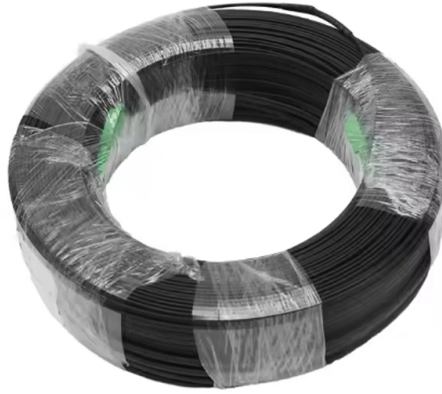


Is it okay for a workstation to be next to the electrical distribution box



Overview

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 2340.16. Work Space. Sufficient access and working space shall be provided and maintained about all elec.

Key Takeaways

It is generally not safe or code-compliant to place a workstation directly next to an electrical distribution box due to required working clearances and safety hazards. NEC Working Space Requirements

The National Electrical Code (NEC) mandates that adequate working space must be maintained around all electrical equipment to allow safe operation, maintenance, and emergency access . NEC 110.26 specifies that the depth, width, and height of the working space depend on the voltage-to-ground and the presence of live or grounded parts. For example, a panel with exposed live parts may require 3 to 4 feet of clear space in front for safe access, and this space must be free of obstructions such as desks, chairs, or storage .

Safety Considerations

Placing a workstation next to a distribution box can create several hazards:

- Electrical shock or arc flash risk: Employees seated near energized equipment are at higher risk if a fault occurs .
- Obstructed access: Maintenance personnel need unobstructed access to panels for inspection, servicing, or emergency shutdowns .

- Violation of code: Encroaching on the required working space can be a code violation, potentially leading to fines or insurance issues .

Recommended Practices

- Maintain minimum clearances as specified in NEC 110.26, which typically include a width of at least 30 inches or the width of the equipment, whichever is greater, and a height of 6.5 to 7 feet .
 - Ensure the area in front of the panel is free from desks, storage, or other obstacles.
 - If a workstation must be nearby, consider relocating the desk or installing a physical barrier to prevent accidental contact and maintain safe egress.
 - Follow NFPA 70E guidelines for electrical safety, including labeling, personal protective equipment, and planning for electrically safe work conditions .
- #### Conclusion

For both safety and code compliance, a workstation should not be placed directly next to an electrical distribution box. Adequate clearance must be maintained to allow safe access, prevent electrical hazards, and comply with NEC and NFPA standards. If space constraints exist, consult a licensed electrician or safety professional to ensure proper layout and protective measures.

Article Content

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The distribution box has the characteristics of small size, simple installation, special technical performance,

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Electrical panel clearance distances are given by the U.S. NEC specifying working distance. Details are given here. This electrical

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