

WHAT STANDARDS ARE USED FOR ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION?

OSHA®'s Final Rule on Electrical Protective Equipment (OSHA® 1910.269) prohibits clothing that when exposed to flames or arcs, could increase the extent of wearer injury. Employers must determine appropriate clothing based on an evaluation of potential hazards in the work environment. Clothing made from flame-resistant materials is acceptable under the Rule; ie., clothing that meets the requirements of ASTM F1506. Untreated cotton or wool fabrics weighing at least 11.0 oz. are also acceptable under limited conditions identified by OSHA®.

The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC®) is published by the IEEE. It sets the ground rules for practical safeguarding of persons during the installation, operation, or maintenance of electric supply and communication lines and associated equipment.

The NESC® requires that the employer determine potential exposure to an electric arc for employees who work on or near energized parts or equipment. If the exposure is greater than 2 cal/cm², employees are required to wear clothing with an arc rating not less than the anticipated level of arc energy as determined by tables in the standard or by choosing clothing with a minimum effective arc rating of 4 cal/cm². Certain meltable fabrics are not allowed.



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