

CHAPTER 34  
**ELECTRICAL DEFINITIONS**  
Reserved

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**INTERRUPTING RATING.** The highest current at rated voltage that a device is intended to interrupt under standard test conditions.

**ISOLATED.** (As applied to location.) Not readily accessible to persons unless special means for access are used.

**LABELED.** Equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol or other identifying mark of an organization acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of production of labeled equipment or materials and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.

**LIGHTING OUTLET.** An outlet intended for the direct connection of a lampholder, a luminaire (lighting fixture) or a pendant cord terminating in a lampholder.

**LISTED.** Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states either that the equipment, material, or services meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

**LIVE PARTS.** Energized conductive components.

**LOCATION, DAMP.** Location protected from weather and not subject to saturation with water or other liquids but subject to moderate degrees of moisture. Examples of such locations include partially protected locations under canopies, marquees, roofed open porches and like locations, and interior locations subject to moderate degrees of moisture, such as some basements, some barns and some cold-storage warehouses.

**LOCATION, DRY.** A location not normally subject to dampness or wetness. A location classified as dry may be temporarily subject to dampness or wetness, as in the case of a building under construction.

**LOCATION, WET.** Installations underground or in concrete slabs or masonry in direct contact with the earth and locations subject to saturation with water or other liquids, such as vehicle-washing areas, and locations exposed to weather.

**LUMINAIRE.** A complete lighting unit (lighting fixture) consisting of a lamp or lamps together with parts designed to distribute the light, to position and protect the lamps and ballast, where applicable, and to connect the lamps to the power supply.

**MULTIOUTLET ASSEMBLY.** A type of surface, or flush, or freestanding raceway; designed to hold conductors and receptacles, assembled in the field or at the factory.

**OUTLET.** A point on the wiring system at which current is taken to supply utilization equipment.

**OVERCURRENT.** Any current in excess of the rated current of equipment or the ampacity of a conductor. Such current might result from overload, short circuit or ground fault.

**OVERLOAD.** Operation of equipment in excess of normal, full-load rating, or of a conductor in excess of rated ampacity that, when it persists for a sufficient length of time, would cause damage or dangerous overheating. A fault, such as a short circuit or ground fault, is not an overload.

**PANELBOARD.** A single panel or group of panel units designed for assembly in the form of a single panel, including buses and automatic overcurrent devices, and equipped with or without switches for the control of light, heat or power circuits, designed to be placed in a cabinet or cutout box placed in or against a wall, partition or other support and accessible only from the front.

**PLENUM.** A compartment or chamber to which one or more air ducts are connected and that forms part of the air distribution system.

**POWER OUTLET.** An enclosed assembly that may include receptacles, circuit breakers, fuseholders, fused switches, buses and watt-hour meter mounting means, intended to supply and control power to mobile homes, recreational vehicles or boats, or to serve as a means for distributing power required to operate mobile or temporarily installed equipment.

**PREMISES WIRING (SYSTEM).** That interior and exterior wiring, including power, lighting, control and signal circuit wiring together with all of their associated hardware, fittings and wiring devices, both permanently and temporarily installed, that extends from the service point or source of power such as a battery, a solar photovoltaic system, or a generator, transformer, or converter winding, to the outlet(s). Such wiring does not include wiring internal to appliances, luminaires (fixtures), motors, controllers, and similar equipment.

**QUALIFIED PERSON.** One who has the skills and knowledge related to the construction and operation of the electrical equipment and installations and has received safety training on the hazards involved.

**RACEWAY.** An enclosed channel of metal or nonmetallic materials designed expressly for holding wires, cables, or busbars, with additional functions as permitted in this code. Raceways include, but are not limited to, rigid metal conduit, rigid nonmetallic conduit, intermediate metal conduit, liquid-tight flexible conduit, flexible metallic tubing, flexible metal conduit, electrical nonmetallic tubing, electrical metallic tubing, under-floor raceways, cellular concrete floor raceways, cellular metal floor raceways, surface raceways, wireways and busways.

**RAINPROOF.** Constructed, protected or treated so as to prevent rain from interfering with the successful operation of the apparatus under specified test conditions.

**RAIN TIGHT.** Constructed or protected so that exposure to a beating rain will not result in the entrance of water under specified test conditions.

**RECEPTACLE.** A receptacle is a contact device installed at the outlet for the connection of an attachment plug. A single receptacle is a single contact device with no other contact device on the same yoke. A multiple receptacle is two or more contact devices on the same yoke.

**RECEPTACLE OUTLET.** An outlet where one or more receptacles are installed.

**SERVICE.** The conductors and equipment for delivering energy from the serving utility to the wiring system of the premises served.

**SERVICE CABLE.** Service conductors made up in the form of a cable.

**SERVICE CONDUCTORS.** The conductors from the service point to the service disconnecting means.

**SERVICE DROP.** The overhead service conductors from the last pole or other aerial support to and including the splices, if any, connecting to the service-entrance conductors at the building or other structure.

**SERVICE-ENTRANCE CONDUCTORS, OVERHEAD SYSTEM.** The service conductors between the terminals of the service equipment and a point usually outside the building, clear of building walls, where joined by tap or splice to the service drop.

**SERVICE-ENTRANCE CONDUCTORS, UNDERGROUND SYSTEM.** The service conductors between the terminals of the service equipment and the point of connection to the service lateral.

**SERVICE EQUIPMENT.** The necessary equipment, usually consisting of a circuit breaker(s) or switch(es) and fuse(s), and their accessories, connected to the load end of the service conductors to a building or other structure, or an otherwise designated area, and intended to constitute the main control and cutoff of the supply.

**SERVICE LATERAL.** The underground service conductors between the street main, including any risers at a pole or other structure or from transformers, and the first point of connection to the service-entrance conductors in a terminal box or meter or other enclosure, inside or outside the building wall. Where there is no terminal box, meter or other enclosure with adequate space, the point of connection shall be considered to be the point of entrance of the service conductors into the building.

**SERVICE POINT.** Service point is the point of connection between the facilities of the serving utility and the premises wiring.

| **STRUCTURE.** That which is built or constructed.

## SWITCHES

**General-use switch.** A switch intended for use in general distribution and branch circuits. It is rated in amperes and is capable of interrupting its rated current at its rated voltage.

**General-use snap switch.** A form of general-use switch constructed so that it can be installed in device boxes or on box covers or otherwise used in conjunction with wiring systems recognized by this code.

**Isolating switch.** A switch intended for isolating an electric circuit from the source of power. It has no interrupting rating and is intended to be operated only after the circuit has been opened by some other means.

| **Motor-circuit switch.** A switch, rated in horsepower that is capable of interrupting the maximum operating overload current of a motor of the same horsepower rating as the switch at the rated voltage.

**UTILIZATION EQUIPMENT.** Equipment that utilizes electric energy for electronic, electromechanical, chemical, heating, lighting or similar purposes.

**VENTILATED.** Provided with a means to permit circulation of air sufficient to remove an excess of heat, fumes or vapors.

**VOLTAGE (OF A CIRCUIT).** The greatest root-mean-square (rms) (effective) difference of potential between any two conductors of the circuit concerned.

**VOLTAGE, NOMINAL.** A nominal value assigned to a circuit or system for the purpose of conveniently designating its voltage class (e.g., 120/240). The actual voltage at which a circuit operates can vary from the nominal within a range that permits satisfactory operation of equipment.

**VOLTAGE TO GROUND.** For grounded circuits, the voltage between the given conductor and that point or conductor of the circuit that is grounded. For ungrounded circuits, the greatest voltage between the given conductor and any other conductor of the circuit.

**WATER TIGHT.** So constructed that moisture will not enter the enclosure under specified test conditions.

**WEATHERPROOF.** So constructed or protected that exposure to the weather will not interfere with successful operation.