

Chapter 61

ELECTRICAL STANDARDS

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles 10-7-1974 by L.L. No. 4-1974. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Building construction — See Ch. 40.

Fire prevention — See Ch. 70.

§ 61-1. Title.

This chapter shall be known as the "Electrical Code of the Town of Skaneateles, 1974."

§ 61-2. Findings; purpose.

Since there is danger to life and property inherent in the use of electrical energy, careful regulation of the installation or alteration of wiring for electric heat, light, power and radio and signaling systems operating on 50 volts or more is declared to be in the public interest of the Town of Skaneateles for the purpose of safeguarding, to a reasonable degree, life and property. It is further determined that such regulation will be of substantial benefit to the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town.

§ 61-3. Adoption of standards by reference. [Amended 12-10-1985 by L.L. No. 11-1985]

There is hereby adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles, for the purpose of prescribing and implementing regulations governing electrical installations or alterations to safeguard, to a reasonable degree, life and property from the hazards caused by improper electrical wiring a certain code known as the "National Electrical Code," as adopted by the National Fire Protection Association, being particularly the 1984 Edition thereof, and the whole thereof, save and except such portions as are hereinafter deleted or modified by this chapter, and from the date on which this chapter shall take effect, the provisions thereof shall be controlling within the limits of the Town of Skaneateles, outside any incorporated Village located therein.

§ 61-4. Definitions and word usage.

- A. Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following terms, for the purpose of this chapter, shall have the meanings indicated in this section.

ACCESSORY BUILDING — A building, the use of which is customarily incidental to that of the main building and which is located on the same lot as that occupied by the main building. All farm buildings (except residences) are to be considered "accessory buildings."

AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION — The Electrical Inspector.

CODE — The National Electrical Code as adopted by this chapter.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR — Such person as may be designated by the Town Board, from time to time, by resolution or, if none is so designated, the Zoning Enforcement Officer for the Town of Skaneateles.

FARM — Any lot or parcel of land at least five acres in area which is used for the commercial raising of agricultural and horticultural products, livestock, poultry and dairy products. It includes necessary farm structures within the prescribed limits and the storage of equipment used. It excludes the commercial raising or maintenance of the following: fur-bearing animals, riding academies, livery or boarding stables, except on "farms" of 25 acres or more.

MUNICIPALITY — The Town of Skaneateles.

OWNER — Includes a duly authorized agent or attorney, purchaser, devisee, fiduciary, lessee or occupant of property, including a corporation, partnership, joint venture or firm, as well as an individual.

B. Word usage. "He" shall mean male or female, where applicable; the singular shall mean the plural and vice versa.

§ 61-5. Applicability.

The provisions of the code are intended to cover all existing electrical wiring installations, devices, appliances and equipment and all proposed electrical wiring installations, devices, appliances and equipment or alterations thereof which operate on 50 volts or more. Existing electrical wiring installations, devices, appliances and equipment as may be covered by the code or regulations promulgated thereunder and which are in service or under construction as of the effective date of this chapter and which are not in strict compliance with the terms of this chapter may be continued or placed in use, provided that these do not constitute a distinct hazard to life and property in the opinion of the Electrical Inspector.

§ 61-6. Nonapplicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to electrical installations in mines, ships, railway cars, automotive equipment or the installation or equipment employed by a railway, electrical or communication utility in the exercise of its function as a utility and located outdoors or in buildings used exclusively for such purposes. This chapter shall not apply to any work involved in the manufacture, assembly, test or repair of electrical machinery, apparatus, materials and equipment, by any person, firm or corporation engaged in electrical manufacturing as its principal business. It shall not apply to any building which is owned or leased in its entirety by the government of the United States or the State of New York, nor shall it apply to accessory farm buildings.

§ 61-7. Prohibited acts.

It shall be a violation of this chapter for any owner to install or cause to be installed or to alter electrical wiring for heat, light, power or the like in or on properties in the Town of Skaneateles prior to making and filing an application for inspection with the Electrical Inspector. It shall be a violation of this chapter for any owner to connect or cause to be connected electrical wiring, in or on properties in the Town of Skaneateles for light, heat, power or the like to any source of electrical energy supply prior to making and filing an application for inspection and the issuance of a certificate of compliance by the Electrical Inspector.

§ 61-8. Electrical Inspector.

- A. The code shall be enforced by the Electrical Inspector for the Town of Skaneateles, which office is hereby established. The Electrical Inspector shall operate under the supervision of the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles.
- B. The Electrical Inspector for the Town of Skaneateles shall be appointed by the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles to serve at the pleasure of the Town Board.
- C. The Electrical Inspector may employ or recommend to the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles the employment of technical inspectors, when deemed prudent and necessary, including the New York Board of Fire Underwriters and its representatives. Any fees payable to the technical inspectors for services rendered shall be paid by the owner.
- D. The Electrical Inspector shall annually transmit to the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles a written report which shall contain all proceedings under this code, with such statistics as the Electrical Inspector deems prudent to include therein, and the Electrical Inspector may recommend any amendment to the code which, in his judgment, he deems prudent and desirable.

§ 61-9. Duties of Inspector.

- A. The Electrical Inspector is authorized to make such inspections and reinspections as are necessary to determine satisfactory compliance with the code and regulations issued thereunder. The Electrical Inspector, in the performance of his duties, shall have the right to enter buildings, structures, dwellings or facilities to make such inspections. Such entrance and inspection shall be accomplished at reasonable times and, in emergencies, whenever necessary to protect the public interest. Owners shall be responsible for providing access to all parts of the premises within their control to the Electrical Inspector acting in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- B. It shall be the duty of the Electrical Inspector to make necessary inspections required for issuance of temporary certificates or certificates of compliance, to investigate all complaints made under this chapter and to note all violations of or deviations or omissions from the provisions of this chapter.
- C. It shall be the responsibility of the owner to timely file an application for inspection with the Electrical Inspector.

§ 61-10. Certificates of compliance.

- A. Certificates of compliance or temporary certificates shall not take the place of any license, building permit or other permit or certificate required by law. It shall not be transferable and any change or alteration of the electrical wiring installation, devices, appliances and equipment shall require a new certificate.
- B. A temporary certificate of compliance may be issued when electrical wiring is to be connected to a source of electrical energy supply on a temporary basis. The temporary certificate shall be returned to the Electrical Inspector at such time as the electrical wiring is disconnected from the source of supply. Any new temporary connection shall require a new temporary certificate.
- C. All applications for inspection required by this chapter shall be made to the Electrical Inspector in such form and detail as prescribed by him. Applications for said inspections shall be accompanied by such plans, specifications and the like as may be required by the Electrical Inspector. Applications therefor may be obtained from the office of the Town Clerk or the Electrical Inspector during normal business hours.
- D. The Electrical Inspector shall issue a temporary certificate or a certificate of compliance when electrical installations, devices, appliances or equipment are in conformity with this chapter.
- E. In cases where laws, regulations, local laws, codes or ordinances enforceable by departments, agencies or offices other than the Electrical Inspector are applicable, joint approval shall be obtained from all departments concerned.
- F. The Town Board may, by resolution, establish fees for the temporary certificate and the certificate of compliance required by the provisions of this chapter.
- G. The certificate shall be kept by the owner on the premises designated therein and shall at all times be subject to inspection by the Electrical Inspector or any officer of the Police or Fire Department.

§ 61-11. Revocation of certificate of compliance.

- A. Upon determination by the Electrical Inspector that there has been a violation of any provision of this chapter, he shall serve upon the owner or person in violation an order, in writing, directing that the conditions specified therein be corrected or eliminated within the time period specified in the order. If, at the expiration of the time so specified, such conditions are not corrected or eliminated, the Electrical Inspector shall serve a notice, in writing, upon the owner or person in violation requiring him to appear before the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles at a time to be specified in such notice [not less than 24 hours after service of such notice] to show cause why the certificate shall not be revoked. The Town Board may, after a hearing at which witnesses and the holder of such permit shall be heard, revoke such certificate if the conditions described in the initial order are violative of the code and have not been corrected or direct initiation of enforcement proceedings. Service of any such order or notice may be by personal delivery or, if

no person of suitable age and discretion is found on the premises, by affixing a copy thereof on the door of the entrance of the premises or by mailing to the address stated in the application for the certificate.

- B. The provisions of this section shall apply with equal force if it is found that there has been a false statement or misrepresentation as to a material fact in the application for inspection.

§ 61-12. Amendments and deletions.

The provisions of the code are deleted or modified in the following respects:

- A. The inside of the front and back covers of the code are hereby deleted.
- B. Pages 70-i and 70-ii and Pages 70-v through 70-xii are hereby deleted from the code.
- C. Pages 70-526 through 70-536 are hereby deleted from the code.
- D. Section 90-6, Interpretation, of the code is hereby deleted.

§ 61-13. Exemptions.

The Electrical Inspector shall have the power to grant an exemption of the application of specific requirements of the code or regulations promulgated thereunder upon request, in writing, to do so when such request shows that the enforcement of the specific requirement will cause unnecessary hardship to the petitioner or in order to take advantage of new methods, equipment, appliances, devices, installations or uses of recognized adequacy, provided that such request shall not be granted unless the requested methods, equipment, appliances, devices, installation or use will, in the opinion of the Electrical Inspector, conform with all the fundamental requirements for safety. The particulars of such exemption, when granted, shall be entered upon the approval granted. A copy thereof shall be retained by the Electrical Inspector and the owner.

§ 61-14. Appeals.

Whenever the Electrical Inspector shall disapprove an application for a temporary certificate or certificate of compliance or refuse to grant the same or when it is claimed that the provisions of the code do not apply or that the true intent and meaning of the code have been misconstrued or wrongly interpreted, the applicant, owner or other interested person may appeal the decision of the Electrical Inspector to the Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles within 10 days from the date of service upon the applicant of a copy of the decision appealed.

§ 61-15. Penalties for offenses. [Amended 12-10-1985 by L.L. No. 11-1985]

Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of an offense against this chapter and shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$250 or to imprisonment for a period of not more than 15 days, or both such fine and imprisonment. In addition, any person, firm or corporation who violates any of the provisions of this

chapter or who shall omit, neglect or refuse to do any act required thereby shall severally, for each and every such violation, forfeit and pay a civil penalty not to exceed \$100 a day for each day of continued violation in excess of the first week. When a violation of any of the provisions of these regulations is continuous, each week thereof shall constitute a separate and distinct violation subjecting the offender to additional penalties. The imposition of penalties for any violation of this chapter shall not excuse the violation or permit it to continue. The application of the above penalty or penalties for any violation of this chapter shall not preclude the enforced removal of conditions prohibited by this chapter. The expenses of the Town in enforcing such removal, including legal fees, may be chargeable, in addition to the aforesated criminal and civil penalties, to the offender and may be recovered in a civil court of appropriate jurisdiction.

§ 61-16. Liability of Town.

This chapter shall not be construed to hold the Town of Skaneateles responsible for any damage to persons or property by reason of any inspection or reinspection or failure to do so or by issuance of any temporary certificate or certificate of compliance made or issued pursuant to this chapter.

§ 61-17. Right to amend.

The Town Board reserves the right to change, supplement or amend this chapter from time to time. The right is also reserved to make such additional rules and regulations as to the Town Board seem appropriate to promote the health, welfare, safety and morals of the inhabitants of the Town of Skaneateles.

§ 61-18. Compliance with standards.

- A. Compliance with this chapter shall not relieve any owner from complying with any other ordinance, local law, rule or regulation.
- B. Where separate provisions of this chapter or provisions of this chapter and any other local law, ordinance, rule or regulation dealing with the same items are applicable to a given situation, compliance with the more restrictive of the differing requirements shall be required.