

Are You Arc Flash Compliant?



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Table 130.7(C)(15)(A)(b) Arc-Flash Hazard PPE Categories for Alternating Current (ac) Systems

Equipment	Arc Flash PPE Category	Arc-Flash Boundary
Panelboards or other equipment rated 240 V and below Parameters: Maximum of 25 kA short-circuit current available; maximum of 0.03 sec (2 cycles) fault clearing time; working distance 455 mm (18 in.)	1	485 mm (19 in.)
Panelboards or other equipment rated 240 V and up to 600 V Parameters: Maximum of 25 kA short-circuit current available; maximum of 0.03 sec (2 cycles) fault clearing time; working distance 455 mm (18 in.)	2	900 mm (3 ft)
600-V class motor control centers (MCCs) Parameters: Maximum of 65 kA short-circuit current available; maximum of 0.03 sec (2 cycles) fault clearing time; working distance 455 mm (18 in.)	2	1.5 m (5 ft)
600-V class motor control centers (MCCs) Parameters: Maximum of 42 kA short-circuit current available; maximum of 0.33 sec (20 cycles) fault clearing time; working distance 455 mm (18 in.)	4	4.3 m (14 ft)
600-V class switchgear (with power circuit breakers or fused switches) and 600 V class switchboards Parameters: Maximum of 35 kA short-circuit current available; maximum of 0.5 sec (30 cycles) fault clearing time; working distance 455 mm (18 in.)	4	6 m (20 ft)
Other 600-V class (277 V through 600 V, nominal) equipment Parameters: Maximum of 65 kA short-circuit current available; maximum of 0.03 sec (2 cycles) fault clearing time; working distance 455 mm (18 in.)	2	1.5 m (5 ft)
NEMA E2 (fused contactor) motor starters, 2.3 kV through 7.2 kV Parameters: Maximum of 35 kA short-circuit current available; maximum of 0.24 sec (15 cycles) fault clearing time; working distance 910 mm (36 in.)	4	12 m (40 ft)
Metal-clad switchgear, 1 kV through 15 kV Parameters: Maximum of 35 kA short-circuit current available; maximum of 0.24 sec (15 cycles) fault clearing time; working distance 910 mm (36 in.)	4	12 m (40 ft)
Arc-resistant switchgear Type 1 or 2 [for clearing times of 0.5 sec (30 cycles) with a perspective fault current not to exceed the arc-resistant rating of the equipment], and metal-enclosed interrupter switchgear, fused or unfused of arc-resistant-type construction, tested in accordance with IEEE C37.20.7, 1 kV through 15 kV Parameters: Maximum of 35 kA short-circuit current available; maximum of 0.24 sec (15 cycles) fault clearing time; working distance 910 mm (36 in.)	N/A (doors closed)	N/A (doors closed)
Other equipment 1 kV through 15 kV Parameters: Maximum of 35 kA short-circuit current available; maximum of 0.24 sec (15 cycles) fault clearing time; working distance 910 mm (36 in.)	4	12 m (40 ft)

Note: For equipment rated 600 volts and below, and protected by upstream current-limiting fuses or current-limiting circuit breakers sized at 200 amperes or less, the arc flash PPE category can be reduced by one number but not below arc flash PPE category 1.

Table 130.7(C)(15)(A)(b) illustrates the arc flash hazard PPE categories.

Table 130.7(C)(15)(B) Arc-Flash Hazard PPE Categories for Direct Current (dc) Systems

Equipment	Arc Flash PPE Category	Arc-Flash Boundary
Storage batteries, dc switchboards, and other dc supply sources 100 V > Voltage < 250 V Parameters: Voltage: 250 V Maximum arc duration and working distance: 2 sec @ 455 mm (18 in.)		
Short-circuit current < 4 kA	1	900 mm (3 ft)
4 kA ≤ short-circuit current < 7 kA	2	1.2m (4 ft)
7 kA ≤ short-circuit current < 15 kA	3	1.8 m (6 ft)
Storage batteries, dc switchboards, and other dc supply sources 250 V ≤ Voltage ≤ 600 V Parameters: Voltage: 600 V Maximum arc duration and working distance: 2 sec @ 455 mm (18 in.)		
Short-circuit current 1.5 kA	1	900 mm (3 ft)
1.5 kA ≤ short-circuit current < 3 kA	2	1.2 m (4 ft)
3 kA ≤ short-circuit current < 7 kA	3	1.8 m (6 ft)
7 kA ≤ short-circuit current < 10 kA	4	2.5 m (8 ft)
Note: Apparel that can be expected to be exposed to electrolyte must meet both of the following conditions: (1) Be evaluated for electrolyte protection in accordance with ASTM F1296, Standard Guide for Evaluating Chemical Protective Clothing (2) Be arc-rated in accordance with ASTM F1891, Standard Specification for Arc Rated and Flame Resistant Rainwear, or equivalent		

Table 130.7(C)(16) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE Category	PPE
1	Arc-Rated Clothing, Minimum Arc Rating of 4 cal/cm ² (see Note 1) Arc-rated long-sleeve shirt and pants of arc-rated coverall Arc-rated face shield (see Note 2) or arc flash suit hood Arc-rated jacket, parka, rainwear, or hard hat liner (AN) Protective Equipment Hard hat Safety glasses or safety goggles (SR) Hearing protection (ear canal inserts) Heavy duty leather gloves (see Note 3) Leather footwear (AN)
2	Arc-Rated Clothing, Minimum Arc Rating of 8 cal/cm ² (see Note 1) Arc-rated long-sleeve shirt and pants of arc-rated coverall Arc-rated flash suit hood or arc-rated face shield (see Note 2) and arc-rated balaclava Arc-rated jacket, parka, rainwear, or hard hat liner (AN) Protective Equipment Hard hat Safety glasses or safety goggles (SR) Hearing protection (ear canal inserts) Heavy duty leather gloves (see Note 3) Leather footwear (AN)
3	Arc-Rated Clothing, Minimum Arc Rating of 25 cal/cm ² (see Note 1) Arc-rated long-sleeve shirt (AR) Arc-rated pants (AR) Arc-rated coverall (AR) Arc-rated arc flash suit jacket (AR) Arc-rated arc flash suit pants (AR) Arc-rated arc flash suit hood Arc-rated gloves (see Note 1) Arc-rated jacket, parka, rainwear, or hard hat liner (AN) Protective Equipment Hard hat Safety glasses or safety goggles (SR) Hearing protection (ear canal inserts) Leather footwear
4	Arc-Rated Clothing Selected so That the System Arc Rating Meets the Required Minimum Arc Rating of 40 cal/cm ² (see Note 1) Arc-rated long-sleeve shirt (AR) Arc-rated pants (AR) Arc-rated coverall (AR) Arc-rated arc flash suit jacket (AR) Arc-rated arc flash suit pants (AR) Arc-rated arc flash suit hood Arc-rated gloves (see Note 1) Arc-rated jacket, parka, rainwear, or hard hat liner (AN) Protective Equipment Hard hat Safety glasses or safety goggles (SR) Hearing protection (ear canal inserts) Leather footwear

Notes:

(1) Arc rating is defined in Article 100.

(2) Face shields are to have wrap-around guarding to protect not only the face but also the forehead, ears, and neck, or, alternatively, an arc-rated arc flash suit hood is required to be worn.

(3) If rubber insulating gloves with leather protectors are used, additional leather or arc-rated gloves are not required. The combination of rubber insulating gloves with leather protectors satisfies the arc flash protection requirement.