# Industrial Control Panels and the NEC Code

The NEC also known as the National Electric Code has seen a new edition to it from its 2005 self. The new addition in the form of article 409 is strictly designed to cater control products in general and control panels in particular. Article 409 is a bit short in terms of installation requirements and instead looks to focus more on product standards. NEC had long been deprived of any proper representation and control literature to govern control panels and the NEC 409 provided exactly that.

## Is it An Unwelcome Addition?

Not many are aware of this fact, but the NEC 409 code failed in proposal stage due to the lack of adequate support from members to pass it. The primary reason that has been sighted in terms of the codes criticism is the fact that the code covers safety standards for products which have already been covered.

The primary concern of most of the people that were unable to support the code has been its lack of guidance in matters of construction and installation of industrial control panels. Industrial control panels have been an important part of many industries over the years and the people who support the code have always been of the opinion that control panels needed to have separate laws.

There have been a variety of issues with the new code. One of this is the fact that while listing is not required for a majority of electrical equipments, the NEC 110.3 (B) as well as 409 warrants the need for listing of control panels. This has been done to make sure the usability of the control panels increase as well as the standard of quality and types needed in the market is enhanced.

## Listing of Industrial Control Panels

The fact that there has been a need for listing of industrial control panels in the new code has been one topic that has seen widespread deliberations. The major reason for the inclusion of such a requirement though, it has been argued is to make sure of the safety of the users and the device itself. This though has been met with considerable opposition. An alternative to this can be steps to assure that the safety standards as mentioned in the NEC Code are met, without the need for centralization in this regard.

The article continues to draw considerable criticism from many quarters and yet the fact that it continues to be used and accepted on a wider scale is a testament of its need. Industrial control panels have been used in a host of industries to control a variety of devices, their functioning, their temperatures, voltage, current, etc. It is its wide ranging use and the lack of any literature to govern it that has been the reason of the code 409 coming into effect.

While code 409 can be criticized for being short of firsthand measures to ensure installation and construction are standardized. It instead focuses on making sure that the user of the industrial control panel is secured.