

ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE

Chapter 7

ELECTRICAL CODE*

***Editor's note:** Ordinance No. 09-11, adopted April 28, 2009, amended Chapter 7, in its entirety, to read as herein set out.

- § 7-1. Title and Scope.
- § 7-2. Definitions.
- § 7-3. Availability of Codes.
- § 7-4. Administration and Enforcement.
- § 7-5. Reserved.
- § 7-6. Permits and Fees.
- § 7-7. General Provisions.

§ 7-1. Title and Scope.

A. *Title.* This chapter shall be known as the "Arlington County Electrical Code" and may be so cited.

B. *Scope--New electrical systems.* This Code shall apply to electrical systems and to parts thereto which are hereafter installed in buildings of the occupancy classifications enumerated in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.
(Ord. No. 89-25, 9-23-89); Ord. No. 07-13, 9-18-07, effective 10-1-07; Ord. No. 08-08, 4-19-08, effective 7-1-08; Ord. No. 09-11, 4-28-09)

§ 7-2. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Building Official” means the Inspection Services Division Chief of Arlington County or his designee.

“Construction Code Inspector” means a qualified person charged with the inspections of all electrical systems and electrical work performed in the County.
(Ord. No. 89-25, 9-23-89; Ord. No. 95-14, 8-8-95; Ord. No. 97-7, 4-12-97; Ord. No. 07-13, 9-18-07, effective 10-1-07; Ord. No. 08-08, 4-19-08, effective 7-1-08; Ord. No. 09-11, 4-28-09)

§ 7-3. Availability of Codes.

There is hereby made available by the County Board of the County of Arlington, the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, latest edition, of which copies of each are on file in the office of the Inspection Services Division, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1000, and may be examined during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on regular business days.
(Ord. No. 89-25, 9-23-89; Ord. No. 07-13, 09-18-07, effective 10-01-07; Ord. No. 08-08, enacted 04-19-08, effective 07-01-08; Ord. No. 09-11, 4-28-09)

§ 7-4. Administration and Enforcement.

A. *Administrator--Designated.* The administration and enforcement of this Code shall be the duty of the Building Official who is hereby authorized to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, as may be reasonably necessary to enforce the provisions of this Code. The Building Official may appoint assistants or agents as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Code.

B. *Same--Powers and duties:*

1. The Building Official or his designee shall have the right and power and it shall be their duty to cause all electrical equipment in or on any building in the County to be inspected from time to time in order to ascertain whether, due to the construction, installation or the condition thereof, such electrical equipment is dangerous to life or property.
2. When the use of any electrical work shall be found dangerous to health and safety, the Building Official or his designee is hereby authorized to order it removed or made safe as may be deemed necessary.
- C. *Responsibilities of owner or occupant:*
 1. Every building, structure or part thereof shall be kept in good electrical repair by the owner.
 2. No person shall knowingly have any electrical work done on premises under his control or on the premises owned by him, except in accordance with the provisions of this Code.
- D. *Compliance required.* No person shall install, alter, maintain, service or repair, or cause or permit the installation, altering, maintaining, servicing or repairing of electrical equipment in or on any building, except in accordance with the provisions of this Code.
- E. *Inspections--Request for registered electrical contractor's representative to be present.* The Inspection Services Division may require a representative of the registered electrical contractor to be on the job when inspection is made.
- F. *Same--Notice of defect; failure to comply.* When any electrical equipment is found, upon inspection by a Construction Code Inspector, to be dangerous to life or property because it is defective or defectively installed, the person responsible for the electrical equipment shall be notified in writing and shall make any changes or repairs necessary in the judgment of the Building Official or his designee to place such equipment in safe condition. If any person fails to comply with a notice issued by the Building Official or his designee to correct the violation within a reasonable period stated in the notice, the Building Official shall order the electric company to disconnect its supply of electricity and such electric company shall thereupon disconnect its lines and discontinue the supply of electricity.

In such cases, the notice to the electric company shall state the reason for the service being ordered disconnected and the party responsible for the violation, if such party is known. Any person failing to make corrections of a violation within the time specified in the notice shall be refused any further permits to do electrical work within the County until such corrections are made.
- G. *Interference with Building Official.* The occupant or owner of property or premises where any electrical equipment is used or is to be used shall not refuse to allow, interfere with or prevent the discharge of duties hereunder by the Building Official hereunder, or withhold or refuse to divulge, on request of the Building Official, the name of the person responsible for doing such work herein or thereon.
- H. *Approval of installation.* No person shall use current in the wiring, fixtures or other electrical lines or equipment falling within the scope of this chapter until approval has been granted by a representative of the Inspection Services Division who shall notify the utility that will supply electrical service to the premises when an installation has been approved and grant it permission to energize its service connection and supply the premises with electric service. Written confirmation of such approval shall be furnished to the utility supplying the electric service by the Inspection Services Division.
- I. *Appeals.* The owner of a building or structure, registered electrical contractor or master electrician may appeal from a decision of the Building Official on his or her interpretation and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter to the Building Code Board of Appeals.
(Ord. No. 89-25, 9-23-89; Ord. No. 07-13, 09-18-07, effective 10-01-07; Ord. No. 08-08, enacted 04-19-08, effective 07-01-08; Ord. No. 09-11, 4-28-09)

§ 7-5. Reserved.

Editors Note: Former § 7-5, which pertained to registration of contractor and certification of worker, was repealed by Ord. No. 95-14, enacted Aug. 8, 1995.

§ 7-6. Permits and Fees.

A. *Permit required.* No electrical work, except minor repair work, shall be performed by any registered electrical contractor, or master electrician, or any owner, owner's agent, architect or engineer until such person has applied for and received a permit from the Inspection Services Division.

B. *Work in single-family dwellings and townhouses.* Any permit required by this section may be issued to a person, whether registered or not, to do any work regulated by this chapter in a single-family dwelling or townhouse used exclusively for residence purposes, including the usual accessory buildings and quarters in connection with such building, provided that the person is the bona fide owner or agent of the owner of such dwelling.

C. *Plans required.* Before permits required in this chapter shall be issued for any electrical work involving a new or renovated commercial or high-rise or multifamily residential building, the prescribed sets of plans must have been submitted to and approved by the Inspection Services Division. Before permits will be issued for major electrical repairs in existing buildings, the registered electrical contractor, owner, owner's agent, architect, engineer or master electrician shall file with the Inspection Services Division detailed sketches of the work proposed to be done. The permit shall not be issued until the plan or sketches have been approved by the Construction Plan Examiner.

D. *Permit fees.* There shall be no fees assessed for a permit required by this section to do electrical work by or for: the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in connection with the construction, alteration, repair or maintenance of bus and rapid rail system or the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, amend or modify any rule, regulation, standard or requirement of the National Electrical Code, as adopted by the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, including standards and amendments previously or subsequently adopted.

All fees shall be paid prior to release of the permit and in accordance with the fee schedule adopted by the Board.

E. *Temporary Electrical Permits:*

Temporary electrical permits will be issued for sixty (60) days. A temporary permit may be renewed for an additional thirty (30) day period, if necessary. Applications for temporary permits must be filed under any of the following conditions:

- a. For connection to temporary service drop and for equipment to be used for construction of circuits to be used or number of power units to be installed.
- b. For connection to permanent service or for installation of temporary lighting or power equipment not included in original permit, a separate permit based on the permit fee schedule is required.
- c. For connection to permanent service of heating equipment, a temporary permit will be issued if a regular permit for permanent connection of the heating equipment is issued or is on file at the time the temporary connection is requested.

F. *Procedures Where Work Continued was started by Another Permittee:*

Before proceeding with any electrical equipment installation which has been started by any other permit grantee, an owner shall request the electrical section of the Inspection Services Division to inspect the installation for which a permit was granted and also to inspect any work performed, and shall also obtain an owner's permit for the remaining part of the installation.

(Ord. No. 89-25, 9-23-89; Ord. No. 90-6, 7-1-90; Ord. No. 91-17, 7-1-91; Ord. No. 92-1, 2-1-92; Ord. No. 93-4, 7-

1-93; Ord. No. 95-8, 4-29-95; Ord. No. 97-7, 4-12-97; Ord. No. 98-10, 4-18-98; Ord. No. 07-13, 09-18-07, effective 10-01-07; Ord. No. 08-08, 04-19-08, effective 07-01-08; Ord. No. 09-11, 4-28-09; Ord. No. 10-11, 4-24-10)

§ 7-7. General Provisions.

A. *Preventive maintenance for 1,000 amperes equipment.* It shall be unlawful to perform any work on service equipment, any compartment of a switchboard, a motor control center, a transformer, or a panel for which the ampacity is one thousand (1,000) amperes or larger, or [which has a] voltage rating over two hundred fifty (250) volts regardless of ampacity, without first completely disengaging the electrical power within that piece of equipment or compartment.

Pursuant to the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, Volume II, Building Maintenance Code, it shall be the responsibility of the owner, or his responsible agent, of a switchboard having a capacity of one thousand (1,000) amperes or larger, to have a master electrician disconnect said equipment once every five (5) years or less to perform normal preventive maintenance. The preventive maintenance shall consist of all maintenance normally performed by electrical contractors including by way of illustration:

1. Vacuum entire interior of switchboard.
2. Clean bus and contacts with a suitable nonconductive solvent.
3. Lubricate all moving mechanisms.
4. Check all conductors for abrasions.
5. Torque bus and conductors' connections to manufacturers' recommended specifications.
6. Check calibration of overcurrent trip units and protective devices.
7. Megger board to manufacturers' specifications before re-energizing.
8. Replace worn, damaged or deteriorating components.
9. Submit report of preventive maintenance performed to Inspection Services Division within thirty (30) days.

B. *Fees:*

Two (2) hour minimum \$109.00

Each additional hour, per hour, per inspector \$54.00

(Ord. No. 89-25, 9-23-89; Ord. No. 92-1, 2-1-92; Ord. No. 07-13, 09-18-07, effective 10-01-07; Ord. No. 08-08, 04-19-08, effective 07-01-08; Ord. No. 09-11, 4-28-09)