



**Immediate**

**NEMA Contact:**  
**Andrei Moldoveanu**  
[And\\_Moldoveanu@nema.org](mailto:And_Moldoveanu@nema.org)

**States Begin Adopting 2011 *National Electrical Code*<sup>®</sup> and its Revised Tamper-Resistant Outlet Requirements**

**ROSSLYN, Va. Aug. 31, 2011**—Three years ago, the *National Electrical Code*<sup>®</sup> (*NEC*) introduced a significant change in residential construction standards, requiring tamper-resistant receptacles, or outlets, to be installed throughout all new homes. The adoption effort was widely successful, and the 2011 *NEC* has incorporated some minor, but important, revisions.

Based on industry feedback, the new Code names some exemptions. Under the 2011 *NEC*, tamper-resistant outlets are not required in locations higher than 5.5 feet above the floor, or in spaces dedicated for appliances that can't be moved easily—like refrigerators and stoves. Outlets that are part of luminaries or other appliances are also exempt, and the tamper-resistant requirements are limited to non-locking receptacles.

In addition to new residential construction, tamper-resistant outlets are now required in newly built child care facilities and hotel guest rooms. Any replacement outlets in existing guest room and child care facilities must also be tamper resistant.

“The goal of reducing child injuries caused by inserting objects into electrical outlets is becoming a reality, and the 2011 Code is fine-tuning the significant changes implemented under the previous Code,” said Andrei Moldoveanu, technical director at NEMA. “We believe the 2011 *NEC* makes sensible exemptions, and we commend our field representatives and other supporters for advocating Code adoption.”

To date, 10 states have adopted the 2011 Code, either statewide or within certain local jurisdictions, including Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Vermont. The Code review and adoption process is progressing in Arkansas, Idaho, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island and South Carolina.

Through its Real Safety campaign, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) has continuously educated legislative officials, medical experts and the general public on the benefits of tamper-resistant receptacles.

Building and electrical professionals wanting to learn about tamper-resistant receptacles, child safety statistics, and Code details can view an informational video and other resources at NEMA's Real Safety Web site: [www.childoutletsafety.org](http://www.childoutletsafety.org). Additional information can be found at Electrical Safety Foundation International: [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).

The *NEC* is an American National Standard developed by electrical safety experts under strict consensus rules to ensure openness and broad representation by all interests. The state-by-state adoption transforms it into the installation law of the land.

NEMA is the association of electrical equipment manufacturers, founded in 1926 and headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. Its member companies manufacture a diverse set of products including power transmission and distribution equipment, lighting systems, factory automation and control systems, and medical diagnostic imaging systems. Worldwide annual sales of NEMA-scope products exceed \$120 billion.

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