

Arc Flash

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Electrical equipment must be worked on in a de-energized state unless you are qualified and properly equipped to work on it when energized:

Employees face potential arc flash and shock injuries from energized equipment when equipment is not properly guarded against shock hazards, or when not locked out and tagged-out in its de-energized state.

Qualified persons may work on systems when energized only if all of the following situations apply:

- De-energization causes a greater hazard
- The task to be performed is infeasible to complete in a de-energized state due to equipment design or operational limitations.
- Management has given special permission to work on a particular system energized.
- The qualified person has documented training in energized work.
- A hazard assessment has been completed.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and all needed controls are provided.

Personal Protective Equipment

Qualified persons must wear the appropriate PPE as specified in the equipment-specific procedure for that equipment. Refer to NFPA 70E requirements and OSHA's PPE and electrical safety standard for further information. Appropriate PPE includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Voltage rated gloves for voltage levels involved
- Leather over gloves
- Appropriate work shoes
- Apparel (fire resistant shirt and pants) appropriate for hazard risk category assigned
- Safety glasses
- Face shield or arc hood appropriate for the hazard risk category assigned

Labels

Equipment which may be worked on in an energized state needs to have a warning label (similar to the one shown right) on the panel, board, socket, or control.

Remember that the label is required in addition to your company's permitting requirements and electrical safety program.