

TOOL TYPE	<b>MODEL FORM</b>	LAST REVIEWED	<b>04/2/13</b>
GEOGRAPHY	<b>US</b>	SOURCE: NC	
		OSHA	

## **SAFE WORK PRACTICES FOR WORKING ON OR NEAR ENERGIZED EQUIPMENT**

**PROBLEM:** OSHA standards require employers to develop safe work practices to protect workers who work on or near electrically energized equipment.

**HOW TOOL HELPS SOLVE THE PROBLEM:** Here's a set of generic Safe Work Practices for work on or near energized equipment that meet OSHA standards that you can adapt for your own workplace.

## **SAFE WORK PRACTICES FOR WORKING ON OR NEAR ENERGIZED EQUIPMENT**

These safe work practices apply to work performed on exposed live parts (involving either direct contact or contact by means of tools or materials) or near enough to them for employees to be exposed to any hazard they present.

Only qualified persons may work on electric circuit parts or equipment that have not been de-energized under the procedures of these standards. Such persons shall be capable of working safely on energized circuits and shall be familiar with the proper use of special precautionary techniques, personal protective equipment, insulating and shielding materials, and insulated tools.

### **1. Illumination**

Employees may not enter spaces containing exposed energized parts, unless illumination is provided that enables the employees to perform the work safely.

Where lack of illumination or an obstruction precludes observation of the work to be performed, employees may not perform tasks near exposed energized parts. Employees may not reach blindly into areas which may contain energized parts.

## **2. Conductive Materials and Equipment**

Conductive materials and equipment that are in contact with any *part of an* employee's body must be handled in a manner that will prevent them from contacting exposed energized conductors or circuit parts. If an employee must handle long dimensional conductive objects (such as ducts or pipes) in areas with live parts, the hazard must be minimized by the use of insulation, guarding, or material handling techniques.

***NOTE: Non-conductive fish tapes must be used when pulling wire through conduit that contains energized conductors or when entering an enclosure with exposed live parts.***

## **3. Portable Ladders**

Portable ladders must be of the non-conductive type (wood or fiberglass) if they are used where the employee or the ladder could contact exposed energized parts.

## **4. Conductive Apparel**

Conductive articles of jewelry and clothing (such as bands, bracelets, rings, key chains, necklaces, metalized aprons, cloth with conductive thread, or metal headgear) may not be worn if they might contact exposed energized parts, unless they are rendered non-conductive by covering, wrapping, or other insulating means.

## **5. Housekeeping Duties**

Where live parts present an electrical contact hazard, employees may not perform housekeeping duties at such close distances to the parts that there is a possibility of contact, unless adequate safeguards (such as insulating equipment or barriers) are provided.

Electrically conductive cleaning materials may not be used in proximity to energized parts unless procedures are followed which will prevent electrical contact.

## **6. Interlocks**

Only a qualified person following the requirements of this section may defeat an electrical safety interlock, and then only temporarily while he or she is working on the equipment. The interlock system shall be returned to its operable condition when this work is completed.

## **7. Confined or Enclosed Work Spaces**

When an employee works in a confined or enclosed space (such as a manhole or vault) that contains exposed energized parts, the employer shall provide, and the employee shall use, protective shields, protective barriers, or insulating materials as necessary to avoid inadvertent contact with these parts. Doors, hinged panels, and the like shall be secured to prevent their swinging into an employee and causing the employee to contact exposed energized parts.

## **8. Overhead Lines**

Employees shall not work on, or near (within 12 feet) overhead lines. This 12 foot barrier includes any conductive object in that space. OSHA provides specific instructions regarding work on overhead lines. Refer to Subpart S - Electrical 1910.333(c) (3) for more detail.