



National Electrical Manufacturers Association

The association of electrical equipment  
and medical imaging manufacturers  
[www.nema.org](http://www.nema.org)

June 1, 2020

Thomas Campbell  
Executive Director  
Florida Building Commission  
2601 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**Re: NEMA Opposes Delay of the Effective Date of the Florida Building Code**

Dear Mr. Campbell:

On behalf of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), I am writing to express our concern with the proposal to delay the effective date of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Florida Building Code. NEMA supports keeping the effective date of December 31, 2020. It is of the utmost importance that Florida keep its building codes current—putting the health, safety, and general welfare of the public first and prioritizing the economic well-being of its businesses and industry.

As the association representing over 325 electrical and medical imaging manufacturers that make the equipment used in a variety of sectors—electric transmission and distribution, commercial and residential buildings, water treatment and delivery, transportation, industrial processes, food, healthcare, agriculture, and manufacturing—NEMA supports regulatory action and programs that provide affordable, safe, and reliable electricity to the American public. NEMA member companies have a significant presence in the state of Florida, representing 35 companies with 95 manufacturing and engineering facilities that support the state's economy. Member companies in Florida collectively employ about 8,000 state residents.

NEMA has long supported timely adoption of the National Electrical Code® (NEC)—included in the Florida Building Code—by state and local jurisdictions. We maintain that prompt adoption of the most current edition of the NEC is the best way to ensure a uniform and up-to-date standard of safety for all occupants in the built environment. Current codes mean safer and more economically prosperous communities.

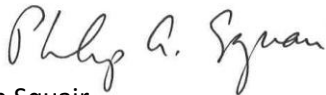
While the COVID-19 pandemic has made a significant impact on all our lives, the commission should not allow this unprecedented event to delay the effective date of the Florida Building Code. In these times when much of the population is staying home and remaining inside, it is even more important that the built environment adheres to the highest standards of electrical safety. The NEC focuses on the proper installation of electrical systems and equipment to protect people and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity in the built environment. At this time, the supply chain of electrical products is intact and there are no shortages of electrical products that comply with the 2017 NEC. This means new building projects in Florida will have the ability to adhere to the latest standards of electrical safety.

Disaster mitigation and management efforts have always been a priority for the State of Florida. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) “[d]isaster resilience starts with

building codes, because they enhance public safety and property protection.”<sup>1</sup> Florida’s efforts to update building codes should not be impeded by the current pandemic. Codes prepare the built environment for future challenges; the negative effects of delaying implementation could be felt in the state for years to come.

Once again, NEMA urges the Florida Building Commission to maintain its tradition of excellence by keeping the effective date of December 31, 2020 for the Florida Building Code. If you have any questions, please contact Bryan Holland at [Bryan.Holland@nema.org](mailto:Bryan.Holland@nema.org) or (972) 358-0543.

Sincerely,



Philip Squair  
Vice President of Government Relations  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)

Cc: Mo Madani, Technical Director, Building Codes & Standards Office

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<sup>1</sup> [FEMA’s 2018-2022 Strategic Plan](#) (2018).