

National Standard for Temporary Construction Distribution Boxes



Overview

Standard for Installing and Maintaining Temporary Electric Power Temporary electric power installations at construction sites shall be installed and maintained.

Key Takeaways

Temporary construction distribution boxes must comply with NEC Article 590, NECA 200-2016, and OSHA requirements to ensure safe, reliable, and code-compliant temporary power on construction sites.

NECA 200-2016 provides a comprehensive standard for installing and maintaining temporary electric power at construction sites. It defines minimum quality and workmanship requirements for temporary electrical systems, including distribution boxes, and is intended to be referenced in contract documents. Installations should comply with the edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC) in effect at the time, as well as state and local codes, and follow the Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace for safe work practices. NEC Article 590 specifically addresses temporary electrical installations. It requires that temporary distribution boxes and wiring:

- Be approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to ensure safety.
- Follow permanent installation requirements unless modified for temporary use, including proper grounding and rod-type electrodes.
- Use conductors and equipment rated for the environmental conditions, including exposure to moisture, dust, and rough handling.

- Include GFCI protection for receptacles in damp or wet locations .
- Be removed promptly once the temporary work is completed, typically within 90 days unless an extension is granted .

Installation and Safety Considerations

- Grounding: Temporary distribution boxes must be grounded similarly to permanent services, with supplemental electrodes if required to minimize voltage differences .
- Load Capacity: Conductors and distribution boxes should be sized based on a load survey and include spare capacity for future needs .
- Protection: Disconnecting means should be visible and capable of isolating both motors and controllers. Covers must prevent accidental contact with energized parts .
- Durability: Boxes and cords should withstand harsh conditions, including frequent relocation, foot traffic, and exposure to weather. Hard-service cords (Type SO, SI, or 5) are recommended for extreme conditions .
- Authorized Access: Only trained personnel should remove covers or perform maintenance to prevent electrical hazards .

Compliance and Best Practices

- Always reference the latest NEC codebook and cross-check local amendments .
- Follow OSHA regulations (Title 29, CFR) for temporary wiring safety .
- Maintain documentation of the installation, including site plans, load estimates, and coordination with other trades .
- Use NEIS® guidelines to improve communication among specifiers, purchasers, and suppliers, ensuring consistent quality and safety . By adhering to these standards, temporary construction distribution boxes can provide safe, reliable power while minimizing risks of electrocution, fire, and equipment damage on construction sites.

Article Content

NEC Article 590: Temporary Wiring for Construction Sites

Complete guide to NEC Article 590 temporary power requirements for construction sites. Learn GFCI protection rules, cord and cable

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This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

