

General

CHAPTER

1

ARTICLE

100

Definitions

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N Scope. This article contains only those definitions essential to the application of this *Code*. It is not intended to include commonly defined general terms or commonly defined technical terms from related codes and standards. An article number in parentheses following the definition indicates that the definition only applies to that article.

Informational Note: A definition that is followed by a reference in brackets has been extracted from one of the following standards. Only editorial changes were made to the extracted text to make it consistent with this *Code*.

- (1) NFPA 30A-2021, *Code for Motor Fuel Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages*
- (2) NFPA 33-2021, *Standard for Spray Application Using Flammable or Combustible Materials*
- (3) NFPA 75-2020, *Standard for the Fire Protection of Information Technology Equipment*
- (4) NFPA 79-2021, *Electrical Standard for Industrial Machinery*
- (5) NFPA 99-2021, *Health Care Facilities Code*
- (6) NFPA 101®-2022, *Life Safety Code®*
- (7) NFPA 110-2019, *Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems*
- (8) NFPA 303-2021, *Fire Protection Standard for Marinas and Boatyards*
- (9) NFPA 307-2021, *Standard for the Construction and Fire Protection of Marine Terminals, Piers, and Wharves*
- (10) NFPA 499-2021, *Recommended Practice for the Classification of Combustible Dusts and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Process Areas*
- (11) NFPA 501-2022, *Standard on Manufactured Housing*
- (12) NFPA 790-2021, *Standard for Competency of Third-Party Field Evaluation Bodies*
- (13) NFPA 1192-2021, *Standard on Recreational Vehicles*

The *NEC®* defines a number of technical terms in order to provide a common understanding of their use within the *NEC*. All

definitions throughout the *NEC* have been relocated to Article 100, based on revisions within the 2020 *NEC Style Manual*. According to the revised *NEC Style Manual* section 2.2.2, all definitions are required to reside in Article 100, and Article 100 is not permitted to be subdivided. Any definitions that apply in only one article will have the article number in parentheses following the definition. If a specific article does not follow the definition in parentheses, then the definition applies throughout the *NEC*. The Code Making Panel (CMP) responsible for the definition is also listed at the end of the definition.

The *NEC* does not define every term used. General terms are found in nontechnical dictionaries. Some technical terms are used as defined in Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 100, *The Authoritative Dictionary of IEEE Standards Terms*. It is important to note that many terms used in the electrical trades are actually registered trademarks for specific products or lines of products. Trademarked terms are not used in the *NEC* or this handbook.

Accessible (as applied to equipment). Capable of being reached for operation, renewal, and inspection. (CMP-1)

Exhibit 100.1 illustrates equipment considered accessible (as applied to equipment) in accordance with requirements elsewhere in the *NEC*. The requirement for the accessibility of switches and circuit breakers used as switches is shown in (a) and is according to 404.8(A). In (b), the busway installation is according to 368.17(C). The busway switches installation shown in (c), the switch installation adjacent to a motor in (d), and the hookstick-operated isolating switch installation in (e) are according to the exceptions in the list items of 404.8(A).

Accessible (as applied to wiring methods). Capable of being removed or exposed without damaging the building structure or finish or not permanently closed in or blocked by the structure, other electrical equipment, other building systems, or finish of the building. (CMP-1)