



# NESC and OSHA Newsletter

## November 29, 2016



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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 231B1:

#### Clearance of supporting structures from streets, roads, and highways where there are curbs

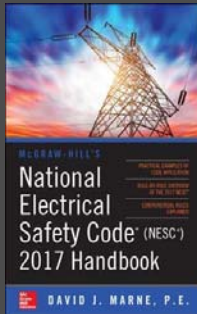
*Clearances of Supporting Structures from Other Objects* is the title of Rule 231. The NESC uses the term supporting structure instead of pole as the supporting structure may be a tower. Rule 231 does not address wires, only the supporting structure and other physical items such as support arms, anchor guys, equipment attached thereto, and braces. The clearance must be measured between the nearest parts of the objects concerned.

A significant change that occurred in Rule 231B1 is the deletion of part of a sentence that stated, "such distance shall be not less than 150 mm (6 in)." Some rules in the NESC are hard number rules. Other rules are not as specific. In the case of Rule 231B1, the hard number has been deleted (6 inches) and the non-specific wording remains (sufficient distance).

To determine the required sufficient distance, Rule 231B1 requires the application of Rule 012C, which requires accepted good practice for the local conditions. Rule 231B1 may also require the application of another authority having jurisdiction such as a city, county, or state roadway or highway department.

Fig. 231-2 from [McGraw-Hill's NESC 2017 Handbook](#) is shown below for more information.

December 12, 2016  
January 9, 2017



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

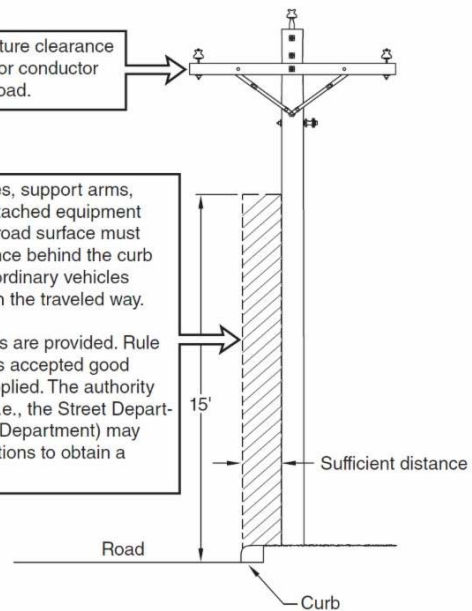
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#### Rule 232

Rule 231 is for structure clearance only. See Rule 232 for conductor clearance above a road.

Supporting structures, support arms, anchor guys, and attached equipment up to 15' above the road surface must be a sufficient distance behind the curb to avoid contact by ordinary vehicles using and located on the traveled way.

No specific distances are provided. Rule 012C, which requires accepted good practice, must be applied. The authority having jurisdiction (i.e., the Street Department or other Road Department) may require specific locations to obtain a permit.



**Fig. 231-2.** Clearance of a supporting structure from a curb (Rule 231B1).

To learn more about this and other changes, [click on the links below.](#)



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2017 IEEE National Electrical  
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