

NEWSLETTER

CODE OFFICIALS OF ARKANSAS

THE COAR'S MISSION IS TO BE DEDICATED TO ADVANCING SAFETY, INTEGRITY, AND QUALITY OF CONSTRUCTION IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

WE PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR BUILDING, MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, AND PLUMBING INSPECTORS.

EQUIPPING THEM WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS TO UPHOLD CODES AND STANDARDS THAT ENSURE SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES THROUGHOUT ARKANSAS.



MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Jerry Parsons: As President, Jerry provides overall leadership and direction for the association, representing COAR at events and guiding the organization's priorities each year.

Vice President – Timothy Renshaw: Tim assists in leading board activities, supports the President, and helps coordinate projects that advance education, outreach and professional development for members.

Secretary – Hunter Mikles: Hunter is responsible for meeting minutes, records, and official correspondence, helping keep all members informed of board actions.

Sergeant at Arms – Brett Bottoms: Brett helps maintain order during meetings, supports adherence to procedures, and assists with logistics at association events and gatherings.

Parliamentarian – David Nelson: David advises the board on parliamentary procedure and bylaws, ensuring meetings are conducted fairly and in accordance with the association's rules.

Historian – Greg Trout: Greg preserves the association's history by documenting key events, milestones, and achievements, helping members appreciate how the organization has grown over time.

Coordinator & Educational Director – Michael Archdeacon: Michael coordinates educational programs, workshops, and trainings, working to provide code officials with high-quality learning opportunities across Arkansas.

SPRING CONFERENCE

- May 17th-22nd, 2026
Spring Conference at Mount Magazine

- MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- MECHANICAL LICENSURE
- Electrical Licensure

**URGENT NOTICE FOR ALL MECHANICAL INSPECTORS:
IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED!**

- **What prevents you from having to test to obtain your new inspector license:**
 - **Provide State Mechanical with your license**
 - **Provide the State Mechanical your M1 or M2 Certification from ICC**
 - **Hold a Class A or B License**

Electrical Inspector's CEU's update!

- Spring 2026 & Fall 2026 conference will provide inspectors state qualified training to obtain CEU's for state electrical inspector's license.
- Payment of \$50 shall be made to the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licenses on their current website to register for these conferences.

Arkansas policy adoption by the state for electrical changes: Labor.arkansas.gov/news/proposed-rule-making/

- **NEC and technical standards:**
 - Adopting the 2026 edition of the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70) as the statewide standard, in place of the 2020 edition.
 - Clarifying Arkansas-specific NEC modifications: GFCI not required over 130 volts, certain GFCI exceptions (laundry area, refrigerator, microwave), and detailed rules for island/peninsula receptacle placement.
 - Updating the workmanship reference from ANSI/NECA 1-2006 to ANSI/NECA 1-2023 for "Standard Practices for Good Workmanship."
- **Inspectors and enforcement:**
 - Creating/clarifying a separate license for electrical inspectors, their qualifications, CE obligations, and the ability of state inspectors to work statewide.
 - Allowing licensed inspectors who also hold master/journeyman licenses to be exempt from separate renewal fees and separate CE if they meet inspector CE.
 - Clarifying when inspectors can order finished work to be exposed (sheetrock removal, etc.) based on "serious violations" and requiring contractors to repair resulting damage.
 - Stating that disconnecting devices/equipment is not an acceptable way to "fix" code violations.
- **Discipline and civil penalties:**
 - Modernizing the civil penalty framework: clearer limits (up to 1,000 dollars per violation, with each day a separate violation), and explicit opportunity to correct violations before penalties, especially for unlicensed work.
 - Detailing factors the Board must consider when imposing sanctions (seriousness, harm, deterrence, prior history, mitigation, etc.).
 - Strengthening due-process procedures for hearings: notice, evidence rules, subpoenas, defaults, recording, final orders, and appeal rights.
 - Clarifying processes for suspension, revocation, voluntary surrender, reinstatement, and re-licensure, including time frames, affidavits of compliance, and rehabilitation standards.

New / clarified licensure requirements:

Anyone doing electrical inspections for the state or any political subdivision must hold an electrical **inspector license** issued by the Board of Electrical Examiners (no more informal/unlicensed inspection roles).

"Electrical inspector" is now clearly defined as someone who inspects others' work or verifies licensing/permitting for a public entity, and "political subdivision" is broadly defined to include cities, counties, state agencies, colleges, etc.

New hires as inspectors must apply for an inspector license within 30 days of employment or appointment as an inspector.

Experience / qualification changes

- For inspectors **not** already in the job when the rule first took effect, the application must show:
 - Current employment/appointment as an electrical inspector with the state or a political subdivision,
 - A 50-dollar license fee, and
 - Proof of work experience such as:
 - As a master or journeyman electrician, or electrical engineer; or
 - At least **2 years (reduced from 4)** experience working with electrical installation materials and methods; or
 - An equivalent combination of training and experience approved by the Board.
 - The rule also allows inspectors with at least 2 years of code-related inspection experience and specific national certifications (NFPA, ICC, or similar) as an equivalent pathway, with the Board able to add training requirements.

Certification and CE expectations

- New inspectors must either have, or be able to obtain:
 - 2 years of code-related inspection experience
 - **NFPA or a national recognized certification** electrical inspector certification within 1 year
 - **IRC or IBC** certification from ICC within 18 months.
- Annual continuing education for inspectors is reduced from **16 hours to 8 hours** but still tied to NEC updates and Board-approved training providers.

Renewals and special rules

- Inspector licenses expire each January 1; renewal requires proof of continued inspector employment, 8 hours of CE, payment of the 50-dollar fee, and no outstanding civil penalties.
- Inspectors who also hold master/journeyman licenses do **not** have to pay separate renewal fees for those electrical licenses or take separate CE, if they keep their inspector license and CE current.
- A state-employed electrical inspector may perform inspections anywhere in Arkansas, and inspectors may work for multiple political subdivisions.

ANSI/NECA 1-2023 sets out what “good workmanship” means for installing electrical systems and equipment, focusing on neat, safe, and mechanically sound installation practices that go beyond the bare minimum NEC code requirements.

Purpose and scope

- Defines minimum quality and **workmanship** expectations for electrical construction work (commercial, industrial, institutional, and similar installations).
- Covers the mechanical execution of work for electrical equipment and systems, complementing NEC 110.12’s “neat and workmanlike” requirement with detailed practical guidance.
- Applies to work performed only by qualified people as defined in the NEC, with non-technical tasks done under their supervision.

Key content areas

The standard is organized into clauses such as scope, definitions, general requirements, and specific installation sections (e.g., raceways).

- General installation requirements: alignment, support, clearances, protection from damage, and coordination with other trades.
- Raceways and cable systems: proper routing, secure support, bending practices, terminations, and treatment of exposed or concealed runs to maintain neat appearance and integrity.
- Boxes, enclosures, and equipment mounting use of appropriate types, secure and level installation, suitable supports/fasteners considering load from attached devices.
- Integration with other standards and regulations, including how mandatory versus permissive requirements, recommendations, and informative annexes are structured and used.

Role in safety and quality

- Provides a common benchmark for owners, designers, contractors, and inspectors to judge the quality of electrical construction beyond simple code compliance.
- Aims to reduce electrical hazards, improve reliability, and ensure a professional appearance of installations by specifying best industry practices.
- Is recognized as an American National Standard and often referenced in project specifications to enforce workmanship standards contractually.

Relationship to updates (2023/2023a)

- ANSI/NECA 1-2023 is a revision of earlier editions (such as ANSI/NECA 1-2006 (R2015)), updating the guidance to current construction methods and technology.
- ANSI lists a 2023a revision (ANSI/NECA 1-2023a) indicating further refinements to the 2023 edition, but the fundamental scope defining good workmanship in electrical construction remains the same.

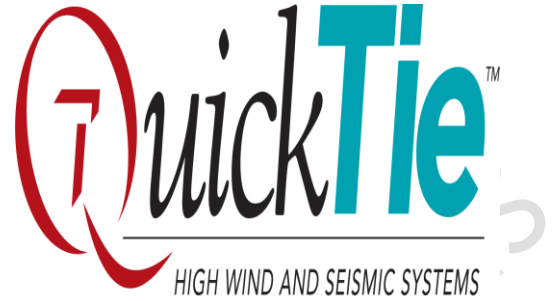
Note: These are a general summary for informational purposes only and is not legal advice. For application to a specific project, local counsel should be consulted.

Sponsorships and Vendors for upcoming Spring Conference





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