

NEC Code for AC Disconnect Height

One-page cheat sheet | azadtechhub.com

Maximum handle height	6 ft 7 in (2.0 m) to the center of the handle, highest position, above floor or working platform	404.8(A), 240.24(A)
Minimum handle height	No NEC minimum for an AC disconnect (field practice: about 4 to 5 ft)	-
Location	Within sight (visible, 50 ft max) and readily accessible from the unit	440.14, Art. 100
Where not to mount	Not on panels designed to give access to the equipment; must not hide the nameplate	440.14
Working space	30 in wide, 36 in deep (120/240 V homes), 6.5 ft headroom, kept clear	110.26(A)
Rating	At least 115% of nameplate rated-load current or branch-circuit selection current	440.12
Higher than 6 ft 7 in?	Allowed next to the equipment it supplies if reachable by portable means	404.8(A) Exc. 2
Above the unit required?	No. Beside the unit, within sight, at working height	440.14
Service disconnect	Readily accessible, marked; same 6 ft 7 in handle limit; outdoor emergency disconnect for new dwellings	Art. 230 Part VI

California

2022 CEC (based on 2020 NEC): in force until Dec 31, 2025.

2025 CEC (based on 2023 NEC): effective Jan 1, 2026, with state amendments.

Handle height limit is 6 ft 7 in in both. Local amendments may apply.

Educational summary, paraphrased. Verify against the NEC edition and local amendments your AHJ enforces.

Full guide: azadtechhub.com/nec-code-for-ac-disconnect-height/