



Safety Bulletin EM 385-1-1

Mobile District Safety and Occupational Health Office
Arc Flash

Bulletin 18-09

The 15 September 2008 Safety Manual (Yellow Book) is now in effect for most new contracts and government operations. Please note the changes for arc flash as stated below.

11.B ARC FLASH

11.B.01 Whenever it is necessary to work on energized parts greater than 50 volts to ground, a risk/hazard analysis/arc flash hazard analysis will be conducted in accordance with NFPA 70E. Either Appendices or Tables may be used to conduct analysis. The flash protection boundary, approach distances, hazard/risk category and PPE requirements shall all be identified. This AHA is separate, distinct and in addition to the AHA required in Section 01.

11.B.02 PPE that provides appropriate arc flash protection is required for all personnel working on or near exposed energized electrical equipment operating at 50 volts or more. Identification of required PPE is based on function of hazard/risk category.

11.B.03 PPE garments shall meet and be labeled in accordance with ASTM F1506, *Standard Specification for Flame Resistant Textile Materials for Wearing Apparel for use by Electrical Workers Exposed to Momentary Electric Arc and Related Thermal Hazards*.

11.B.04 Arc flash rated clothing shall be properly worn. Long sleeves must be rolled down and buttoned, shorts are prohibited and trousers shall extend the full length of the leg. Garments with exposed metallic fasteners shall not be worn unless the garments are properly arc rated.

11.B.05 Garments, to include full body safety harnesses, worn over arc flash rated protective clothing must be arc flash rated.

11.B.06 Metal jewelry (i.e., wristbands, watch chains, rings, bracelets, necklaces, body jewelry, piercings, etc) shall not be worn when working on or near electrical equipment.

11.B.07 Clothing that could increase the extent of injuries when exposed to electric arcs or open flames (i.e., acetate, nylon, polyester, rayon or any blend, celluloid or other flammable plastic, shall not be worn. No metal slides or zippers unless they are effectively covered.

11.B.08 Arc Flash signage and labeling must be placed on the energized equipment. Switchboards or panelboards that are likely to be accessed with covers on are required to have a label to warn of potential electrical arc flash hazards and appropriate PPE required.

