Objective: This white paper is provided as an informational document to assist jurisdictions on this subject. The final approval is made by the authority having jurisdiction.

Four TIAs to the 2014 NEC and the impact for California.

The 2014 National Electrical Code (NEC) is the model code used as the basis for the 2016 California Electrical Code (CEC). The California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) adopts the NEC with specific amendments to address issues unique to the state of California. The National Fire Protection Association issued Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) to the 2014 NEC on August 4, 2016, which was after the 2016 CEC was adopted and published July 1, 2016.

Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) are designed to address critical problems within an NFPA standard that requires prompt action before the next edition of the NFPA standard. A TIA is not an interpretation, but an amendment to the NFPA standard that is deemed necessary by the Technical Committee.

What are the TIAs?

The Sustainable Energy Action Committee (SEAC) identified the need for the uniform use and enforcement of TIAs throughout the state of California to further promote the use of renewable energy in accordance with the state’s energy goals. SEAC worked with the CBSC to provide information on the TIAs that directly impact the installation of solar and energy storage systems. As a result, the CBSC issued Informational Bulletin (IB) 16-02 and also provided references within the California Solar Permitting Guidebook.

The CBSC Information Bulletin 16-02 identifies the following TIAs:

- TIA 14-09, 690.17 Exception (Disconnect Type) – clarified exemption for Disconnect Type applies to all of Section 690.17 and not just list item (E).
- TIA 14-10, 690.12(2) (Rapid Shutdown of PV Systems on Buildings) – extended from 10 second to 30 second shutdown to synchronize with utility ride-through requirements.
- TIA 14-11, 705.12(D)(6) (Wire Harness and Exposed Cable Arc Fault Protection) – removed section 705.12(D)(6), which required AFCI protection, since few if any products can perform this function, and no field data supported this requirement.
- TIA 14-12, 705.12(D)(2)(3)(e) (Point of Connection, connections to center-fed panelboards) – connections to center-fed panelboards with “120% rule” are
permitted if the solar PV system circuit breaker is installed at either end of the busbar, to avoid unnecessary center-fed panel upgrades.

**How to use the TIAs**

The CBSC [Information Bulletin 16-02](#), provides direction to the jurisdictions on how to use the TIAs when enforcing the 2016 California Electrical Code. A reference to this Bulletin was included in the Winter 2017 Third Edition of the [California Solar Permitting Guidebook](#).

Also, as noted in Part 1 of the Guidebook, jurisdictions already have the authority to enforce the changes in the Bulletin and do not have to pass an ordinance:

*Article 90, Section 90.4 Enforcement, of the CEC permits the authority having jurisdiction to waive specific requirements in this code or permit alternative California Solar Permitting Guidebook methods, including provisions of a TIA, where it is assured that equivalent objectives can be achieved by maintaining effective safety.*

**How are TIAs developed?**

TIAs are processed in accordance with Section 5 of the [Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards](#). TIAs have not been published in a First Draft Report and Second Draft Report for review and comment for the NFPA standard being amended. They are effective only between editions of a standard. A TIA automatically becomes a Public Input for the next edition of the standard and is then subject to all of the procedures of the standards development process. The TIAs are processed by the responsible Technical Committee and Technical Correlating Committee. The NFPA Standards Council then reviews the Technical Committee's ballot results, public comments, and any other information that has been submitted. Anyone may submit a comment on a proposed TIA. For more information, go to [http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/standards-development-process/how-the-process-works/tias-errata-and-fis](http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/standards-development-process/how-the-process-works/tias-errata-and-fis)

The four TIAs to the 2014 NEC have already been processed formally through the full formal code development process for the following code cycle and are thus published within the 2017 NEC.

**More information**

For more information, please go to [www.seacgroup.org](http://www.seacgroup.org). A model ordinance is provided from a major jurisdiction for those who want to adopt an ordinance to officially use the TIAs.