



**ENERGY FACILITY CONTRACTORS GROUP (EFCOG)
WORKER SAFETY AND HEALTH GROUP
ELECTRICAL SAFETY TASK GROUP**

ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSITION/GUIDANCE PAPER 2016-01

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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, Article 120.1 (3) (2004, 2009, 2012, 2015)

QUESTION

Article 120.1 (3) for verification of an electrically safe work condition requires all blades of the disconnecting device be visually verified open, wherever possible. Can you clarify the meaning of “wherever possible”?

ANSWER

“Wherever possible” is interpreted to mean when disconnecting blades can be visually verified in the normal lockout process without creating additional risk to a worker.

Visual inspection of the blades for disconnecting devices would be performed for any of the following:

1. When all blades of the device are clearly visible through a viewing window
2. When all blades of the device are clearly visible through open air (i.e., pole mounted overhead line switch)
3. When all blades of the device are clearly visible when a door is opened or cover removed to perform other required lockout steps (i.e. performing an absence of voltage test in a disconnecting device)