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 .

© 2026 ALFA PRO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (Pty) Ltd - All rights reserved

• 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

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 2340.16. Work Space ...

Sufficient access and working space shall be provided and maintained about all electric equipment to permit ready and safe

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 2932. Workspace.

Workspace will not be required behind enclosed equipment such as dead-front switchboards or control assemblies, provided there

NEC Requirements for Working Clearances | EC&M

When working on electrical equipment in a passageway, be mindful of the potential for a fire alarm. If one occurs, you

Safe Clearances for Electrical Equipment: Working Space and

In many commercial facilities, electrical equipment rooms have rows of equipment operating at more than 150 volts to

No Room for Error: Working space around electrical

Ensuring safety and compliance in electrical installations is critical, particularly when it

© 2026 ALFA PRO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (Pty) Ltd - All rights reserved

National Electrical Code (NEC) Requirements for Panelboards

Clearance: Electrical panels must be installed in a readily accessible area with a minimum clearance of 30 inches (762 mm) wide, 3 ft

2026 NEC 110.26 Working Space | Electrical Clearance Reference

NEC 110.26 Working Clearance Field reference for checking electrical equipment working clearance, access, egress, storage limits,

Electrical Panel Clearance distance

The model codes, such as the U.S. NEC, do not specify a minimum height for an electrical panel box or enclosure itself above the

NEC panel clearance requirements: 110.26 working space

NEC panel clearance requirements: 110.26 working space rules Electrical panels, switchgear, and motor control centers require

How To Design Your Best Electrical Workstation

To create the best electrical workstation, it is important to find a company that can customize the

1926.403

Enclosure for electrical installations. Electrical installations in a vault, room, closet or in an area surrounded by a wall, screen, or

Working Clearances, based on the 2020 NEC

By Mike Holt NEC® Consultant for EC&M Magazine Note: This article is based on the 2020 NEC. Don''t let

OSHA Electrical Panel Clearance Requirements: Guide

Overview of OSHA Electrical Panel Clearance Requirements What is OSHA? OSHA, the Occupational

What is the minimum clearance required around electrical panels ...

Electrical panel clearance refers to the minimum working space that must be kept clear in front of and around electrical panels,

A Better Understanding of NFPA 70E: Electrical Equipment Working

There is equipment that operates below the minimum shock or arc-flash hazard levels. The full working space of NEC

Electrical Panel Safety

© 2026 ALFA PRO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (Pty) Ltd - All rights reserved

A C C E S S I B I L I T Y OSHA requires sufficient access and working spaces around all electrical equipment, or panels, serving 600

The installation requirements for the distribution box

A distribution box is the heart of any electrical system. It takes the incoming power and

Electrical

A variety of possible solutions may be implemented to reduce or eliminate the risk of injury associated with electrical work. Examples

Safety requirements of distribution box

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

Electrical Safety in the Workplace | Electrical Safety | CDC

Hazards, injury data, high-risk industries, and recommendations on electrical safety at work.

Your Guide to the Office Cubicle Power Pole | Cubicle By Design

Starting with an integrated system from the get-go gives you a clean, safe, and fully functional setup. A tool like our Custom Cubicle

Is It Safe to Live Near an Electrical Box? Unveiling the Truth

Living in a house close to an electrical box, also known as a power distribution box or transformer station, often raises

Power Distribution Boards: Understanding their role

Understanding power distribution boards is crucial for ensuring electrical systems'' safety,

Electrical

A variety of possible solutions may be implemented to reduce or eliminate the risk of injury associated with electrical work. Examples

Electrical Panel Safety

Electrical panels are the primary units that control the flow of electricity to different parts of an office or building equipment. Each

Where Is the Distribution Box Located and How to Find It

© 2026 ALFA PRO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (Pty) Ltd - All rights reserved

What Is a Distribution Box and Why You Need to Find It A distribution box, commonly known

Electrical Panel Clearance Distance FAQs

Electrical panel clearance distance questions & answers. This electrical wiring article series discusses safe an

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 2340.16. Work Space ...

§2340.16. Work Space About Electric Equipment. (a) Space about electric equipment. Sufficient access and working space shall be

4 Safety Tips to Manage the Distribution Boards in Your Building

A distribution board, often known as a panel or electric panel, is an important component of any commercial or

How To Design Your Best Electrical Workstation

To create the best electrical workstation, it is important to find a company that can customize the

1926.403

Enclosure for electrical installations. Electrical installations in a vault, room, closet or in an area surrounded by a wall, screen, or

Working Clearances, based on the 2020 NEC

By Mike Holt NEC® Consultant for EC&M Magazine Note: This article is based on the 2020 NEC. Don''t let

OSHA Electrical Panel Clearance Requirements: Guide

Overview of OSHA Electrical Panel Clearance Requirements What is OSHA? OSHA, the Occupational

What is the minimum clearance required around electrical panels ...

Electrical panel clearance refers to the minimum working space that must be kept clear in front of and around electrical panels,

A Better Understanding of NFPA 70E: Electrical Equipment Working

There is equipment that operates below the minimum shock or arc-flash hazard levels. The full working space of NEC

Electricity at work: Safe working practices

© 2026 ALFA PRO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (Pty) Ltd - All rights reserved

The guidance covers the key elements to consider when devising safe working practices and is for people who carry out work on or

eCFR :: 29 CFR Part 1910 Subpart S -

Every electrical installation and all utilization equipment installed or overhauled after March 15, 1972, shall comply with the provisions

eTools : Computer Workstations

Computer Workstations » Workstation Components Selecting and arranging your workstation components Appropriate placement of

Electrical Panel Clearance distance

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

Electrical Panel Safety

A C C E S S I B I L I T Y OSHA requires sufficient access and working spaces around all electrical equipment, or panels, serving 600

The installation requirements for the distribution box

A distribution box is the heart of any electrical system. It takes the incoming power and safely distributes it to different

Electrical

A variety of possible solutions may be implemented to reduce or eliminate the risk of injury associated with electrical work. Examples

Safety requirements of distribution box

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

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 2340.16. Work Space ...

Sufficient access and working space shall be provided and maintained about all electric equipment to permit ready and safe

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 2932. Workspace.

Workspace will not be required behind enclosed equipment such as dead-front switchboards or control assemblies, provided there

NEC Requirements for Working Clearances | EC&M

© 2026 ALFA PRO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (Pty) Ltd - All rights reserved

When working on electrical equipment in a passageway, be mindful of the potential for a fire alarm. If one occurs, you

Safe Clearances for Electrical Equipment: Working Space and

In many commercial facilities, electrical equipment rooms have rows of equipment operating at more than 150 volts to

No Room for Error: Working space around electrical

Ensuring safety and compliance in electrical installations is critical, particularly when it

National Electrical Code (NEC) Requirements for Panelboards

Clearance: Electrical panels must be installed in a readily accessible area with a minimum clearance of 30 inches (762 mm) wide, 3 ft

2026 NEC 110.26 Working Space | Electrical Clearance Reference

NEC 110.26 Working Clearance Field reference for checking electrical equipment working clearance, access, egress, storage limits,

Electrical Panel Clearance distance

The model codes, such as the U.S. NEC, do not specify a minimum height for an electrical panel box or enclosure itself above the

NEC panel clearance requirements: 110.26 working space

NEC panel clearance requirements: 110.26 working space rules Electrical panels, switchgear, and motor control centers require

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 2340.16. Work Space ...

Sufficient access and working space shall be provided and maintained about all electric equipment to permit ready and safe

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 2932. Workspace.

Workspace will not be required behind enclosed equipment such as dead-front switchboards or control assemblies, provided there

NEC Requirements for Working Clearances | EC&M

When working on electrical equipment in a passageway, be mindful of the potential for a fire alarm. If one occurs, you

Safe Clearances for Electrical Equipment: Working Space and

© 2026 ALFA PRO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (Pty) Ltd - All rights reserved

In many commercial facilities, electrical equipment rooms have rows of equipment operating at more than 150 volts to

No Room for Error: Working space around electrical

Ensuring safety and compliance in electrical installations is critical, particularly when it

National Electrical Code (NEC) Requirements for Panelboards

Clearance: Electrical panels must be installed in a readily accessible area with a minimum clearance of 30 inches (762 mm) wide, 3 ft

2026 NEC 110.26 Working Space | Electrical Clearance Reference

NEC 110.26 Working Clearance Field reference for checking electrical equipment working clearance, access, egress, storage limits,

Electrical Panel Clearance distance

The model codes, such as the U.S. NEC, do not specify a minimum height for an electrical panel box or enclosure itself above the

NEC panel clearance requirements: 110.26 working space

NEC panel clearance requirements: 110.26 working space rules Electrical panels, switchgear, and motor control centers require

Contact Us

Continue your research online:

Website: https://alfa-pro.co.za
Technical inquiry: https://alfa-pro.co.za/contact.html

This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

© 2026 ALFA PRO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (Pty) Ltd - All rights reserved