

INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS DEPARTMENT[481]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: Rule 481—404.3(103)
“Electrical Inspection Program”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 103.6

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code section 17A.7

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

July 28, 2026
10 a.m.

Ledges Conference Room
6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

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Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking implements the adoption of a more recent edition of the National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA’s) National Electrical Code, 2026 edition, in order to appropriately implement Iowa Code section 103.6(1)“a.”

Analysis of Impact

1. Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:

• **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**

The costs of the proposed rulemaking are necessary to ensure that projects are completed safely; the industry will bear those costs.

• **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

Uniformity in permitting and inspections, achieved through consistent processes and adoption of the NFPA National Electrical Code, benefits both the general public and members of the regulated industry. The public and businesses will benefit from the proposed rulemaking, which protects persons and property from the hazards arising from the use of electricity. Members of the industry will benefit from having clear standards, consistent with other jurisdictions, within which to work.

2. Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:

• **Quantitative description of impact:**

The costs of projects, when governed by the 2026 edition of the NFPA's National Electrical Code, vary greatly depending on factors such as the type of work being done, the size of the project, and the condition of any existing electrical work, among other factors.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

With the adoption of the 2026 NFPA National Electrical Code, there is a benefit to both the public and the regulated industry in maintaining industry standards that are modern and in line with other jurisdictions. Notably, many other states, including the surrounding states of Minnesota and South Dakota, have adopted or are in the process of adopting the 2026 NFPA National Electrical Code.

3. **Costs to the State:**

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

There are no costs to the Department specifically associated with this rulemaking.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

There is no anticipated impact on State revenues.

4. **Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:**

Iowa Code section 103.6 requires that the Electrical Examining Board adopt rules as governed by the minimum standards set forth in the most recent publication of the National Electrical Code issued and adopted by the NFPA, establishing wiring standards that protect public safety and health and property and that apply to all electrical wiring that is installed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 103. There are no specific financial costs to implement or enforce this rulemaking outside of any costs associated with the Board's and the Department's statutory duties. The costs of this rulemaking are directly associated with the Department's general functions, and this rulemaking does not add excess costs. The benefits of uniformity in permitting and inspections, achieved through consistent processes and adoption of the NFPA National Electrical Code consistent with neighboring jurisdictions, and statutory compliance are paramount.

5. **Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:**

There are no less costly or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of this rulemaking.

6. **Alternative methods considered by the agency:**

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

None were considered.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

Not applicable.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.

- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.

- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

The proposed rulemaking provides for consistency and uniformity in electrical inspections and standards and does not make accommodations for the size of business performing the installation work. If a small business identified a rule that is overly burdensome and the goals of which could be achieved in a manner that would reduce the impact on the small business, it could utilize the Board's established waiver process.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Amend rule 481—404.3(103) as follows:

481—404.3(103) Installation requirements. The provisions of the National Electrical Code, 2023 2026 edition, published by the National Fire Protection Association, are incorporated herein by reference as the requirements for electrical installations performed by persons subject to licensing and inspection pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 103 and rules promulgated thereunder, ~~with the following amendments:~~

404.3(1) ~~Delete article 210.8(A), “Dwelling Units,” and insert in lieu thereof the following new section:~~

~~“210.8(A) Dwelling Units.~~

~~All 125-volt, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles installed in the following locations and supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150 volts or less to ground shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel:~~

- ~~(1) Bathrooms~~
- ~~(2) Garages and also accessory buildings that have a floor located at or below grade level not intended as habitable rooms and limited to storage areas, work areas, and areas of similar use~~
- ~~(3) Outdoors~~
- ~~(4) Crawl spaces—at or below grade level~~
- ~~(5) Basements~~
- ~~(6) Kitchens~~
- ~~(7) Areas with sinks and permanent provisions for food preparation, beverage preparation, or cooking~~
- ~~(8) Sinks—where receptacles are installed within 1.8 m (6 ft) from the top inside edge of the bowl of the sink~~
- ~~(9) Boathouses~~
- ~~(10) Bathtubs or shower stalls—where receptacles are installed within 1.8 m (6 ft) of the outside edge of the bathtub or shower stall~~
- ~~(11) Laundry areas~~
- ~~(12) Indoor damp and wet locations.”~~

404.3(2) ~~Delete article 210.8(D), “Specific Appliances,” and insert in lieu thereof the following new section:~~

~~“210.8(D) Specific Appliances.~~

~~GFCI protection shall be provided for the branch circuit or outlet supplying the following appliances rated 150 volts or less to ground and 60 amperes or less, single- or 3-phase:~~

- ~~(1) Automotive vacuum machines~~
- ~~(2) Drinking water coolers and bottle fill stations~~
- ~~(3) High-pressure spray washing machines~~
- ~~(4) Tire inflation machines~~
- ~~(5) Vending machines~~
- ~~(6) Sump pumps~~
- ~~(7) Dishwashers~~
- ~~(8) Microwave ovens.”~~

404.3(3) ~~Delete article 210.8(F), “Outdoor Outlets.”~~