

**NFPA 70®-2026 Edition**  
**National Electrical Code®**

**TIA Log No.: 1896**

**Reference: 225.31(B)**

**Comment Closing Date: June 2, 2026**

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[www.nfpa.org/70](http://www.nfpa.org/70)

1. *Revise section 225.31(B) to read as follows:*

**225.31 Disconnecting Means.**

...

**(B) Location.** The disconnecting means shall be installed either inside or outside of the building or structure served or where the conductors pass through the building or structure. ~~If located inside the building, the~~ The disconnecting means shall be at a readily accessible location immediately outside or inside nearest the point of entrance of the conductors. ~~If the disconnecting means is located outside of the building, the disconnecting means shall be located at a readily accessible location on or within sight of the building in accordance with 110.29.~~ For the purpose of this section, the requirements of 230.6 shall apply.

*Exception No. 1: For installations under single management, where documented safe switching procedures are established and maintained, and where the installation is monitored by qualified individuals, the disconnecting means shall be permitted to be located elsewhere on the premises.*

*Exception No. 2: For buildings or other structures qualifying under 685.1, the disconnecting means shall be permitted to be located elsewhere on the premises.*

*Exception No. 3: For towers or poles used as lighting standards, the disconnecting means shall be permitted to be located elsewhere on the premises.*

*Exception No. 4: For poles or similar structures used only for support of signs installed in accordance with 600.1, the disconnecting means shall be permitted to be located elsewhere on the premises.*

**Substantiation:** The language in NEC 225.31(A) appears to conflict with the provisions in 225.31(B). Historically, the Code has required a disconnecting means whenever ungrounded conductors supply or pass through a building or structure, with the disconnect placement immediately outside or inside near the point of entrance. However, the new language in 225.31(B) introduces an allowance for the disconnect to be located outdoors at a readily accessible location within sight, up to 50 feet away. This change effectively permits an outside feeder to extend into a structure without a disconnect at the structure or nearest point of entrance, which deviates from the long-standing requirement. Furthermore, the structure of paragraph (B) provides two distinct options for the inside or outside disconnect placement—only the sentence addressing the “inside” location specifies “nearest point of entrance.” Based on the substantiation reviewed, it appears this was not the technical committee’s intent, and clarification may be necessary to maintain consistency with the original safety objective.

**Emergency Nature:** The standard contains an error or an omission that was overlooked during the regular revision process.

This is an emergency issue because the current language in NEC 225.31(B) introduces ambiguity that could result in installations where the disconnecting means is not located at or near the point

of entrance to a building or structure. Historically, an outdoor disconnect has always been permitted to be located off the structure; however, if that disconnect was not immediately outside, an additional disconnect was required at the building served. The revised language now allows the building disconnect to be located up to 50 feet away, with no requirement for a disconnect at the building—either inside or outside nearest the point of entrance. While 225.31(A) permits an “emergency disconnect” within sight (up to 50 feet away), in my opinion, it should still require an additional disconnect at the building. Removing this requirement negates a longstanding safety provision that ensured rapid access to a disconnect at the point of entrance. This change unintentionally undermines a critical safety principle, creating potential hazards during emergencies. Immediate clarification is necessary to prevent misinterpretation and unsafe installations.

Anyone may submit a comment by the closing date indicated above. Please identify the TIA number, state whether you SUPPORT or OPPOSE the TIA along with your comment, and forward to the Secretary, Standards Council. [SUBMIT A COMMENT](#)