

Re: Working Space Around Equipment

Did You Know?

There are **three key considerations** when it comes to working space around electrical equipment:

1. **Providing working space with secure footing at the time of installation** – Rule 2-308
2. **Ensuring access to and from the working space** – Rule 2-310
3. **Maintaining that working space after installation** – Rule 2-314

Failing to meet these requirements can lead to safety hazards, code violations, and difficulty performing maintenance or emergency shutdowns.

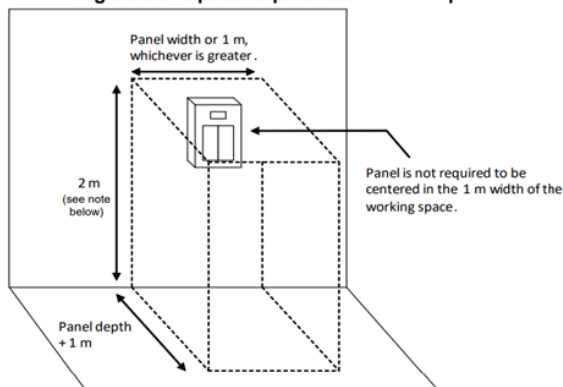
Tips by Sector:

Industrial: Analyze the layout when deciding where to install disconnect and control panels, refer to drawings and consult with project managers. Along with the required working space, control panels with hinged doors are required to open at least 90°.

Commercial: Working space that met the requirements at the time of installation will need to be maintained after the room is constructed. It is also important for tenants to understand that pathways to the equipment cannot be blocked and working space is not to be used as storage space for materials.

Residential: Clearances in front of a home's panel must be maintained while storing items, as well as when planning a renovation. New walls and equipment may encroach on the working space, as well as impede egress. Failure to maintain clearances can result in a situation where a resident or service provider cannot reach the panel in an emergency.

Figure B2 - Space requirements around panelboards



Wood Shop Materials Encroaching on Working Space



Resources & Training:

For more information about working space around equipment, please review **Bulletins 2-9-* and 26-20-***. The bulletins are available at: ESAsafe.com/Bulletins.