

CHAPTER 17 - ELECTRICAL CODE

ARTICLE 1. ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR.

SECTION 101. ESTABLISHMENT. The Electrical Inspector and the Assistant Electrical Inspector shall be appointed by and under the general control of the City Manager. As used in this Ordinance, the term "Electrical Inspector" shall include both the Electrical Inspector and the Code Enforcement Officer.

SECTION 102. POWERS AND DUTIES.

SECTION 102.1. The Electrical Inspector shall have access at all reasonable times to all wires, appliances and apparatus in the interior of public or private buildings, which carry or are intended to carry an electric light or power current, and no person shall install, alter, arrange, fix or change any such wires, appliances or apparatus without giving the Electrical Inspector reasonable notice and opportunity to inspect and approve such wires, appliances or apparatus in accordance with the provisions of Title 32 M.R.S.A. § 1102-B.

SECTION 102.2. When any electrical work or wiring is found to have been installed without a proper permit having been secured, or to be not in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance, the Electrical Inspector is hereby authorized and empowered to remove the fuses, cut the wires, or otherwise render the system inoperative until such permit has been secured, and the work of wiring re-inspected and approved.

SECTION 102.3. Any electrical wires, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances used for electrical purposes, which may at any time become so defective as in the opinion of the Electrical Inspector to be a possible source of fire or accident, or of danger to persons or property, it shall be condemned by the Electrical Inspector, and when, in the Electrical Inspector's opinion, it is necessary in order to prevent such accident or danger, said Electrical Inspector is hereby authorized to disconnect such wires or apparatus, or to cause the same to be disconnected from service and notify in writing the person, firm or corporation responsible for the electrical equipment or its installation who shall make any changes or repairs required to place such wiring or equipment in a reasonable safe condition.

SECTION 102.4. In case any person or persons owning or using any electrical wires, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances which have been condemned by the Electrical Inspector, shall fail to have the same put in safe condition and accepted by the said Inspector within forty-eight (48) hours after the same has been condemned, or within such other reasonable length of time as shall be prescribed by the Electrical Inspector, said Inspector shall remove the fuses, cause wires to be cut, or by other means render the system inoperative, and no person or persons, in any manner, shall reconnect the same or cause the same to be reconnected until the defects have been corrected and the system approved by the Electrical Inspector.

ARTICLE 2. LICENSES FOR ELECTRICIANS.

SECTION 201. LICENSING. In accordance with Title 32 M.R.S.A. Section 1201, no person shall install wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances for carrying or using electricity for light, heat or power purposes, as an electrician, unless such persons shall have a State license.

SECTION 203. CERTIFICATES. Holders of such license shall be furnished with evidence of having been so licensed, in card form or other wise, which shall be carried on the person of the licensee and exhibited on request.

SECTION 204. EXCEPTIONS. Only those persons in accordance with Title 32 M.R.S.A., Section 1102 and 1102-A, shall perform electrical work as stated in Section 201 of this Ordinance without a State License. In accordance with Title 32 M.R.S.A. Section 1105, nothing in this Chapter may prevent a person from making electrical installations in a single-family residence occupied by him or her or to be occupied by him or her as his or her bona fide personal abode, providing that the installation conforms with the standards of the National Electric Code. Any electrical installations made under the authority of this paragraph, in a newly constructed residence, shall require certification by a state or local inspector, master electrician or limited electrician in house wiring prior to the activation of electricity by the utility company.

ARTICLE 3. PERMITS.

SECTION 301. APPLICATION. (#3) No electrical equipment shall be installed within or on any building, structure or premises, publicly or privately owned, nor shall any alternations or addition be made in any such existing equipment without first securing a permit therefore from the Electrical Inspector.

No license or permit shall be issued pursuant to this Chapter under the following circumstances:

- All real estate and personal property taxes, sewer user fees and other charges owed to the City by the applicant have not been paid in full, if any of them are two (2) years or more years overdue.
- All assessments for real estate taxes, sewer user fees and other charges owed to the City against the property on which the licensed or permitted activity is to take place have not been paid in full, if any of them are two (2) years or more years overdue.

SECTION 301.1. A permit must be procured also before commencing work upon the alteration or the addition to, or both, of wires already installed.

SECTION 301.2. All applications for permits as specified above shall be filed with the Code Enforcement Officer, upon forms furnished by the latter and shall contain a detail of the work contemplated and the electrician, licensed in the State of Maine possessing a valid license number, hired to do the work

SECTION 302. PERMIT FOR OUTSIDE CONNECTION. Wires in the interior of buildings, or on private premises shall not be connected with an outside circuit which crosses or runs along or over or under any street or way of the City, without written permission therefore having been first obtained from the Electrical Inspector.

SECTION 303. SCHEDULE OF PERMIT FEES. Applicable fees for this Chapter are found in the City Council's adopted Fee Schedule, as amended from time to time, on file in the City Clerk's Office or on the City of Brewer's website under the City Clerk's Department as Schedule of Fees. (#2)

SECTION 303.1. Any person, firm, corporation or other legal entity who shall commence any work for which a permit is required by this Ordinance without first having applied for a permit therefore shall pay double the permit fee fixed by this Ordinance for such work, provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to emergency work when it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Code Enforcement Officer, or his or her designee, that such work was urgently necessary and that it was not practical to apply for a permit therefore before the commencement of the work. Following the effective date of this subsection, any person, firm, corporation or other legal entity who commence work before applying for a permit shall not be subject to paying double the permit fee for the first time that such failure to apply occurs but instead shall be issued a verbal or written warning by the Code Enforcement Officer, or his or her designee, that subsequent failures to apply for permits will result in the person, firm, corporation or other legal entity being subject to the payment of double the permit fee.

ARTICLE 4. CONFORMING TO REGULATIONS.

SECTION 401. CONFORMITY TO APPROVED CONSTRUCTION METHODS. All work in connection with the installation of wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures and other electrical appliances of any nature whatsoever, must be done in accordance with and conforming to the most approved methods of construction for safety to life and property.

SECTION 402. PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE The regulations as laid down in the National Electrical Code, Regulations of the National Board of Fire Underwriters for electrical wiring and apparatus as recommended by the National Fire Protection Association and approved by the America Standards Association shall be prima facie evidence of such most approved methods.

SECTION 403. TESTS FOR MATERIALS. Any material, appliances or operating devices intended for use in connection with electrical current, which have not been tested and approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories, must be submitted to the Electrical Inspector for examination and approval, before installation.

SECTION 404. OVERCURRENT PROTECTION. Hereinafter, no over-current Protection devices shall be installed in any building unless such devices are circuit breakers, plug fuses and fuse-holders of "Type S", or cartridge-type fuses installed to

meet all requirements of the National Electrical Code. Plug-type fuses, other than "Type S", installed in any existing building shall be replaced at the time any electrical work is done with plug fuses and fuse-holders of "Type S" of the size required for the wire they are to protect.

SECTION 405. BUILDING WITH METAL OR CONDUCTING EXTERIOR.

Hereinafter, no building constructed or covered with metal or any other conducting-type material, shall have any service drop cables or current carrying cables confined other than within conduit. Such cables shall be installed in conduit within thirty (30) days from the date that the building permit was issued to install metal covering or any other conducting-type material on an existing building or structure. New buildings or structures constructed or covered with metal or any other conducting-type material shall have the service cable confined within conduit before the electrical service can be approved.

SECTION 406. ADOPTING NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE. In accordance with Title 30-A, M.R.S.A., Section 3003 and acts amendatory thereto, the 2005 edition of the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70-2005) adopted by the National Fire Protection Association, Inc., and published by the National Fire Protection Association, Inc., of which at least one (1) copy is on file in the office of the Brewer City Clerk and available for public reference, is hereby adopted by reference as the "Electrical Code" for the City of Brewer in every respect, except with the following section deletions and amended sections following:

Chapter 3, Article 334, Section 334.12 Uses Not Permitted. (A) (2)

Chapter 2, Article 210, Section 210.12 (B) Dwelling Unit Bedrooms. *"All 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20- ampere branch circuits supplying outlets installed in dwelling unit bedrooms shall be protected by a listed arc-fault circuit interrupter, combination type installed to provide protection of the branch circuit.*

Branch/feeder AFCIs shall be permitted to be used to meet the requirements of 210.12 (B) until January 1, 2008."

(Added:) Exception: No smoke detector shall be installed on an AFCI branch circuit.

and except where inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance or with any other city ordinance, in which case, such conflict shall be resolved by applying the requirements of the

applicable city ordinance. (#1)

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ARTICLE 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

SECTION 501. INSPECTION No person, firm or corporation having charge of the construction, alteration or repair of any building, and no other person, shall cover or conceal, or cause to be so covered or concealed, any wiring for which a permit has been issued or is required, before the said wiring has been inspected and approved, without having officially notified the Electrical Inspector at least forty-eight (48) hours before such covering or concealment. If such covering or concealment occurs to un-inspected work, the Electrical Inspector may require the removal of such covering for the purpose of inspection.

SECTION 502. LIABILITY. This Ordinance shall not be construed to relieve from or lessen the responsibility or liability of any party owning, operating, controlling, or installing any electric wiring, devices or equipment, for damages to person or property caused by any defect therein, nor shall the City be held as assuming any such liability by reason of the examination authorized herein or license as herein provided.

SECTION 503. APPEAL. When the Electrical Inspector condemns all or part of any electrical installation, the owner may, within five (5) days after receiving written notice from the Electrical Inspector, file a petition in writing for review of said action of the Electrical Inspector with the Municipal Officers, upon receipt of which the said Municipal Officers shall at once proceed to determine whether said electrical installation complies with this Ordinance and within three (3) days shall make a decision in accordance with its findings.

SECTION 504. PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS. Whoever violates any provision of this Ordinance shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than One Hundred (\$100.00) dollars nor more than Two Thousand Five Hundred (\$2,500.00) dollars for each violation, with each day, on which such violation continues constituting a separate violation. The City shall also be entitled to its reasonable attorney fees and costs for successfully prosecuting any violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 505. PROSECUTION. Any violations of this ordinance shall be prosecuted by the Electrical Inspector or the Code Enforcement Officer.

END OF CHAPTER NOTATIONS

1. Enacted 02/13/2007, Effective 02/18/2007 (2006-C016)
2. Enacted 06/03/2014, Effective 06/08/2014 (2014-C004)
3. Enacted 11/17/2014, Effective 11/22/2014 (2014-C021)