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**CITY OF PORT LAVACA**

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**MEETING:** OCTOBER 13, 2025

**DATE:** 10.08.2025

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** DERRICK SMITH, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** RECOMMEND AMENDING CHAPTER 12, Article II, Sec. 12-21(21)  
TO ALLOW ALUMINUM CONDUCTORS ON THE LOAD SIDE OF THE POWER  
COMPANY

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Due to the increasing costs of copper, contractors are trying to save customers money by using aluminum and copper-clad aluminum for wiring of homes and businesses. Both types are safe to use. They are UL listed and approved by the NEC. Therefore, I have waived the restriction and allowed the installation of both on several occasions.

It is therefore staff's recommendation to omit restricting aluminum only to aerial installations.

**Chapter 12 - BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS**

**ARTICLE II. - BUILDING TRADE CODES**

**Sec. 12-21. - Same—Additions, deletions and changes.**

(21) The National Electrical Code, 2014 Edition is amended as follows:

Section 408.36, Exception 1 is deleted.

Section 250-62(b) is amended to read as follows:

Section 250-62 (b) Where exposed, a grounding electrode conductor or its enclosure shall be securely fastened to the surface on which it is carried. Grounding electrode conductors shall be permitted to be installed on or through framing members. A 4 AWG or larger copper or aluminum grounding electrode conductor shall be protected if exposed to physical damage. A 6 AWG grounding electrode conductor that is free from exposure to physical damage shall be permitted to be run along the surface of the building construction without metal covering or protection if it is securely fastened to the construction without metal covering or protections if it is securely fastened to the construction; otherwise, it shall be protected by rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC) conduit.

Where the grounding electrode conductor is exposed to severe physical damage, it shall be protected by rigid metal conduit (RGC) or intermediate metal conduit (IMC) only where the conduit is bonded to the ground rod by approved connectors in compliance

with 250-64 (e) (1). Electrical metallic tubing (EMT) is not allowed for protection of grounding electrode conductors.

For the purpose of expediting the extinguishing of fires in all buildings, both public and private, the main service disconnect switch shall be placed adjacent to the power company meter on the exterior of all buildings, residential and commercial. The maximum distance between meter service and disconnection means shall be six feet.

No wire smaller than number 12 shall be used, other than motor control wiring. All metal and non-metallic conduits shall have an equipment grounding conductor sized in accordance with 250-122.

~~All conductors on the load side of the power company service drop shall be copper material. No aluminum conductors shall be permitted, with the exception of aerial.~~