

Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution: Electrical Protective Equipment Requirements

This fact sheet discusses electrical protective equipment requirements for work covered by OSHA's revised Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution standards. Where these requirements apply, employers must provide the appropriate protective equipment at no cost to workers, train workers on its proper use, and ensure that their workers use it.

Key requirements include:

- The use of rubber insulating equipment requires the following (*specific requirements found in §1910.137 and §1926.97*).
 - Outer protector gloves must generally be worn over Class 00 to 4 insulating gloves. (*Insulating gloves may be used without outer protector gloves, but only under limited use conditions*).
 - Electrical protective equipment must be periodically tested in accord with the test tables found in the standard(s).
 - Insulating equipment must be inspected for damage before each day's use. Equipment found defective must be taken out-of-service until repaired and retested.
 - The employer must certify that this equipment has been tested. The certification must identify the equipment which passed the test, and the date tested. The only two acceptable ways of meeting this certification requirement are marking the information directly on the equipment, or entering the information in logs.
 - The employer must provide paid time for workers to conduct required testing and inspection of equipment.
- The use of arc-rated protective clothing requires the following (*specific requirements are in §1910.269(l) and §1926.960(g)*):
 - The employer must assess the workplace to identify which workers could be exposed to flames or electric arc hazards, and then make estimates (based on acceptable methods) of the incident heat energy to which the worker could be exposed.
 - When the estimated incident heat energy exceeds 2.0 cal/cm² the employer must ensure that exposed workers wear appropriate arc-rated protective clothing and other protective equipment.
 - The arc-rated protective clothing and other protective equipment generally must cover the worker's entire body, except for hands, feet, head and face, which may be protected by other PPE.
- Appendix E in both §1910.269 and §1926 Subpart V, provides guidance on estimating available heat energy, and contains additional information on the selection of appropriate protection.

For additional information, see www.osha.gov/dsg/power_generation.

Workers' Rights

Workers have the right to:

- Working conditions that do not pose a risk of serious harm.
- Receive information and training (in a language and vocabulary the worker

understands) about workplace hazards, methods to prevent them, and the OSHA standards that apply to their workplace.

- Review records of work-related injuries and illnesses.
- File a complaint asking OSHA to inspect their workplace if they believe there is a serious hazard or that their employer is not following OSHA's rules. OSHA will keep all identities confidential.
- Exercise their rights under the law without retaliation, including reporting an injury or raising health and safety concerns with their

employer or OSHA. If a worker has been retaliated against for using their rights, they must file a complaint with OSHA as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days.

For more information, see [OSHA's Workers page](#).

How to Contact OSHA

For questions or to get information or advice, to report an emergency, fatality, inpatient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye, or to file a confidential complaint, contact your nearest OSHA office, visit www.osha.gov or call OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), TTY 1-877-889-5627.

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: (877) 889-5627.

For assistance, contact us. We can help. It's confidential.



www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)



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