For additional information, please contact
the Oregon Joint Use Association, www.ojua.org

NESC Grandfathering Matrix

Revised May 2019

This document is intended to provide education on certain changes to the NESC over time. This is not an official codebook, nor an official interpretation of the rules. When constructing aerial facilities, please refer to the governing codes, such as the National Electrical Safety Code,National Electrical Code, Oregon Public Utility Commission Safety Rules, Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration, State, County and Municipal codes, and all other applicable standards, including contracts.

HOW TO USE THIS MATRIX TO IDENTIFY GRANDFATHERED INSTALLATIONS:
Refer to NESC Rule 013B. Identify the applicable code and the adopted date on the matrix below. Use year of pole installation, house vintage, or other documentation to determine the year of installation.

OLDEST APPLICABLE GRANDFATHERING RULES FOR OVERHEAD LINES:
The oldest version that can be grandfathered is the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) 6th Edition issued in 1961. Installations prior to 1961 must, at least, meet the rules detailed in the 1961 edition. Prior editions cannot be grandfathered.

Definition of Grandfathering: Industry jargon for Rule 013B (existing installations).
1. Where an existing installation meets, or is altered to meet, these rules, such installation is considered to be in compliance with this edition and is not required to comply with any previous edition.
2. Existing installations, including maintenance replacements, that currently comply with prior editions of the Code, need not be modified to comply with these rules.
   Exception 1: For safety reasons, the administrative authority may require compliance with these rules.
   Exception 2: When a structure is replaced, the current requirements of rule 238C shall be met, if applicable.
3. Where conductors or equipment are added, altered, or replaced on an existing structure, the structure or the facilities on the structure need not be modified or replaced if the resulting installation will be in compliance with either (a) the rules that were in effect at the time of the original installation, or (b) the rules in effect in a subsequent edition in which the installation has been previously brought into compliance, or (c) the rules of this edition in accordance with Rule 013B1. When an existing installation is brought into compliance with a subsequent edition, earlier editions no longer apply
4. Exception references in this document can be found with the associated NESC Rule reference. Footnote references can be found with the associated NESC Table reference.

Legend:
NBS = National Bureau of Standards
NESC = National Electrical Safety Code
NEC = National Electrical Code
PWR = Power
Comm = Communications
All = Both Power and Communications
= Rule Citation
= Power Rules
= Communication Rules
= Date of Adoption by NESC

	RULE	NESC 2017	NESC 2012	NESC 2007	NESC 2002	NESC 1997	NESC 1993	NESC 1990	NESC 1987	NESC 1984	NESC 1981	NESC 1977	6th NBS Edition 1961
	NESC Rule 231A, Clearance between poles, guys, equipment and fire hydrants:												
ALL	Minimum clearance of 4 feet *(Exceptions: 3 feet if 4 feet cannot be attained or letter of agreement with the local fire authority)*	←←	←←	←←	Adopted								
	Minimum clearance of 3 feet (recommended clearance of 4 feet).					←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted
	NESC Rule 232B1, Table 232-1 (Row 5), Vertical Clearance to ground for spaces and ways subject to pedestrians or restricted traffic only: (Areas where riders on horses, vehicle or other mobile units exceeding a height of 8 feet are prohibited by regulation or permanent terrain configurations, or are otherwise not normally encountered nor reasonably anticipated):												
PWR	Minimum clearance of 12 feet for Supply cables 0 to 750 V (meeting Rule 230C2 or 230C3). *(Footnote 8: Minimum clearance of 10 feet for Supply service drops and drip loops 0 to 150 V to ground meeting Rule 230C3 where residential building height does not allow 12 feet .)* (Note: NESC 2017 removed "where residential building height does not allow")	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
COMM	Minimum clearance of 9.5 feet for insulated Communication service drops, cables and messengers.	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
	NESC Rule 232B1, Table 232-1 (Row 3), Vertical Clearance to residential driveway:												
PWR	Minimum clearance of 16 feet for Supply cables 0 to 750 V (meeting Rule 230C2 or 230C3). *(Exceptions: Minimum clearance of 12 feet for Supply service drops and 10 feet for drip loops 0 to 150 V where building height does not allow 16 feet.)*	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
COMM	Minimum clearance of 15.5 feet. *(Exception: 11.5 feet for insulated Communication service drops where the building height does not allow 15.5 feet) .*	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
ALL	*(Exception: Where this construction crosses over or runs along alleys, driveways or parking lots not subject to truck traffic [vehicles at least 8 feet in height], the clearance may be reduced to 15 feet .)*	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
	Minimum clearance of 10 feet for Supply service drops, drip loops and insulated Communication service drops.								←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted
	Footnote 7 & 8 have removed dependence on building height as the condition for the exception. Footnote 7 instead depends on vehicle height.	Adopted											
	NESC Rule 234E, Table 234-3 Clearance from swimming areas (does not apply if enclosed by solid or screened permanent structure): *NOTE: 2012 Code Change - Spas (including whirlpools, hot-tubs, Jacuzzis, or other similar installations not suitable for swimming) are not considered as swimming pools covered by Rule 234E*												
PWR	Service conductors 0-750V, clearance of 22.5 feet in any direction between conductors and pool, 14.5 feet to platforms, slides, etc.	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
	Open supply conductors 751V-22kV, clearance of 25 feet in any direction between conductors and pool, 17 feet to platforms, slides, etc.	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
	Service conductors, clearance of 18 feet in any direction to pool, 14 feet to platforms, slides, etc.								←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
	Open supply conductors 0-15kV, clearance of 25 feet in any direction to pool, 16 feet to platforms, slides, etc.								←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
COMM	Communication service drops, cables and messengers, clearance of 22 feet in any direction to pool, 14 feet to platforms, slides, etc.	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
	Communication service drops, cables and messengers, clearance of 18 feet in any direction to pool, 14 feet to platforms, slides, etc.								←←	Adopted			
ALL	*(Exception: Does not apply to conductors more than 10 feet horizontally from the edge of the pool, platforms, etc.)*	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted			
	NESC Rule 234C3d(1), Table 234-1, Vertical clearance to deck, balcony or roof. **NOTE: 2017 Code Change** - vertical clearance "over which they pass or to which they are attached."												
PWR	Supply cables of 0-750V meeting rule 230C2 or 230C3, clearance of 3.5 feet (not readily accessible to Pedestrians). Supply cables of 0-750V meeting rule 230C2 or 230C, clearance of 11 feet (readily accessible to Pedestrians).	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
	Readily accessible deck, balcony or roof, minimum clearance of 8 feet to Supply service drops.								←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
	(Exception: Not readily accessible balcony or roof - If a Supply service drop terminates on a support mast located not more than 4 feet horizontally from the nearest edge of the roof, the Supply service drop must be maintained at a minimum of 18 inches to the roof for 6 feet horizontally out from the mast, and then must be maintained at a minimum of 3 feet clearance above the roof thereafter [NESC Figure 234-2]).	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted						
	(Exception: Not readily accessible balcony or roof - If a Supply service drop terminates at a support mast located not more than 4 feet horizontally from the nearest edge of the roof, the Supply service drop must be maintained at a minimum of 18 inches from any portion of the roof. [Prior to 1977, no roof clearance requirement for insulated conductors, however, insulation cannot be rubbing/abrading on building.])							←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
	Note: For Communications, the clearances below are for facilities crossing but not attached to a building; (no roof clearances are given for Communications attached to buildings).												
COMM	Communication service drops, cables and messengers, clearance of 3 feet (not readily accessible to Pedestrians). Communication service drops, cables and messengers, clearance of 10.5 feet (readily accessible to Pedestrians).	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
ALL	Communication service drops, cables, messengers, and supply cables of of 0 to 750 V meeting rule 230C2 or 230C3: clearance of 3 feet (not readily accessible to Pedestrians). clearance of 8 feet (readily accessible to Pedestrians).								←←	←←	←←	Adopted	

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	RULE	NESC 2017	NESC 2012	NESC 2007	NESC 2002	NESC 1997	NESC 1993	NESC 1990	NESC 1987	NESC 1984	NESC 1981	NESC 1977	6th NBS Edition 1961
	NESC Rule 234C3d2, Clearances to Window (attached to building):												
PWR	*Supply service drops 240/120V meeting rule 230C3 attached below or to the side of a window designed to open - clearance requirement is 3 feet. (Exceptions: Supply service drops 240/120V meeting rule 230C3 attached above any window or attached to any side of a window not designed to open - there is no clearance requirement.)*	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted			
COMM	*Note: No clearances given for communications from windows.*												
	NESC Rule 234C1 & 234C2, Table 234-1 Rows 1a(1) & (2), Horizontal Clearances to Window or Building (passing by but not attached):												
PWR	Unguarded - Supply cables of 0 to 750V meeting Rule 230C2 or 230C3, clearance of 5.0 feet.	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
PWR	Unguarded - Effectively grounded Neutral conductor, clearance of 4.5 feet.	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←						
PWR	*(Footnote 2: Guarded supply clearance may be reduced by 2 feet [3.0 feet for supply or 2.5 feet for neutral, respectively]).*	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
PWR	Unguarded - Supply cables of 0 to 750V meeting Rule 230C2 or 230C3, clearance of 3.0 feet.								←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
COMM	Communication service drops, cables and messengers, clearance of 4.5 feet.	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
COMM	Communication service drops, cables and messengers, clearance of 3 feet.								←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
ALL	*Footnote 3: wording changed (area to similar structure) in Table 234-1, Row 1(a)(3), (b)(1) & (2), 2(a)(1) & (2)*	Adopted											
ALL	*Footnote 2: to walls, projections, and guarded windows where availablle space will not permit, the clearance may be reduced by 2 feet if guarded with covering that provides sufficient dielectric strength.*	Adopted											
ALL	*Footnote 1: For guarded windows and buildings not requiring maintenance or where available space will not permit, the clearance may be reduced by 2 feet.*		←←	←←	←←	Adopted							
	NESC Rule 234C1 & 234C2, Table 234-1 Row 2a, Horizontal Clearances to Signs (passing by but not attached):												
PWR	Readily accessible, supply cables of 0 to 750V meeting Rule 230C2 or 230C3, clearance of 5.0 feet.	←←	←←	←←	Adopted								
PWR	Readily accessible, effectively grounded neutral conductor, clearance of 4.5 feet.	←←	←←	←←	Adopted								
PWR	Not readily accessible, supply cables of 0 to 750V meeting Rule 230C2 or 230C3, clearance of 3.5 feet.	←←	←←	←←	Adopted								
PWR	Effectively grounded neutral conductor, clearance of 3.0 feet. (From 2002 forward added 'not readily accessible'.)	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
PWR	Supply cables of 0 to 750V meeting Rule 230C2 or 230C3, clearance of 3.5 feet.	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
PWR	Supply cables of 0 to 750V meeting Rule 230C2 or 230C3, clearance of 3.0 feet.								←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
COMM	Communication service drops, cables and messengers to portions readily accessible to pedestrians, clearance of 4.5 feet.	←←	←←	←←	Adopted								
COMM	Communication service drops, cables and messengers to portions not readily accessible to pedestrians, clearance of 3 feet.	←←	←←	←←	Adopted								
COMM	Communication service drops, cables and messengers, clearance of 3 feet.					←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
	NESC Rule 234C1 & 234C2, Table 234-1 Row 2b, Vertical Clearances to Signs (passing by but not attached):												
PWR	Over/Under walkways - supply cables of 0 to 750V meeting Rule 230C2 or 230C3, clearance of 11.0 feet	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted							
PWR	Over/Under walkways - effectively grounded neutral conductor, clearance of 10.5 feet	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted							
PWR	Over or under - supply cables of 0 to 750V meeting Rule 230C2 or 230C3, clearance of 3.5 feet	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted					
PWR	Over or under - supply cables of 0 to 750V meeting Rule 230C2 or 230C3, clearance of 3.0 feet								←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
PWR	Over/Under non-walkways - effectively grounded neutral conductor, clearance of 3.0 feet	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
COMM	Communication service drops, cables and messengers over or under catwalks and other surfaces upon which personnel walk, clearance of 10.5 feet.	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted							
COMM	Communication service drops, cables and messengers over or under other portions of such installations, clearance of 3 feet.	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted							
COMM	Communication service drops, cables and messengers, clearance of 3 feet.						←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted	
	NESC Rule 235C1b, Clearance between Supply service drop (0-750V) and Communication service drop within the span including the attachment to the building:												
ALL	*(Exception: The minimum clearance is 12 inches. No requirement prior to 1981.)*	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted		
	NESC Rule 235E1, Table 235-6 Row 5b, Clearance between Supply service drops and Communication messenger in the span: *NOTE: Code adopted in 2012 to cover clearance between a Supply Service Drop that originates in the Power space at the pole or span that drops by Communications that are attached pole to pole (Power is pole/span to structure, Communications is pole to pole).* Examples; Supply service drop feeding a Garage in an alley, Phone Booth, Pump house, etc (the structure being fed is typically located below Communications).												
ALL	The minimum clearance is 30 inches. No requirement prior to 2012.	←←	Adopted										
	NESC Rule 235H1, Clearance at the pole between separate communication messengers (supporting communication cables):												
COMM	The spacing between communication messengers should not be < 12 inches except by agreement between the parties involved. No requirement prior to 2002.	←←	←←	←←	Adopted								
COMM	*Note: Pole owner added as an agreeing party in 2012 (...except by agreement between the parties involved including the pole owner).*	←←	Adopted										
	NESC Rule 235H2, Clearance between communication utilities anywhere in the span:												
COMM	The clearance between communication utilities shall not be < 4 inches except by agreement between the parties involved. No requirement prior to 2002.	←←	←←	←←	Adopted								
COMM	*Note: Pole owner added as an agreeing party in 2012 (...except by agreement between the parties involved including the pole owner).*	←←	Adopted										
	NESC Rule 097G Bonding of Communication systems to electric supply systems:												
ALL	Where both electric supply systems and communication systems are grounded on a joint use structure, either a single grounding conductor shall be used for both systems or the electric supply and communication grounding conductors shall be bonded together. (See 2017 NESC for modified language.)	←←	←←	Adopted									
	NEC Rule 230.28 Service Mast as support:												
COMM	Communication conductors are not permitted to be attached to the service mast which contain Supply service drops. *Note: The NEC is on a different cycle then the NESC, change to Rule 230.28 adopted in 1993 (no requirement prior to 1993).*	←←	←←	←←	←←	←←	Adopted						