

PAINTING - INTERIOR  
SWITCHING EQUIPMENT PROTECTION

1. GENERAL

1.01 This section covers procedures intended to prevent possible unfavorable equipment reactions resulting from building painting operation in switch rooms of central offices.

2. PROCEDURES

2.01 It is assumed that the usual procedures for maintaining painted surfaces, as covered in Section H51.117, of Bell System Practices entitled "Washing Painted Walls" will be followed to obtain the maximum interval between painting operations.

2.02 Equipment, furniture and floors in the vicinity of actual painting operations are protected against paint spattering by completely covering with drop cloths of such lint-free material as described in Specification KS-8031 and treated so as to be flame-proof in accordance with Section H40.201 of Bell System Practices. The cloths may be suspended from the superstructure or cable racks keeping the maximum possible separation between the cloths and the equipment. Cloths should not be attached to or allowed to rest upon equipment on the frames.

2.03 The following suggestions are intended to prevent possible equipment reactions caused by the deposit on relay or switch contacts of gummy residue from paint thinner fumes:-

(a) Paints containing mineral spirits and thinned with mineral spirits are used in place of those containing or thinned with turpentine.

(b) In order to minimize the amount of thinner fumes released during a given period, large scale applications of paint are avoided wherever practicable. It is

suggested that but one painter be permitted to apply paint in very small equipment rooms such as those in community dial offices; for switch rooms of moderate size up to eight bays, - two painters; and for larger rooms, one additional painter for each unit of six bays. The application of paint is usually limited to eight hours in every twenty-four. These procedures would, of course, prolong the over-all painting operations but should result in a corresponding reduction in fume concentration.

(c) Restricting painting operations in switching equipment rooms to warm weather months usually simplifies the ventilating problem; also, it is desirable that the painting work be scheduled to be complete shortly prior to a routine pressure cleaning of the equipment. Painting operations are avoided or discontinued during periods of high humidity or prolonged rains, or under unusually dusty conditions. Considerably more than normal ventilation is required in switch rooms during the painting period; - 10 to 15 air changes per hour are recommended during and for about three hours subsequent to each daily painting operation. The movement of such volumes of air generally requires induced ventilation by means of large circulator fans or other similar units temporarily placed to exhaust through open windows. In order that air drawn into the room may be kept reasonably clean from an equipment standpoint, the open intake windows may, if considered necessary, be fitted with single thickness spun glass or similar filter units. It is desirable, of course, that intake windows be as remote as possible from exhaust windows; also that any existing ventilating plant serving the involved switch room be used to capacity, exclusive of recirculation, to supplement the temporary exhaust units.