NFPA 70E® Table Samples: Approach Boundaries

NFPA 70E® tables contain vital information about approach boundaries, hazard categories and PPE. **The following is only a SAMPLE of the information contained in *NFPA 70E* and should not be used for anything other than completing course activities.** Always use the most current edition of the *NFPA 70E* when working on energized electrical equipment. You can purchase the latest standards at the NFPA website.

Table 130.4(E)(a) Electric Shock Protection Approach Boundaries to Exposed Energized Electrical Conductors or Circuit Parts for Alternating-Current Systems

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Limited Approach Boundary		
Nominal System Voltage Range, Phase to Phase	**Exposed Movable Conductor**	**Exposed Fixed Circuit Part**	**Restricted Approach Boundary; Includes Inadvertent Movement Adder**
Less than 50 V	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified
50 V–150 Ve	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	1.0 m (3 ft 6 in.)	Avoid contact
151 V–750 V	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	1.0 m (3 ft 6 in.)	0.31 m (1 ft 0 in.)
751 V–5 kV	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	1.0 m (3 ft 6 in.)	0.63 m (2 ft 1 in.)
5.1 kV–15 kV	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	1.5 m (5 ft 0 in.)	0.65 m (2 ft 2 in.)
15.1 kV–36 kV	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	1.8 m (6 ft 0 in.)	0.77 m (2 ft 7 in.)
36.1 kV–46 kV	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	2.5 m (8 ft 0 in.)	0.84 m (2 ft 10 in.)
46.1 kV–72.5 kV	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	2.5 m (8 ft 0 in.)	1.0 m (3 ft 4 in.)
72.6 kV–121 kV	3.3 m (10 ft 8 in.)	2.5 m (8 ft 0 in.)	1.2 m (3 ft 9 in.)
121.1 kV–145 kV	3.4 m (11 ft 0 in.)	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	1.3 m (4 ft 4 in.)
145.1 kV–169 kV	3.6 m (11 ft 8 in.)	3.6 m (11 ft 8 in.)	1.5 m (4 ft 10 in.)
169.1 kV–242 kV	4.0 m (13 ft 0 in.)	4.0 m (13 ft 0 in.)	2.1 m (6 ft 8 in.)
242.1 kV–362 kV	4.7 m (15 ft 4 in.)	4.7 m (15 ft 4 in.)	3.5 m (11 ft 2 in.)
362.1 kV–420 kV	5.8 m (19 ft 0 in.)	5.8 m (19 ft 0 in.)	4.3 m (14 ft 0 in.)
420.1 kV–550 kV	5.8 m (19 ft 0 in.)	5.8 m (19 ft 0 in.)	5.1 m (16 ft 8 in.)
550.1 kV–800 kV	7.2 m (23 ft 9 in.)	7.2 m (23 ft 9 in.)	6.9 m (22 ft 7 in.)

Table 130.4(E)(b) Electric Shock Protection Approach Boundaries to Exposed Energized Electrical Conductors or Circuit Parts for Direct-Current Voltage Systems			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Nominal Potential Difference	**Limited Approach Boundary**		**Restricted Approach Boundary; Includes Inadvertent Movement Adder**
	Exposed Movable Conductor	**Exposed Fixed Circuit Part**	
Less than 50 V	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified
50 V–300 V	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	1.0 m (3 ft 6 in.)	Avoid contact
301 V–1 kV	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	1.0 m (3 ft 6 in.)	0.3 m (1 ft 0 in.)
1.1 kV–5 kV	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	1.5 m (5 ft 0 in.)	0.5 m (1 ft 5 in.)
5.1 kV–15 kV	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	1.5 m (5 ft 0 in.)	0.7 m (2 ft 2 in.)
15.1 kV–45 kV	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	2.5 m (8 ft 0 in.)	0.8 m (2 ft 9 in.)
45.1 kV– 75 kV	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	2.5 m (8 ft 0 in.)	1.0 m (3 ft 6 in.)
75.1 kV–150 kV	3.3 m (10 ft 8 in.)	3.1 m (10 ft 0 in.)	1.2 m (3 ft 10 in.)
150.1 kV–250 kV	3.6 m (11 ft 8 in.)	3.6 m (11 ft 8 in.)	1.6 m (5 ft 3 in.)
250.1 kV–500 kV	6.0 m (20 ft 0 in.)	6.0 m (20 ft 0 in.)	3.5 m (11 ft 6 in.)
500.1 kV–800 kV	8.0 m (26 ft 0 in.)	8.0 m (26 ft 0 in.)	5.0 m (16 ft 5 in.)

NFPA 70E® Table Samples: Likelihood of Occurrence

Table 130.5(C) Estimate of the Likelihood of Occurrence of an Arc Flash Incident for ac and dc Systems		
Task	**Operating Condition**	**Likelihood of Occurrence**
Reading a panel meter while operating a meter switch.	Any	No
Performing infrared thermography and other noncontact inspections outside the restricted approach boundary. This activity does not include opening of doors or covers.		
Working on control circuits with exposed energized electrical conductors and circuit parts, nominal 125 volts ac or dc, or below without any other exposed energized equipment over nominal 125 volts ac or dc, including opening of hinged covers to gain access.		
Examination of insulated cable with no manipulation of cable.		
For dc systems, maintenance on a single cell of a battery system or multi-cell units in an open rack.		
For ac systems, work on energized electrical conductors and circuit parts, including electrical testing.	Any	Yes
Operation of a CB or switch the first time after installation or completion of maintenance in the equipment.		
For dc systems, working on energized electrical conductors and circuit parts of series-connected battery cells, including electrical testing.		
Removal or installation of CBs or switches.		

NFPA 70E® Table Samples: PPE Categories

Table 130.7(C)(15)(a) Arc Flash PPE Categories for Alternating Current (ac) Systems		
Equipment	**Arc Flash PPE Category**	**Arc Flash Boundary**
Panelboards or other equipment rated 240 volts and below Parameters: Maximum of 25 kA available fault current; maximum of 0.03 sec (2 cycles) fault clearing time; minimum working distance 455 mm (18 in.)	1	485 mm (19 in.)
Panelboards or other equipment rated greater than 240 volts and up to 600 volts Parameters: Maximum of 25 kA available fault current; maximum of 0.03 sec (2 cycles) fault clearing time; minimum working distance 455 mm (18 in.)	2	900 mm (3 ft)
600-volt class motor control centers (MCCs) Parameters: Maximum of 65 kA available fault current; maximum of 0.03 sec (2 cycles) fault clearing time; minimum working distance 455 mm (18 in.)	2	1.5 m (5 ft)
600-volt class motor control centers (MCCs) Parameters: Maximum of 42 kA available fault current; maximum of 0.33 sec (20 cycles) fault clearing time; minimum working distance 455 mm (18 in.)	4	4.3 m (14 ft)
600-volt class switchgear (with power circuit breakers or fused switches) and 600-volt class switchboards Parameters: Maximum of 35 kA available fault current; maximum of up to 0.5 sec (30 cycles) fault clearing time; minimum working distance 455 mm (18 in.)	4	6 m (20 ft)

NFPA 70E® Table Sample: PPE

Table 130.7(C)(15)(c) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	
Arc Flash PPE Category	**PPE**
1	**Arc-Rated Clothing, Minimum Arc Rating of 4 cal/cm² (16.75 J/cm²)[a]** Arc-rated long-sleeve shirt and pants or arc-rated coverall Arc-rated face shield[b] or arc flash suit hood Arc-rated jacket, parka, high-visibility apparel, rainwear, or hard hat liner (AN)[f] **Protective Equipment** Hard hat Safety glasses or safety goggles (SR) Hearing protection (ear canal inserts)[c] Heavy-duty leather gloves, arc-rated gloves, or rubber insulating gloves with protectors (SR)[d] Leather footwear[e] (AN)
2	**Arc-Rated Clothing, Minimum Arc Rating of 8 cal/cm² (33.5 J/cm²)[a]** Arc-rated long-sleeve shirt and pants or arc-rated coverall Arc-rated flash suit hood or arc-rated face shield[b] and arc-rated balaclava Arc-rated jacket, parka, high-visibility apparel, rainwear, or hard hat liner (AN)[f] **Protective Equipment** Hard hat Safety glasses or safety goggles (SR) Hearing protection (ear canal inserts)[c] Heavy-duty leather gloves, arc-rated gloves, or rubber insulating gloves with protectors (SR)[d] Leather footwear[e]

3	**Arc-Rated Clothing Selected so That the System Arc Rating Meets the Required Minimum Arc Rating of 25 cal/cm^2 (104.7 J/cm^2)[a]** 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 or rubber insulating gloves with protectors (SR)[d] Arc-rated jacket, parka, high-visibility apparel, rainwear, or hard hat liner (AN)[f] **Protective Equipment** Hard hat Safety glasses or safety goggles (SR) Hearing protection (ear canal inserts)[c] Leather footwear[e]
4	**Arc-Rated Clothing Selected so That the System Arc Rating Meets the Required Minimum Arc Rating of 25 cal/cm^2 (104.7 J/cm^2)[a]** 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 or rubber insulating gloves with protectors (SR)[d] Arc-rated jacket, parka, high-visibility apparel, rainwear, or hard hat liner (AN)[f]

	Protective Equipment Hard hat Safety glasses or safety goggles (SR) Hearing protection (ear canal inserts)[c] Leather footwear[e]

AN: As needed (optional). AR: As required. SR: Selection required.

[a]Arc rating is defined in Article 100.

[b]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.

[c]Other types of hearing protection are permitted to be used in lieu of or in addition to ear canal inserts provided they are worn under an arc-rated arc flash suit hood.

[d]Rubber insulating gloves with protectors provide arc flash protection in addition to electric shock protection. Higher class rubber insulating gloves with protectors, due to their increased material thickness, provide increased arc flash protection.

[e]Footwear other than leather or dielectric shall be permitted to be used provided it has been tested to demonstrate no ignition, melting or dripping at the minimum arc rating for the respective arc flash PPE category.

[f]The arc rating of outer layers worn over arc-rated clothing as protection from the elements or for other safety purposes, and that are not used as part of a layered system, shall not be required to be equal to or greater than the estimated incident energy exposure.