Repeal filed July 15, 2003; effective September 28, 2003.

0780-02-01-.17 LOCAL ORDINANCES.

No city, county, town, municipal corporation, metropolitan government or political subdivision of this state shall adopt or enforce any ordinance prescribing less stringent electrical standards than those established hereunder as determined by the Division.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143, and 68-102-150. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 27, 1990; effective August 11, 1990.

0780-02-01-.18 PERMIT ISSUING AGENTS.

- (1) All individuals, including all business entities, municipalities, and cooperatives, who undertake to issue electrical permits under this chapter must hold a current contract with the Department of Commerce and Insurance, as administered through the Electrical Section of the Division of Fire Prevention.
- (2) State deputy electrical inspectors are ineligible to become issuing agents. Additionally, without prior approval from the Department, no individual or business entity in any way related to or financially associated with any Department official will be allowed to become an issuing agent.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113 and 68-102-143. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed October 15, 1999; effective December 29, 1999. Amendments filed March 31, 2022; effective June 29, 2022.

0780-02-01-.19 REPEALED.

Authority: T.C.A. § 68-102-113. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed October 15, 1999; effective December 29, 1999. Repeal filed July 15, 2003; effective September 28, 2003.

0780-02-01-.20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION TO PERFORM ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS.

- (1) (a) Pursuant to T.C.A. § 68-102-143(b)(1), the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance may authorize a local government to conduct electrical inspections through the local government's appointed deputy inspectors. This inspection authority shall cover all types of electrical installations in accordance with the law, except for state owned or state leased properties which remain under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner.
- (b) Deputy inspectors appointed in such a manner are authorized to inspect electrical installations upon receipt of a request from the owner of the property or from any person, association or corporation supplying electrical energy to the installations, or from municipal governing bodies, or from the county legislative body of the county in which the installations are located and the inspectors for their compensation are authorized to charge for and received a fee for each inspection.

(Rule 0780-02-01-.20, continued)

- (c) If a conflict arises between the state fire marshal and the local government relative to the application or interpretation of the same or substantially identical electrical safety standards, then the determination of the state fire marshal shall supersede the conflicting application or interpretation by the local government.
 - (d) This rule sets forth the criteria by which local governments may seek authorization to perform electrical inspections and procedures by which the Commissioner, or designee, may review such authorization.
- (2) Initial Authorization.
 - (a) Prior to being authorized to perform electrical inspections, the local government, through the county executive, the county commission, the mayor or the city council, shall make a written request to the state fire marshal.
 - (b) The request shall be completed on a form approved by the state fire marshal and shall contain the following information:
 - 1. The title(s) and edition(s) of the code(s) that will be adopted and enforced;
 - 2. The number and types of inspections of each installation (final, rough-in, temporary, HVAC, service release, re-inspect) that will be conducted;
 - 3. A detailed description of the permit issuance and record-keeping process for all inspection activities;
 - 4. The names of all persons who are employed by the local government to perform electrical inspections and who have successfully completed the respective certification examinations of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI- 1 & 2 Family and Electrical General or Electrical Commercial), the International Code Council (ICC- Residential Electrical Inspector and Commercial Electrical Inspector), or any other certification designations approved by the Commissioner, or designee. All necessary certifications shall be obtained prior to performing electrical inspections.
 - (c) After receipt of the information required in paragraph (2)(b) of this rule, the state fire marshal will schedule a pre-authorization review to take place at the applying local government's office. During this review, the state fire marshal may review any and all records related to the local government's proposed electrical inspection program, including the certification records of persons employed to perform electrical inspections.
 - (d) If after consideration of the information required in paragraph (2)(b) of this rule and after the pre-authorization review the state fire marshal determines that the local government can adequately enforce electrical codes and conduct electrical inspections, the state fire marshal may authorize the local government to conduct electrical inspections.
- (3) The local government's adopted electrical code publication shall be current within seven (7) years of the date of the latest edition thereof, unless otherwise approved by the state fire marshal.
- (4) Review of Local Government Authorization.
 - (a) For any local government that was authorized to conduct electrical inspections before January 1, 2005, the state fire marshal will conduct a review as soon as practicable of

(Rule 0780-02-01-.20, continued)

the local government's authorization to conduct electrical inspections to determine whether the local government is adequately enforcing the adopted electrical codes and is properly performing inspections.

- (b) For any local government that is authorized to conduct electrical inspections on or after January 1, 2005, the state fire marshal will conduct a review of the local government's authorization to conduct electrical inspections to determine whether the local government is adequately enforcing the adopted electrical codes, is properly performing inspections and is otherwise in compliance with the information originally submitted to the state fire marshal for purposes of gaining authorization to perform electrical inspections. The review provided by this paragraph shall take place at least once every three (3) years.
- (c) Each local government that is reviewed pursuant to this paragraph will be notified of the review in writing. When a local government is subject to the review provided by this paragraph, the local government shall submit the information required for initial authorization by paragraph (2)(b) of this rule on a form provided by the state fire marshal within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the form.
- (d) As part of the review, the state fire marshal may also conduct an on-site visit to the local government to review the electrical permit and inspection process.
- (e) The state fire marshal may request any other documentation it deems necessary for the local government to evidence compliance with the requirements for initial authorization set forth in paragraph (2)(b) of this rule.
- (f) Report of Review.
 - 1. After conclusion of the review, the state fire marshal will notify the local government in writing whether there are any area(s) in which the local government is not adequately enforcing the adopted electrical codes or properly performing inspections.
 - 2. If the local government is not adequately enforcing the adopted electrical codes or properly performing inspections, the notification will contain recommended corrective action, and the local government will be directed to submit a plan of corrective action to the state fire marshal within thirty (30) days after its receipt of the notification. The plan of corrective action shall be sufficiently detailed so as to ensure compliance with all requirements for initial authorization.
 - 3. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of the local government's plan of corrective action, the state fire marshal shall either approve or disapprove the plan. If the plan is approved, the state fire marshal may conduct periodic follow-up reviews to ensure continued compliance with the plan. If the plan is not approved, the state fire marshal may remove the local government's authorization to conduct electrical inspections.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113 and 68-102-143(b)(1). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 7, 2005; effective May 21, 2005. Emergency rule filed June 30, 2010; effective through December 27, 2010. Amendments filed September 17, 2010; effective December 16, 2010. Amendments filed December 19, 2017; effective March 19, 2018.

0780-02-01-.21 INSPECTION FEES.

The inspection fee for each inspection for services shall not exceed the following:

(Rule 0780-02-01-.21, continued)

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|---|---|
| Final Inspection: | Fee |
| 0-200 ampere capacity | \$35.00 |
| 201-400 ampere capacity | \$40.00 |
| 401-600 ampere capacity | \$50.00 |
| 601-1000 ampere capacity | \$90.00 |
| 1,001 ampere capacity and above ("Nonstandard permit") | Fee is negotiable; however, any such fee shall be subject to review and approval by the Commissioner, or designee. |
| Rough-In Inspection: | |
| 0-1,000 ampere capacity | \$35.00 |
| 1,001 ampere capacity and above | \$35.00 |
| Re-Inspection: | |
| Based on rejection of 0-1,000 ampere capacity | \$35.00 |
| Based on rejection of 1,001 ampere capacity and above | \$35.00 |
| Inspection of a Dwelling Unit's Heating and/or Cooling System (e.g. HVAC) | \$35.00 |
| Consultation Inspection (optional/available upon request) | \$50.00 |
| Service Release Inspection (valid for 45 days) | Fee is based on ampere capacity of service. |
| Inspection of Floating Cabins | \$150.00 |
| Inspection of Boat Docks and Marinas | Fee is negotiable based upon the number of subpanels, panels, and the ampere capacity of service; however, any such fee shall be subject to review and approval by the Commissioner, or designee. |
| Recreational Vehicle Parks | Fee is negotiable based upon the number of pedestals and the ampere capacity of service; however, any such fee shall be subject to review and approval by the Commissioner, or designee. |

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143(b)(2), 68-102-602, and 68-102-603. **Administrative History:** Emergency rule filed December 30, 2013; effective through June 28, 2014. Emergency rule filed June 27, 2014; expired effective December 24, 2014. On December 25, 2014, the rule reverted to its previous reserved status. New rule filed September 30, 2014; effective December 29, 2014. Amendments

(Rule 0780-02-01-.21, continued)

filed March 23, 2017; effective June 21, 2017. Amendments filed March 31, 2022; effective June 29, 2022. Amendments filed April 15, 2025; effective July 14, 2025.

0780-02-01-.22 BOAT DOCKS AND MARINAS.

- (1) Safety inspections of boat docks and marinas shall include, but are not limited to, a review of all sources of electrical supply, including ship-to-shore power pedestals, submergible pumps, and sewage pump-out facilities, that could result in unsafe electrical current in the water for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the standards for maintenance of electrical wiring and equipment that were applicable to the marina at the time of installation.
- (2)
 - (a) In the event that a deficiency is found during a safety inspection, any subsequent inspection required for the inspection of repairs made to address such deficiency shall be conducted by a deputy electrical inspector commissioned under T.C.A. § 68-102-143, and in accordance with T.C.A. § 68-102-143 and Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-01.
 - (b) The permit fee for inspection of boat docks and marinas is negotiable based upon the number of subpanels, panels and the ampere capacity of service; however, any such fee shall be subject to review and approval by the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance, or designee.
- (3) Any main overcurrent protective device installed or replaced on or after April 1, 2015, that feeds a marina shall have ground-fault protection and meet all requirements in Article 555.3 in the edition of the National Electrical Code adopted in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-01-.02.
- (4) Inspections shall be performed in accordance with the adopted electrical code edition effective at the time of installation. If the time of installation cannot be determined, the installation shall be inspected in accordance with the pertinent section related to Marinas and Boatyards, Article 555 in the edition of the National Electrical Code adopted in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-01-.02, unless otherwise authorized by the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance, or designee.
- (5) The regulation regarding a maximum of one thousand (1000) volts phase to phase being permitted in yard and pier distribution systems as specified in Article 555.4, Distribution System of the edition of the National Electrical Code adopted in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-02-01-.02, may be exceeded if written documentation is submitted from an engineer licensed in the State of Tennessee approving the additional voltage.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-102-113, 68-102-143(b)(2), 68-102-602, and 68-102-603. **Administrative History:** Emergency rule filed December 30, 2013; effective through June 28, 2014. Emergency rule filed June 27, 2014; expired effective December 24, 2014. On December 25, 2014, the rule reverted to its previous reserved status. New rule filed September 30, 2014; effective December 29, 2014. Amendments filed December 19, 2017; effective March 19, 2018.

0780-02-01-.23 FLOATING CABINS.

- (1) Floating cabins located on the Tennessee River System and regulated by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) must comply with 18 C.F.R. § 1304, and specifically 18 C.F.R. § 1304.103(e) regarding electrical inspections, and Article 553 of the National Electrical Code.
- (2) Inspections shall be performed in accordance with the adopted electrical code edition effective at the time of installation. If the time of installation cannot be determined, the installation shall be inspected in accordance with the pertinent section related to floating cabins, Article 553 in the edition of the National Electrical Code adopted in Tenn. Comp. R. &

(Rule 0780-02-01-.23, continued)

Regs. 0780-02-01-.02, unless otherwise authorized by the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance, or designee.

Authority: *T.C.A. § 68-102-113 and 18 C.F.R. § 1304. Administrative History:* *New rule filed March 31, 2022; effective June 29, 2022.*