

Workplace electrical safety



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Contents

Technical Committee on Workplace Electrical Safety vi

Preface x

1 Scope 1

- 1.1 Subjects and workplaces included 1
- 1.2 Workplaces excluded 1
- 1.3 Purpose 1
- 1.4 Use with related Standards and regulations 1
- 1.5 Organization of this Standard 1
- 1.6 Terminology 2
- 1.7 Measurements 2

2 Reference publications 2

3 Definitions 8

4 Safety-related work practices 18

- 4.1 General requirements for electrical-safety-related work practices 18
 - 4.1.1 General 18
 - 4.1.2 Purpose 18
 - 4.1.3 Responsibility 18
 - 4.1.4 Organization 18
 - 4.1.5 Multi-employer and multi-contractor relationships 18
 - 4.1.6 Training 19
 - 4.1.7 Electrical safety program 20
 - 4.1.8 Working while exposed to electrical hazards 22
 - 4.1.9 Use of equipment 23
- 4.2 Establishing an electrically safe work condition 24
 - 4.2.1 Process of achieving an electrically safe work condition 24
 - 4.2.2 De-energized electrical conductor or circuit parts that have lockout devices applied 25
 - 4.2.3 Temporary protective grounding equipment 31
- 4.3 Work involving electrical hazards 31
 - 4.3.1 Justification for work 31
 - 4.3.2 Approach boundaries to energized electrical conductors and circuit parts 32
 - 4.3.3 Arc flash hazard analysis 35
 - 4.3.4 Test instrument and equipment use 36
 - 4.3.5 Work within the limited approach boundary of uninsulated overhead lines 36
 - 4.3.6 Other precautions for personnel activities 37
 - 4.3.7 Personal and other protective equipment 39

5 Safety related maintenance requirements 55

- 5.1 General 55
- 5.2 General maintenance requirements 55
 - 5.2.1 Qualified persons 55
 - 5.2.2 Single-line diagram 55
 - 5.2.3 Overcurrent protective devices 55
 - 5.2.4 Spaces about electrical equipment 55
 - 5.2.5 Grounding and bonding 55
 - 5.2.6 Guarding of energized electrical conductors and circuit parts 55
 - 5.2.7 Safety equipment 55

- 5.2.8 Clear spaces 55
- 5.2.9 Identification of components 55
- 5.2.10 Warning signs 56
- 5.2.11 Identification of circuits 56
- 5.2.12 Electrical cables and single and multiple conductors 56
- 5.2.13 Flexible cords and cables 56
- 5.3 Substations, switchgear assemblies, switchboards, panelboards, motor control centres, and disconnect switches 56
 - 5.3.1 Enclosures — General 56
 - 5.3.2 Area enclosures 56
 - 5.3.3 Conductors 56
 - 5.3.4 Insulation integrity 56
 - 5.3.5 Protective devices 56
- 5.4 Premises wiring 56
 - 5.4.1 Covers for wiring system components 56
 - 5.4.2 Open wiring protection 56
 - 5.4.3 Raceways and cable trays 57
- 5.5 Controller equipment 57
- 5.6 Fuses and circuit breakers 57
 - 5.6.1 Fuses 57
 - 5.6.2 Circuit breakers 57
 - 5.6.3 Circuit breaker testing 57
- 5.7 Rotating equipment 57
 - 5.7.1 Terminal chambers, enclosures, and boxes 57
 - 5.7.2 Guards, barriers, and access plates 57
- 5.8 Hazardous locations 57
- 5.9 Batteries and battery rooms 58
 - 5.9.1 Ventilation 58
 - 5.9.2 Eye and body wash apparatus 58
 - 5.9.3 Cell flame arresters and cell ventilation 58
- 5.10 Portable electric tools and equipment 58
- 5.11 Personal safety and protective equipment 58
 - 5.11.1 General 58
 - 5.11.2 Inspection and testing of protective equipment and protective tools 59
 - 5.11.3 Safety grounding equipment 59

6 Safety requirements for special equipment 59

- 6.1 General 59
 - 6.1.1 Organization of Clause 6 59
 - 6.1.2 Responsibility 59
- 6.2 Safety-related work practices for electrolytic cells 59
 - 6.2.1 General 59
 - 6.2.2 Safety training 60
 - 6.2.3 Worker training 60
 - 6.2.4 Safeguarding of workers in the cell line working zone 60
 - 6.2.5 Portable tools and equipment 63
 - 6.2.6 Maintenance of electrolytic cells 64
- 6.3 Safety requirements related to batteries and battery rooms 64
 - 6.3.1 General 64
 - 6.3.2 Battery rooms 65
 - 6.3.3 Personal protective equipment 65
 - 6.3.4 Tools and equipment 65
- 6.4 Safety-related work practices for use of lasers 65
 - 6.4.1 General 65

- 6.4.2 Safety training 65
- 6.4.3 Safeguarding of workers in the laser-operating area 66
- 6.4.4 Worker responsibility 66
- 6.5 Safety-related work practices for power electronic equipment 66
 - 6.5.1 General 66
 - 6.5.2 Reference Standards 67
 - 6.5.3 Hazardous effects of electricity on the human body 67
 - 6.5.4 Hazards associated with power electronic equipment 68
 - 6.5.5 Specific measures for personnel safety 68
- 6.6 Safety-related work requirements for research and development laboratories 69
 - 6.6.1 General 69
 - 6.6.2 Applicability of this Standard 69
 - 6.6.3 Competent person 69
 - 6.6.4 Specific measures and controls for personnel safety 69
 - 6.6.5 Approval 69

Annexes

- A** (informative) — Aligning implementation of this Standard with occupational health and safety management Standards 70
- B** (informative) — Safety-related electrical maintenance 73
- C** (informative) — Limits of approach 76
- D** (informative) — Incident energy and arc flash protection boundary calculation methods 80
- E** (informative) — Electrical safety program 97
- F** (informative) — Hazard/risk evaluation procedure 99
- G** (informative) — Sample lockout policy and program and sample general lockout procedure (individual lockout) 104
- H** (informative) — Simplified two-category flame-resistant (FR) clothing system 112
- I** (informative) — Sample job briefing and planning checklist 113
- J** (informative) — Sample energized electrical work permit 114
- K** (informative) — General categories of electrical hazards 116
- L** (informative) — Typical application of safeguards in the cell line working zone 117
- M** (informative) — Layering of protective clothing and total system arc rating 118
- N** (informative) — Example of industrial procedures and policies for working within the limited approach boundary of overhead or buried electrical power lines and equipment 119
- O** (informative) — Safety-related design 121
- P** (informative) — Arc rating, arc thermal performance value, and breakopen threshold energy 124
- Q** (informative) — Arc flash and shock warning labels 125
- R** (informative) — Bibliography 128

Tables

- 1** — Approach boundaries to energized electrical conductors or circuit parts for shock protection (distance from energized electrical conductors or circuit part to worker) 34
- 2** — Rubber insulating equipment test intervals 41
- 3** — Standards for personal protective equipment 42
- 4** — Hazard/risk category classifications and use of rubber insulating gloves and insulated and insulating hand tools 43
- 5** — Protective clothing and personal protective equipment 48
- 6** — Protective clothing characteristics 50
- 7** — Standards related to the protective equipment specified in Clause 4.3.7.4 53

Figures

- 1** — Organization of this Standard 2

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Preface

This is the first edition of CSA Z462, *Workplace electrical safety*.

This Standard is based on NFPA 70E, *Standard for Electrical Safety for the Workplace*, and has been harmonized with Parts I, II, and III of the *Canadian Electrical Code*; CAN/CSA-Z460, *Control of hazardous energy — Lockout and other methods*; and CAN/CSA-M421, *Use of electricity in mines*. This revised edition of NFPA 70E has been developed by the Canadian Standards Association from the original edition as promulgated by the National Fire Protection Association. In addition to its initial source, it includes significant revisions by CSA. This revised edition is fully the responsibility of CSA. The NFPA, holder of the copyright in this edition, takes no responsibility for any portion thereof.

This Standard specifies requirements for and provides guidance on safety management systems, safe work procedures, and selection of personal protective equipment and other safety devices for persons exposed to hazards associated with energized electrical equipment. In addition, this Standard sets out criteria for the identification and training of qualified electrical workers and for determination of hazardous work to be performed only by those qualified individuals.

By permission of the National Fire Protection Association, many of the clauses, tables, and figures in this Standard have been copied from NFPA 70E. CSA wishes to thank NFPA for its support throughout the development of this Standard.

CSA acknowledges that the development of this Standard was made possible, in part, by the financial support of the Canadian Electricity Association, the Electrical & Utilities Safety Association of Ontario, EnCana Corporation, Husky Oil Operations Ltd., Lenco Training & Technical Services, Magna IV Engineering Ltd., Ontario Power Generation, Schneider Canada Inc., and Syntech Enerflex.

This Standard was prepared by the Technical Committee on Workplace Electrical Safety, under the jurisdiction of the Strategic Steering Committee on Occupational Health and Safety, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee. It will be submitted to the Standards Council of Canada for approval as a National Standard of Canada.

December 2008

Notes:

- (1) Use of the singular does not exclude the plural (and vice versa) when the sense allows.
- (2) Although the intended primary application of this Standard is stated in its Scope, it is important to note that it remains the responsibility of the users of the Standard to judge its suitability for their particular purpose.
- (3) This publication was developed by consensus, which is defined by CSA Policy governing standardization — Code of good practice for standardization as “substantial agreement. Consensus implies much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity”. It is consistent with this definition that a member may be included in the Technical Committee list and yet not be in full agreement with all clauses of this publication.
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Workplace electrical safety

1 Scope

1.1 Subjects and workplaces included

This Standard specifies electrical safety requirements for workplaces that are necessary for the practical safeguarding of workers during activities such as the installation, operation, maintenance, and demolition of electric conductors, electric equipment, signalling and communications conductors and equipment, and raceways for the following:

- (a) public and private premises, including buildings, structures, mobile homes, recreational vehicles, and floating buildings;
- (b) yards, lots, parking lots, carnivals, and industrial substations;
- (c) installations of conductors and equipment that connect to the supply of electricity; and
- (d) installations used by the electric utility, e.g., office buildings, warehouses, garages, machine shops, and recreational buildings, that are not an integral part of a generating plant, substation, or control centre.

1.2 Workplaces excluded

This Standard does not cover the following:

- (a) installations in ships, watercraft other than floating buildings, railway rolling stock, aircraft, and automotive vehicles other than mobile homes and recreational vehicles;
- (b) installations of railways for the generation, transformation, transmission, or distribution of power used exclusively for operation of rolling stock or installations used exclusively for signalling and communications;
- (c) installations of communications equipment under the exclusive control of communications utilities located outdoors or in building spaces used exclusively for such installations; and
- (d) installations under the exclusive control of an electric utility when such installations
 - (i) consist of service drops or service laterals, and associated metering;
 - (ii) are located in legally established easements or rights-of-way designated or recognized by public service commissions, utility commissions, or other regulatory agencies having jurisdiction for such installations; or
 - (iii) are on property owned or leased by the electric utility for communications or for metering, generation, control, transformation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this Standard is to specify requirements for a practical safe working area for workers relative to the hazards arising from the use of electricity.

1.4 Use with related Standards and regulations

This Standard is intended for use with Parts I, II, and III of the *Canadian Electrical Code* and other related Canadian workplace electrical safety Standards (e.g., CAN/CSA-M421 and CAN/CSA-Z460), and should be used with such Standards. In addition, users of this Standard should always refer to provincial/territorial and federal safety regulations that have jurisdiction over their work facility, contract job site, or profession.

1.5 Organization of this Standard

The requirements of this Standard are divided into three main clauses, as shown in [Figure 1](#).

Notes:

- (1) *Clause 4 specifies general requirements for safety-related work practices.*