



Electrical safety position/guidance paper 2018-01

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This guidance represents the consensus understanding of the Electrical Safety Task Group of the EFCOG Worker Safety and Health Subgroup.

REFERENCE

NFPA 70E 2018 Chapter 1 section 130.1(B)(1),(3)

BACKGROUND

NFPA 70E – 2018 section 130.1(B)(1) states: “When work is performed as permitted in accordance with 130.2(A), an energized electrical work permit (EEWP) shall be required and documented under any of the following conditions:

1. When work is performed within the Restricted Approach Boundary.
2. When the employee interacts with the equipment when conductors or circuit parts are not exposed but an increased likelihood of an injury from an exposure to an arc flash hazard exists.

QUESTION

Is an EEWP required for insertion or removal (racking) of circuit breakers from cubicles, doors open or closed?

ANSWER

If the equipment is being operated (e.g., racked in or out to establish an electrically safe work condition, etc.) and otherwise meets criteria (1,2,3,5,6)* for a “normal operating condition” as identified in 130.2(A)(4), an EEWP is not required. It is recognized, that opening the panel increases the risk of injury and safe work practices and personal protective equipment (PPE) for the hazards associated with the task are required. When the aforementioned controls are implemented there is a low likelihood of injury due to exposure to an arc flash hazard.

Conversely, if the equipment does not meet normal operating conditions (e.g., installation problem or inadequate maintenance, etc.) and could affect the arc flash risk analysis increasing the likelihood of injury from a potential arc flash hazard then an EEWP is required.

* *The equipment door in some cases may need to be opened to access a circuit breaker for insertion or removal.*



QUESTION

Does opening equipment doors or covers to expose energized conductors or circuit parts require an energized electrical work permit (EEWP)?

ANSWER

No, the task of opening/closing a door or cover by itself does not require an EEWP. Tasks performed within the enclosure or while the enclosure is open may or may not require the use of an EEWP. (See NFPA 70E – 2018 informative annex J for examples that require an EEWP.)