

Chapter 27 GROUNDING CONDUCTOR PROGRAM

General. This section is not intended to be inclusive of all safe electrical procedures. Rather, it is only an introduction and reminder of general electrical hazards. Wiring for ground fault protection and electrical wiring in the manufacturing process is the subject of the National Electric Code to be followed for UL compliance.

Electrical current flows through power lines much like water flows through a pipe with one important difference - electrical current makes a loop and returns to its source. This is known as a circuit. We must avoid becoming part of the circuit ourselves.

Properly grounded equipment provides protection and a system where all noncurrent carrying metal parts are bonded together and kept at the same potential.

Identification of conductors. A conductor used as a grounded conductor shall be identifiable and distinguishable from all other conductors. A conductor used as an equipment grounding conductor shall be identifiable and distinguishable from all other conductors. Grounding conductors used for equipment grounding must never be removed to accommodate receptacles.

No grounded conductor shall be attached to any terminal or lead so as to reverse designated polarity. A grounding terminal or grounding-type device on a receptacle, cord connector, or attachment plug shall not be used for purposes other than grounding.

Ground-fault protection Sign Designs will use either ground fault circuit interrupters as specified in the next paragraph or an assured equipment grounding conductor program to protect employees on construction sites. These requirements are in addition to any other requirements for equipment grounding conductors.

Ground-fault circuit interrupters. All 120-volt, single-phase 15- and 20-ampere receptacle outlets on construction sites, which are not a part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure and which are in use by employees, shall have approved ground-fault circuit interrupters for personnel protection. Receptacles on a two-wire, single-phase portable or vehicle-mounted generator rated not more than 5kW, where the circuit conductors of the generator are insulated from the generator frame and all other grounded surfaces, need not be protected with ground-fault circuit interrupters.

Assured equipment grounding conductor program. The employer shall establish and implement an assured equipment grounding conductor program on construction sites covering all cord sets, receptacles which are not a part of the building or structure, and equipment connected by cord and plug which are available for use or used by employees. This program shall comply with the following minimum requirements:

1. A written description of the program, including the specific procedures adopted

by Sign Designs, Inc. shall be available at the jobsite for inspection and copying by the Assistant Secretary and any affected employee.

2. The production manager will train all onsite supervisors who will implement the program on each jobsite.
3. Each cord set, attachment cap, plug and receptacle of cord sets, and any equipment connected by cord and plug, except cord sets and receptacles which are fixed and not exposed to damage, shall be visually inspected before each day's use for external defects, such as deformed or missing pins or insulation damage, and for indications of possible internal damage. Equipment found damaged or defective shall not be tagged "Damaged Do Not Use." and removed from service until repaired.

The following tests shall be performed on all cord sets, receptacles which are not a part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure, and cord- and plug-connected equipment required to be grounded:

1. All equipment grounding conductors shall be tested for continuity and shall be electrically continuous.
2. Each receptacle and attachment cap or plug shall be tested for correct attachment of the equipment grounding conductor. The equipment grounding conductor shall be connected to its proper terminal.

All required tests shall be performed:

1. Before first use.
2. Before equipment is returned to service following any repairs.
3. Before equipment is used after any incident which can be reasonably suspected to have caused damage (for example, when a cord set is run over).
4. At intervals not to exceed 3 months, except that cord sets and receptacles which are fixed and not exposed to damage shall be tested at intervals not exceeding 6 months.

Employees may not use any equipment that does not meet the testing requirements

The test record shall identify each receptacle, cord set, and cord- and plug-connected equipment that passed the test and shall indicate the last date it was tested or the interval for which it was tested. This record shall be kept by means date tagging and shall be maintained until replaced by a more current record. The record shall be made available on the jobsite for inspection by the Assistant Secretary and any affected employee.

Outlet devices. Outlet devices shall have an ampere rating not less than the load to be served and shall comply with the following:

1. A single receptacle installed on an individual branch circuit shall have an ampere rating of not less than that of the branch circuit.
2. Where connected to a branch circuit supplying two or more receptacles or outlets, receptacle ratings shall conform to the values listed in the following table.
3. The rating of an attachment plug or receptacle used for cord- and plug-connection of a motor to a branch circuit shall not exceed 15 amperes at 125 volts or 10 amperes at 250 volts if individual overload protection is omitted.

Receptacle Ratings for Various Size Circuits

Circuit Rating Amperes	Receptacle Rating Amperes
15	Not over 15
20	15 or 20
30	30
40	40 or 50
50	50

Outside conductors and lamps This section applies to all employees, but service and installation crews should pay particular attention to the following.

600 Volts, Nominal, or Less.

This section apply to branch circuit, feeder, and service conductors rated 600 volts, nominal, or less and run outdoors as open conductors.

Conductors on poles. Conductors supported on poles shall provide a horizontal climbing space not less than the following:

1. Power conductors below communication conductors-30 inches (762 mm).
2. Power conductors alone or above communication conductors: 300 volts or less-24 inches (610 mm); more than 300 volts-30 inches (762 mm).
3. Communication conductors below power conductors: with power conductors 300 volts or less-24 inches (610 mm); more than 300 volts-30 inches (762 mm).

Clearance from ground. Open conductors shall conform to the following minimum clearances:

1. 10 feet (3.05 m)-above finished grade, sidewalks, or from any platform or projection from which they might be reached.
2. 12 feet (3.66 m)-over areas subject to vehicular traffic other than truck traffic.
3. 15 feet (4.57 m)-over areas other than those specified in paragraph (c)(1)(ii)(D) of this section that are subject to truck traffic.
4. 18 feet (5.49 m)-over public streets, alleys, roads, and driveways.

Clearance from building openings. Conductors shall have a clearance of at least 3 feet (914 mm) from windows, doors, fire escapes, or similar locations. Conductors run above the top level of a window are considered to be out of reach from that window and, therefore, do not have to be 3 feet (914 mm) away.

Clearance over roofs. Conductors above roof space accessible to employees on foot shall have a clearance from the highest point of the roof surface of not less than 8 feet (2.44 m) vertical clearance for insulated conductors, not less than 10 feet (3.05 m) vertical or diagonal clearance for covered conductors, and not less than 15 feet (4.57 m) for bare conductors, except that:

1. Where the roof space is also accessible to vehicular traffic, the vertical clearance shall not be less than 18 feet (5.49 m), or
2. Where the roof space is not normally accessible to employees on foot, fully insulated conductors shall have a vertical or diagonal clearance of not less than 3 feet (914 mm), or

3. Where the voltage between conductors is 300 volts or less and the roof has a slope of not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in 12 inches (305 mm), the clearance from roofs shall be at least 3 feet (914 mm), or
4. Where the voltage between conductors is 300 volts or less and the conductors do not pass over more than 4 feet (1.22 m) of the overhang portion of the roof and they are terminated at a through-

the-roof raceway or support, the clearance from roofs shall be at least 18 inches (457 mm).

Location of outdoor lamps. Lamps for outdoor lighting shall be located below all live conductors, transformers, or other electric equipment, unless such equipment is controlled by a disconnecting means that can be locked in the open position or unless adequate clearances or other safeguards are provided for relamping operations.

Disconnecting means. Means shall be provided to disconnect all conductors in a building or other structure from the service-entrance conductors. The disconnecting means shall plainly indicate whether it is in the open or closed position and shall be installed at a readily accessible location nearest the point of entrance of the service-entrance conductors.

Simultaneous opening of poles. Each service disconnecting means shall simultaneously disconnect all ungrounded conductors.

Services over 600 Volts, Nominal.

This section applies to services over 600 volts, nominal.

Guarding. Service-entrance conductors installed as open wires shall be guarded to make them accessible only to qualified persons.

Warning signs. Signs warning of high voltage shall be posted where unauthorized employees might come in contact with live parts.

Overcurrent protection

This section applies to overcurrent protection of circuits rated 600 volts, nominal, or less.

Protection of conductors and equipment. Conductors and equipment shall be protected from overcurrent in accordance with their ability to safely conduct current. Conductors shall have sufficient ampacity to carry the load.

Grounded conductors. Except for motor-running overload protection, overcurrent devices shall not interrupt the continuity of the grounded conductor unless all conductors of the circuit are opened simultaneously.

Disconnection of fuses and thermal cutouts. Except for devices provided for current-limiting on the supply side of the service disconnecting means, all cartridge fuses which are accessible to other than qualified persons and all fuses and thermal cutouts on circuits over 150 volts to ground shall be provided with disconnecting means. This disconnecting means shall be installed so that the fuse or thermal cutout can be disconnected from its supply without disrupting service to equipment and circuits unrelated to those protected by the overcurrent device.

Location in or on premises. Overcurrent devices shall be readily accessible. Overcurrent devices shall not be located where they could create an employee safety hazard by being exposed to physical damage or located in the vicinity of easily ignitable material.

Arcing or suddenly moving parts. Fuses and circuit breakers shall be so located or shielded that employees will not be burned or otherwise injured by their operation.

Over 600 volts, nominal. Feeders and branch circuits over 600 volts, nominal, shall have short-circuit protection.

Systems to be grounded. The following systems which supply premises wiring shall be grounded:

1. All 3-wire DC systems shall have their neutral conductor grounded.
2. Two-wire DC systems operating at over 50 volts through 300 volts between conductors shall be grounded unless they are rectifier-derived from an AC system.
3. AC circuits of less than 50 volts shall be grounded if they are installed as overhead conductors outside of buildings or if they are supplied by transformers and the transformer primary supply system is ungrounded or exceeds 150 volts to ground.
4. AC systems of 50 volts to 1000 volts shall be grounded under any of the following conditions:

except that AC systems of 50 volts to 1000 volts are not required to be grounded if the system is separately derived and is supplied by a transformer that has a primary voltage rating less than 1000 volts, provided all of the following conditions are met:

1. *The system is used exclusively for control circuits.*

2. *The conditions of maintenance and supervision assure that only qualified persons will service the installation.*
 3. *Continuity of control power is required.*
 4. *Ground detectors are installed on the control system.*
5. If the system can be so grounded that the maximum voltage to ground on the ungrounded conductors does not exceed 150 volts
6. If the system is nominally rated 480Y/277 volt, 3-phase, 4-wire in which the neutral is used as a circuit conductor.
 7. If the system is nominally rated 240/120 volt, 3-phase, 4-wire in which the midpoint of one phase is used as a circuit conductor.
 8. A service conductor is uninsulated.

Separately derived systems. Where grounded systems require grounding of wiring systems whose power is derived from generator, transformer, or converter windings and has no direct electrical connection, including a solidly connected grounded circuit conductor, to supply conductors originating in another system, the following also applies.

For a grounded system, a grounding electrode conductor shall be used to connect both the equipment grounding conductor and the grounded circuit conductor to the grounding electrode. Both the equipment grounding conductor and the grounding electrode conductor shall be connected to the grounded circuit conductor on the supply side of the service disconnecting means, or on the supply side of the system disconnecting means or overcurrent devices if the system is separately derived.

Ungrounded systems. For an ungrounded service-supplied system, the equipment grounding conductor shall be connected to the grounding electrode conductor at the service equipment. For an ungrounded separately derived system, the equipment grounding conductor shall be connected to the grounding electrode conductor at, or ahead of, the system disconnecting means or overcurrent devices.

Portable generators. Under the following conditions, the frame of a portable generator need not be grounded and may serve as the grounding electrode for a system supplied by the generator:

1. The generator supplies only equipment mounted on the generator and/or cord- and plug-connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the generator, and;
2. The noncurrent-carrying metal parts of equipment and the equipment grounding conductor terminals of the receptacles are bonded to the generator frame.

Vehicle-mounted generators. All service and install truck carry a vehicle-mounted generator. Under the following conditions the frame of a vehicle may serve as the grounding electrode for a system supplied by a generator located on the vehicle:

1. The frame of the generator is bonded to the vehicle frame, and
2. The generator supplies only equipment located on the vehicle and/or cord- and plug-connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the vehicle or on the generator, and
3. The noncurrent-carrying metal parts of equipment and the equipment grounding conductor terminals of the receptacles are bonded to the generator frame, and
4. The system complies with the other provisions of this section.

Neutral conductor bonding. A neutral conductor shall be bonded to the generator frame if the generator is a component of a separately derived system. No other conductor need be bonded to the generator frame.

Conductors to be grounded. For AC premises wiring systems the identified conductor shall be grounded.

Grounding path. The path to ground from circuits, equipment, and enclosures shall be permanent and continuous.

Metal cable trays, metal raceways, and metal enclosures for conductors shall be grounded, except that:

1. Metal enclosures such as sleeves that are used to protect cable assemblies from physical damage need not be grounded; and
2. Metal enclosures for conductors added to existing installations of open wire, knob-and-tube wiring, and nonmetallic-sheathed cable need not be grounded if all of the following conditions are met:
 - a. Runs are less than 25 feet (7.62 m);
 - b. Enclosures are free from probable contact with ground, grounded metal, metal laths, or other conductive materials; and
 - c. Enclosures are guarded against employee contact.

Service equipment enclosures. Metal enclosures for service equipment shall be grounded.

Exposed noncurrent-carrying metal parts of fixed equipment which may become energized shall be grounded under any of the following conditions:

1. If within 8 feet (2.44 m) vertically or 5 feet (1.52 m) horizontally of ground or grounded metal objects and subject to employee contact.
2. If located in a wet or damp location and subject to employee contact.
3. If in electrical contact with metal.
4. If in a hazardous (classified) location.
5. If supplied by a metal-clad, metal-sheathed, or grounded metal raceway wiring method.
6. If equipment operates with any terminal at over 150 volts to ground; however, the following need not be grounded:
 - a. Enclosures for switches or circuit breakers used for other than service equipment and accessible to qualified persons only;
 - b. Metal frames of electrically heated appliances which are permanently and effectively insulated from ground; and
 - c. The cases of distribution apparatus such as transformers and capacitors mounted on wooden poles at a height exceeding 8 feet (2.44 m) above ground or grade level.

Equipment connected by cord and plug. Under any of the conditions described in this section exposed noncurrent-carrying metal parts of cord- and plug-connected equipment which may become energized shall be grounded:

1. If in a hazardous location.
2. If operated at over 150 volts to ground, except for guarded motors and metal frames of electrically heated appliances if the appliance frames are permanently and effectively

insulated from ground.

3. If the equipment is one of the following types:
 - a. Hand held motor-operated tools
 - b. Cord- and plug-connected equipment used in damp or wet locations or by employees standing on the ground or on metal floors or working inside of metal tanks or boilers.
 - c. Portable and mobile X-ray and associated equipment.
 - d. Tools likely to be used in wet and/or conductive locations.
 - e. Portable hand lamps.

Tools likely to be used in wet and/or conductive locations need not be grounded if supplied through an isolating transformer with an ungrounded secondary of not over 50 volts. Listed or labeled portable tools and appliances protected by a system of double insulation, or its equivalent, need not be grounded. If such a system is employed, the equipment shall be distinctively marked to indicate that the tool or appliance utilizes a system of double insulation.

Nonelectrical equipment. The metal parts of the following nonelectrical equipment shall be grounded: Frames and tracks of electrically operated cranes; frames of nonelectrically driven elevator cars to which electric conductors are attached; hand-operated metal shifting ropes or cables of electric elevators, and metal partitions, grill work, and similar metal enclosures around equipment of over 1kV between conductors.

Methods of grounding equipment. Noncurrent-carrying metal parts of fixed equipment, if required to be grounded by this subpart, shall be grounded by an equipment grounding conductor which is contained within the same raceway, cable, or cord, or runs with or encloses the circuit conductors. For DC circuits only, the equipment grounding conductor may be run separately from the circuit conductors.

A conductor used for grounding fixed or movable equipment shall have capacity to conduct safely any fault current which may be imposed on it.

Electric equipment is considered to be effectively grounded if it is secured to, and in electrical contact with, a metal rack or structure that is provided for its support and the metal rack or structure is grounded by the method specified for the noncurrent-carrying metal parts of fixed equipment. Metal car frames supported by metal hoisting cables attached to or running over metal sheaves or drums of grounded elevator machines are also considered to be effectively grounded.

Bonding. If bonding conductors are used to assure electrical continuity, they shall have the capacity to conduct any fault current which may be imposed.

Made electrodes. If made electrodes are used, they shall be free from nonconductive coatings, such as paint or enamel; and, if practicable, they shall be embedded below permanent moisture level. A single electrode consisting of a rod, pipe or plate which has a resistance to ground greater than 25 ohms shall be augmented by one additional electrode installed no closer than 6 feet (1.83 m) to the first electrode.