

NFPA 70E 2018 EDITION REVISION SUMMARY

NFPA 70E 2018 edition is now on its 11th revision since its original release date in 1979. This standard has been updated every 3 years. The primary purpose of this standard is to serve as a practical guide maintaining a safe work place for employees exposed to the hazards arising from the use of electricity. For additional details, please refer to the National Fire Protection Association 70E guide.

ARTICLE 100 – What are some important definition updates?

Modification: Boundary, arc flash is now defined as follows: When an arc flash hazard exists, an approach limit (previously "at a distance") from an arc source at which incident energy equals 1.2 cal/cm² (previously "second degree burn").

NOTE: Per the Stoll Skin Model, a second degree burn on unprotected skin is likely to occur when exposed skin absorbs a total of 1.2 cal/cm² even if the heat flux rate thermal PPE requirements have been deleted for incident energy levels below 1.2 cal/cm². We highly recommend the use of non-melting, untreated, natural fiber garments and additional protection, (e.g. ear canal inserts, safety glasses, and voltage rated gloves) at all times when a qualified electrical work is exposed to energized components.

Additions: Electrical Safety Program: A documented system consisting of electrical safety principles, policies, procedures and processes that directs activities appropriate for the risk associated with electrical hazards.

ARTICLE 105 – Are there any new applications of safety-related work practices and procedures for employers?

Yes, per the **Employer 105.3 (A) and Employee 105.3 (B)** sections, safety-related work practices and procedures required by this standard shall be established, documented and implemented by the employer. The employee must comply with the safety-related work practices and procedures provided by the employer. In addition, the employer shall provide training in safety-related work practices and procedures for employees.

ARTICLE 110 – Have the general requirements for electrical safety-related work practices changed?

The Risk Assessment Procedure in section 110 now states that the electrical safety program shall include a risk assessment procedure and shall comply with 110.1(H)(1), as well as the elements of a risk assessment procedure (revised), 110.1(H)(2) human error (new) and 110.1(H)(3) hierarchy of risk control methods (new).



Regarding (I) job safety planning and job briefing and before starting each job that involves exposure to electrical hazards, the employee in charge shall complete a job safety plan (new) and conduct a job briefing (new), including changes in scope (new), with the employees involved.

Incident investigations are now required as part of the electrical safety program and shall include elements to investigate electrical incidents.

ARTICLE 120 – Are the steps for establishing electrically safe work conditions easier to follow?

While most of the content has been retained "as is", the lockout/tagout information has been reorganized into Article 120 to improve the flow of information with some additional supporting information: 120.1 Lockout/Tagout Program, 120.2 Lockout/Tagout Principles, 120.3 Lockout/Tagout Equipment, 120.4 Lockout/Tagout Procedures and 120.5 Process for Establishing and Verifying an Electrically Safe Work Condition.

ARTICLE 130 – How to select the appropriate PPE?

The Incident Energy Analysis Method, formerly part of the "Annex Table H.3 (b)" content, [now Table 130.5 (G)] now been included under the standard's mandatory text. It has also been revised to provide guidance on how to select personal protective equipment when using the incident energy analysis method.

SAS ENSURES COMPLIANCE

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www.salisburybyhoneywell.com

Honeywell Industrial Safety, USA

101 E Crossroads Pkwy Suite A

Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Phone: 877-406-4501

Fax: 866.824.4922

www.honeywell.com

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