

Fact Sheet #3 - OSHA Subpart S Extent of Application

“What OSHA regulations apply to electrical equipment that was installed twenty years ago?”

This is a good question and the answer can be found in Subpart S of the OSHA General Industry Safety Standards, 29 CFR 1910. There, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration addresses the electrical safety requirements necessary for safeguarding employees in their workplaces. Subpart S is divided into four major divisions:

- 1) Design safety standards for electrical systems, found in paragraphs 1910.302 through 1910.330 (1910.309 through 1910.330 are currently reserved for future use)
- 2) Safety-related work practices, found in paragraphs 1910.331 through 1910.360
- 3) Safety-related maintenance requirements, found in paragraphs 1910.361 through 1910.380
- 4) Safety requirements for special equipment, found in paragraphs 1910.381 through 1910.398

In addition to these four major divisions, definitions for the terms used throughout are contained in paragraph 1910.399. An appendix referencing other Codes and Standards is also found at the end of Subpart S. (The references listed in this appendix provide non-mandatory information that can be helpful in understanding and complying with Subpart S. Compliance with the referenced standards, however, is not a substitute for complying with Subpart S.)

More specifically, the provisions of 1910.302 through 1910.308 cover electrical installations and utilization equipment installed or used within or on buildings, structures, and other premises. These include commercial and

industrial yards, carnivals, parking and other lots, mobile homes, recreational vehicles, industrial substations, conductors that connect the installations to a supply of electricity and other outside conductors on the premises.

OSHA specifies to what extent the design standards found within 1910.302 through 1910.308 apply to specific installations. Some regulations apply to all electrical and utilization equipment, regardless of when they were designed or installed, while others apply to equipment installed or overhauled after a specified date.

For example, if you look on the OSHA web site, you will find that 1910.303(b)(2) applies to all electrical installations regardless of when they were installed. This regulation, entitled Installation and Use, states that all listed or labeled equipment shall be installed and used in accordance with any instructions included in the listing or labeling. Another regulation, 1910.305(a)(3)(i), entitled Cable Trays, only applies to equipment installed or overhauled after March 15, 1972. This latter regulation identifies wiring methods that may be installed in cable tray systems.

Visit the OSHA web site -- www.osha.gov -- for a complete listing of the OSHA regulations covering electrical installations and their applicability.

Beyond abiding by OSHA Subpart S requirements, all BNL personnel, including contractors, vendors, and visitors, must also comply with the requirements of the National Electrical Code, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70E, and other OSHA standards.