

MINIMUM APPROACH DISTANCES TO EXPOSED ENERGIZED POWER CONDUCTORS

1. GENERAL

1.01 This section covers the safe approach distances to energized power conductors.

1.02 Whenever this section is reissued, the reason for reissue will be listed in this paragraph.

1.03 This section does not change the Bell System rules regarding wearing insulating gloves and is not to be construed as encouraging the handling of energized power conductors.

1.04 At locations, where clearances between telephone plant and energized power conductors are less than the Bell System standard as outlined in Sections 620-210-012, 620-216-012 and 620-216-013, the safe approach distances listed in this section are controlling.

1.05 Insulated as defined in this section means:

(a) It is insulated in a suitable manner (See Section 621-205-010) for the conditions to which it is subjected. Otherwise, it is uninsulated.

(b) Separated from the other conducting surface by a dielectric substance (including air space) offering a high resistance to the passage of current.

1.06 The approach distances (Table A) apply not only to the employee but also to any noninsulating material or tool (ie, digging bar, pole derrick, etc) that is handled unless:

(a) The employee is insulated from the energized parts (insulating gloves rated for the voltage involved shall be considered adequate insulation. See Sections 621-205-010 and 627-230-201).

(b) The energized parts are insulated or guarded from the employee and any other conductive part of a different potential.

(c) The power conductors and equipment are deenergized and grounded.

1.07 The minimum approach distances (Table A) do *not* apply to the following types of power conductors:

(a) Lead sheath power cables

(b) Concentric neutral power cable

(c) Jacketed concentric neutral cable

(d) Insulated conductors lashed to a grounded messenger

(e) BX cable

(f) Romex cable (operated within its voltage rating)

(g) Any insulated conductor operated within its voltage rating

(h) Power conductors in conduit or under molding

(i) Grounded cases of: transformers, voltage regulators, capacitors, and other power equipment

2. APPROACH DISTANCES

2.01 The minimum approach distances listed in Table A apply to the following:

(a) Bare energized power wires

(b) Covered (not insulated) energized power wires

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(c) Insulated power wires operated **above** their rated voltage

(e) Uninsulated, exposed and energized parts such as transformer or capacitor terminals, etc.

(d) Uninsulated bus bars

TABLE A

MINIMUM APPROACH DISTANCES TO EXPOSED ENERGIZED POWER CONDUCTORS

VOLTAGE RANGE (PHASE-TO-PHASE)	VOLTAGE TO GROUND	DISTANCE
300 V and less	173 V and less	Avoid Contact
Over 300 V, not over 750 V	Over 173 V, not over 434 V	12 inches
Over 750 V, not over 2 kV	Over 434 V, not over 1.16 kV	18 inches
Over 2 kV, not over 15 kV	Over 1.16 kV, not over 8.65 kV	24 inches
Over 15 kV, not over 37 kV	Over 8.65 kV, not over 21.4 kV	36 inches
Over 37 kV, not over 87.5 kV	Over 21.4 kV, not over 50.5 kV	42 inches
Over 87.5 kV, not over 121 kV	Over 50.5 kV, not over 70.0 kV	48 inches
Over 121 kV, not over 140 kV	Over 70.0 kV not over 81.0 kV	54 inches