

Communications Systems

CHAPTER

8

ARTICLE

800

General Requirements for Communications Systems

Part I. General

- Δ **800.1 Scope.** This article covers general requirements for communications systems. These general requirements apply to communications circuits, community antenna television and radio distribution systems, network-powered broadband communications systems, and premises-powered broadband communications systems, unless modified by Articles 805, 820, 830, or 840.

Informational Note No. 1: See 90.2(D)(4) for installations of circuits and equipment that are not covered.

Informational Note No. 2: See Part II of Article 725 for information on the installation of Class 2 and Class 3 circuits and 722.135(E) for the substitution of communications cables for Class 2 and Class 3 cables.

Informational Note No. 3: See Part II of Article 760 for information on the installation of power-limited fire alarm circuits, including the substitution of communications cables for power-limited fire alarm cables.

Section 90.3 specifies that Chapter 8 covers communications systems and is not subject to the requirements of Chapters 1 through 7, other than where Chapter 8 specifies a requirement. Chapter 8 was reorganized for the 2020 edition of the *NEC*®. With the intent of minimizing redundant requirements across Chapter 8, a new Article 800 was created to contain the “general” requirements for communications systems. What was Article 800 in previous editions of the *NEC* is now Article 805, while the rest of Chapter 8 remains the same with respect to numbers and titles.

- **800.2 Reconditioned Equipment.** The requirements of 110.21(A)(2) shall apply.

800.3 Other Articles. Only those sections of Chapters 1 through 7 referenced in Chapter 8 shall apply to Chapter 8. The

definitions from Article 100 apply to Chapter 8. Installations of circuits and equipment shall comply with 800.3(A) through (I).

- N **(A) Output Circuits.** As appropriate for the services provided, the output circuits derived from a network-powered broadband communications system’s network interface unit (NIU) or from a premises-powered broadband communications system’s network terminal shall comply with the requirements of the following:

- (1) Installations of Class 2 and Class 3 circuits — Part II of Article 725 and Parts I and II of Article 722
- (2) Installations of power-limited fire alarm circuits — Part III of Article 760
- (3) Installations of optical fiber cables — Part V of Article 770
- (4) Installations of communications circuits — Part IV of Article 805

Informational Note: The communications circuits covered by Article 805 are commonly referred to as POTS (plain old telephone service) circuits.

- (5) Installations of premises (within buildings) community antenna television and radio distribution circuits — Part V of Article 820

(B) Hazardous (Classified) Locations. Circuits and equipment installed in a location that is classified in accordance with 500.5 and 505.5 shall comply with the applicable requirements of Chapter 5.

(C) Wiring in Ducts for Dust, Loose Stock, or Vapor Removal. The requirements of 300.22(A) shall apply.

(D) Equipment in Other Space Used for Environmental Air. The requirements of 300.22(C)(3) shall apply.

(E) Installation and Use. The requirements of 110.3(B) shall apply.