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October 27, 2016

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Need a quick overview of the 2017 NESC Major Changes?

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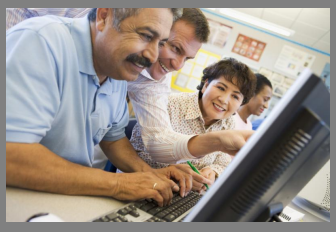

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For the next several newsletters, we will discuss significant changes to the 2017 NESC Code Rules. The topic for this newsletter is…

NESC Rule 215C2a: Grounding or Insulating Anchor Guys

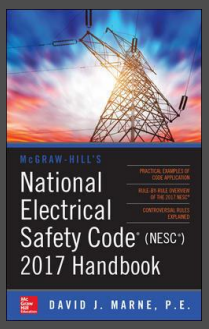
It is hard to rank which of the NESC rule changes are the most significant, but certainly the changes to *Rule 215C2a* are at or near the top of the list due to the frequent application of this rule.

Rule 215C2a permits grounding an anchor guy wire (the basic rule) or insulating the anchor guy wire (via the exception). Either method, grounding or insulating, is acceptable. The grounding method remains essentially unchanged.

It is the insulating method that has seen big changes in the last NESC edition (2012) and now again in the new NESC edition (2017). The biggest change between the two editions is that the 2017 NESC no longer requires a guy insulator link between circuits. (The link was required in *Rule 215C4b* in the 2012 NESC edition.) This led to many electric utilities installing long (10 or 12 foot) insulator links near the top of the pole. It is important to note that continuing this practice is not a code violation in the 2017 NESC, but the requirement to insulate between circuits has been eliminated (see the 2017 NESC, *Rule 215C2a* for complete details).

It's also important to note that, in addition to *Rule 215C2*, NESC Table 232-1 should be referenced when deciding on the proper location of the guy insulator as clearance values for the guy insulator exist in this table.

Fig. 215-5 from ***McGraw-Hill's NESC 2017 Handbook*** is shown below for more information.



McGraw-Hill's NESC 2017 Handbook
by David J. Marne ($99)

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The position of the anchor guy insulator(s) must meet the requirements in the exception in Rule 215C2a:

- Meet the requirements of Rule 279A (material, electrical strength, and mechanical strength).
- Positioned to limit the likelihood of any portion of the anchor guy becoming energized within 8' of the ground if the anchor guy becomes slack or breaks.

In addition, the clearances for guys in **NESC** Table 232-1 including applicable footnotes, must be met.

Portions(s) of a guy or span wire can be insulated and other portion(s) can be effectively grounded.

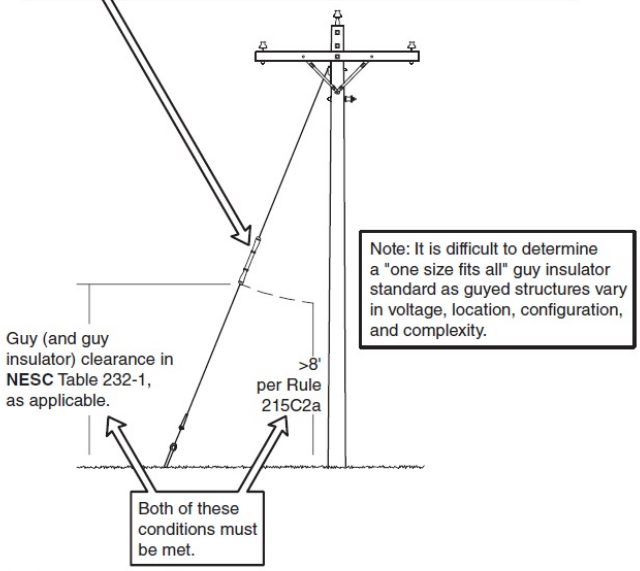

Fig. 215-5. Example of the use of insulators in anchor guys (Rules 215C2a, 232, and 279A).

To learn more about this and other changes, click on the links below.

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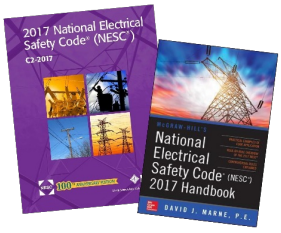

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