

The patient care vicinity is defined not only by the location of a patient bed but also by other equipment that supports a patient during examination or treatment. The vicinity is also determined by equipment in its normal location used for treatment or in the architect's plans, rather than the temporary location of equipment subject to movement by housekeeping staff or for the convenience of the medical staff.

**N Patient Equipment Grounding Point.** A jack or terminal that serves as the collection point for redundant grounding of electric appliances serving a patient care vicinity or for grounding other items in order to eliminate electromagnetic interference problems. [99:3.3.142] (517) (CMP-15)

**N Performance Area.** The stage and audience seating area associated with a temporary stage structure, whether indoors or outdoors, constructed of scaffolding, truss, platforms, or similar devices, that is used for the presentation of theatrical or musical productions or for public presentations. (520) (CMP-15)

**N Permanent Amusement Attraction.** A ride device, entertainment device, or a combination of both that is installed such that portability or relocation is impracticable. (522) (CMP-15)

**N Permanently Installed Decorative Fountains and Reflection Pools.** Those that are constructed in the ground, on the ground, or in a building in such a manner that the fountain cannot be readily disassembled for storage, whether or not served by electrical circuits of any nature. These units are primarily constructed for their aesthetic value and are not intended for swimming or wading. (680) (CMP-17)

**N Personnel Protection System (as applied to EVSE).** A system of personnel protection devices and constructional features that when used together provide protection against electric shock of personnel. (625) (CMP-12)

**N Phase, Manufactured. (Manufactured Phase)** The phase that originates at the phase converter and is not solidly connected to either of the single-phase input conductors. (CMP-13)

**N Phase Converter.** An electrical device that converts single-phase power to 3-phase electric power. (CMP-13)

Informational Note: Phase converters have characteristics that modify the starting torque and locked-rotor current of motors served, and consideration is required in selecting a phase converter for a specific load.

**N Phase Converter, Rotary. (Rotary-Phase Converter)** A device that consists of a rotary transformer and capacitor panel(s) that permits the operation of 3-phase loads from a single-phase supply. (455) (CMP-13)

**N Phase Converter, Static. (Static-Phase Converter)** A device without rotating parts, sized for a given 3-phase load to permit operation from a single-phase supply. (455) (CMP-13)

**N Photovoltaic Cell (PV). (Solar Cell).** The basic photovoltaic device that generates dc electricity when exposed to light. (CMP-4)

**Pier.** A structure extending over the water and supported on a fixed foundation (fixed pier), or on flotation (floating pier), that provides access to the water. [303:3.3.18] (CMP-7)

**Pier, Fixed. (Fixed Pier)** Pier constructed on a permanent, fixed foundation, such as on piles, that permanently establishes the elevation of the structure deck with respect to land. [303:3.3.18.2] (CMP-7)

**Pier, Floating. (Floating Pier)** Pier designed with inherent flotation capability that allows the structure to float on the water surface and rise and fall with water level changes. [303:3.3.18.3] (CMP-7)

**N Pipeline.** A length of pipe including pumps, valves, flanges, control devices, strainers, and/or similar equipment for conveying fluids. (CMP-17)

**Plenum.** A compartment or chamber to which one or more air ducts are connected and that forms part of the air distribution system. (CMP-3)

Because of concerns about the transfer of products of combustion through environmental air systems, the NEC provides specific requirements — in 300.22(B), (C), and (D) and in Articles 725, 760, 770, 800, 820, 830, and 840 — for the installation of wiring methods that are subject to the direct flow of environmental air. The NEC definition of the term *plenum* is similar to the definition of *plenum* contained in NFPA 90A, *Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning and Ventilating Systems*. The definition is used in conjunction with the requirements for the installation of wiring methods in spaces used for air transfer that are not specifically fabricated as ducts for environmental air.

#### See also

Article 645 for requirements specific to the air-handling space under a computer room floor

**N Plenum Cable, Cable Routing Assemblies, and Raceways.** Cables, cable routing assemblies, and raceways that have adequate fire-resistant and low smoke-producing characteristics and are suitable for use in ducts, plenums, and other spaces used for environmental air. (722) (CMP-3)

**N Point of Entrance.** The point within a building at which the wire or cable emerges from an external wall, from the roof, or from a concrete floor slab. (CMP-16)

**N Pool.** Manufactured or field-constructed equipment designed to contain water on a permanent or semipermanent basis and used for swimming, wading, immersion, or therapeutic purposes. (680) (CMP-17)

**N Pool, Immersion. (Immersion Pool)** A pool for ceremonial or ritual immersion of users, which is designed and intended to have its contents drained or discharged. (680) (CMP-17)

Immersion pools used for baptisms or other ceremonial rituals that are permanently installed inside or outside a building must comply with the requirements in Parts I and IV of Article 680;