

Large electrical distribution box obstructing passageway



Overview

Dedicated electrical rooms should never be used for storage, and a clear path of travel should be maintained for emergency egress.

Key Takeaways

A large distribution box blocking a passageway should be relocated or repositioned to maintain safe access and comply with electrical codes. Safety and Accessibility Considerations

Distribution boxes are central to electrical systems, housing circuit breakers, fuses, busbars, and other protective devices that require easy access for operation, inspection, and maintenance. Obstructing a passageway can create safety hazards, including restricted emergency egress, difficulty in servicing the box, and increased risk of accidental contact with live components.

Recommended Actions

- Relocate or Reposition the Box: If possible, move the distribution box to a location that does not block walkways. Ensure the new location is dry, well-ventilated, and away from flammable materials.
- Maintain Clearance: Electrical codes typically require a minimum clearance in front of distribution boxes—often 3 feet (about 1 meter) for residential and commercial installations—to allow safe operation and maintenance. Check local regulations for exact requirements.

- **Consider a Smaller or Modular Box:** If space is limited, a compact or modular distribution box may reduce obstruction while still accommodating all circuits . Smart DB boxes with pluggable components can also optimize space usage .
- **Professional Assessment:** Engage a licensed electrician to evaluate the installation. They can ensure that relocation or resizing does not compromise electrical safety, grounding, or load distribution .
- **Temporary Solutions:** If immediate relocation is not feasible, clearly mark the area, restrict access, and ensure the box is not obstructed by furniture or other objects to reduce hazards.

Additional Considerations

- **Internal Layout:** Ensure wiring inside the box remains organized and accessible after relocation to prevent loose connections or overheating .
- **Environmental Protection:** For outdoor or high-moisture areas, verify that the box maintains proper IP rating and waterproofing .
- **Compliance:** Follow IEC, UL, or local electrical codes for installation, clearance, and maintenance . By addressing the obstruction promptly, you can maintain safe passage, comply with regulations, and ensure reliable operation of the electrical distribution system.

Article Content

110.26 (C) (2) Large Equipment.

For large equipment that contains overcurrent devices, switching devices, or control devices, there shall be one entrance to and

What are the common problems of distribution boxes?

In summary, the distribution box may encounter a variety of problems during operation,

§2340.16. Work Space About Electric Equipment.

When normally enclosed live parts are exposed for inspection or servicing, the working space, if in a passageway or general open

5 Common Electrical Panel Code Violations and How to

Learn about common electrical panel code violations in residential remodels and how to fix them to ensure

2-9-* Working space around electrical equipment

Installing the washer/dryer stack in the position shown violates OESC Rule 2-314 which requires the passageways and the working

Working Clearances, based on the 2020 NEC

If one occurs, you may need to secure equipment covers and clear the passageway of ladders, tools, and other items that impede

Distribution Box and Selection Guide: Internal Structure, Components ...

Learn how to choose a distribution box and understand its internal structure, including MCBs, busbars, neutral bars,

Clearance and Egress Changes in the 2023 NEC

This new code requirement will cause many e-house applications to expand in size, as the space between electrical

Safe Clearances for Electrical Equipment: Working Space and

Dedicated electrical rooms should never be used for storage, and a clear path of travel should be maintained for emergency egress.

2026 NEC 110.26 Working Space | Electrical Clearance Reference

NEC 110.26 working space reference for electrical equipment clearance, access, egress, dedicated space, storage limits, and field

Electrical Panel Clearances | Requirements Explained!

The 2021 International Residential Code (IRC) requires electrical panels to have a clear working space to ensure safe operation and

2-9-* Working space around electrical equipment

OBC requires a minimum width of 750 mm with no obstruction for egress means (OBC Articles 3.3.1.22 and 9.9.5.5.). Also, Rule 2

Working Clearances, based on the 2020 NEC

When working on electrical equipment in a passageway, be mindful of the potential for a fire alarm. If one

Electrical Panel Locations

Learn more about Electrical Panel Locations- A Guide for Placement - MEP Engineering - Master Electrician Services

Electrical Panel Clearance | Safety Energy Technologies Area

Insufficient clearance around electrical panels is one of the many electrical hazards that can endanger worker safety.

eCFR :: 29 CFR Part 1910 Subpart S -

Included in this category are all electric equipment and installations used to provide electric power and light for employee workplaces.

Electrical Panel Clearance Requirements: A Simple Guide

Understand the NEC electrical panel clearance requirements, including the 3-foot rule, to prevent fires and ensure

Obstacles

Obstacles may be temporary or permanent and typically encroach into walkways. The best solutions are designs that keep items off

§2340.16. Work Space About Electric Equipment.

§2340.16. Work Space About Electric Equipment. (a) Space about electric equipment. Sufficient access and working space shall be

Working Clearances for Electrical Panelboards & Equipment

Working Clearances for Electrical Panelboards & Equipment: Enough space should be provided to work on electrical equipment.

How to Prevent Obstructions in Emergency Egress Areas

Improper Storage Practices: Storing supplies, boxes, or tools in corridors or near exit doors. Poor Housekeeping:

Electrical Safety: Keeping Electrical Panels Clear

Maintaining clear access to electrical panels is crucial for ensuring workplace safety and compliance with OSHA and NFPA regulations.

OSHA Electrical Panel Clearance Requirements: Guide

Action: They implemented best practices for electrical panel installation and maintenance, which included

OSHA Aisle Requirements

The Occupational Safety and Health Association has requirements for safe workplaces to protect employees. Aisles

1926.403

Metal-enclosed switchgear, unit substations, transformers, pull boxes, connection boxes, and other similar associated equipment

WORLD WIDE WEB JOURNAL Home

O'Reilly & Associates, Inc. 103A Morris St. Sebastopol, CA United States

110.26 (C) (2) Large Equipment.

Code Change Summary: Code language was revised regarding the entry to and egress from the working space of large electrical

ADA Accessibility Standards

The U.S. Access Board is a federal agency that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership in

Safety Clearance Recommendations for Electrical Panel

Clearance Tables includes working space and clearance around indoor electrical panel, Circuit Board (NES 312.2),

Electrical Safety: Minimum Clearance Requirements for Panels

The minimum clearance for electrical panels is 36 inches from the front of the panel to the nearest obstacle. There also must be at

Electrical Panel Clearances | Requirements Explained!

The 2021 International Residential Code (IRC) requires electrical panels to have a clear working space to ensure safe operation and

2-9-* Working space around electrical equipment

OBC requires a minimum width of 750 mm with no obstruction for egress means (OBC Articles 3.3.1.22 and 9.9.5.5.). Also, Rule 2

Working Clearances, based on the 2020 NEC

When working on electrical equipment in a passageway, be mindful of the potential for a fire alarm. If one

Electrical Panel Locations

Learn more about Electrical Panel Locations- A Guide for Placement - MEP Engineering - Master Electrician Services

Electrical Panel Clearance | Safety Energy Technologies Area

Insufficient clearance around electrical panels is one of the many electrical hazards that can endanger worker safety.

eCFR :: 29 CFR Part 1910 Subpart S -

Included in this category are all electric equipment and installations used to provide electric power and light for employee workplaces.

Are There Restrictions On Where To Mount A Residential Circuit ...

The National Fire Protection Association publishes the National Electric Code, or NEC, which is adopted by nearly

OSHA Electrical Panels Clearance Requirements

A national set of standards ensures that trained personnel are able to respond quickly in case of electrical emergency

1910.303

Switchboards, panelboards, and distribution boards installed for the control of light and power circuits, and motor control centers shall

OSHA Electrical Panel Clearance Requirements: Guide

Action: They implemented best practices for electrical panel installation and maintenance, which included strict adherence to OSHA

Electrical Panel Clearance Requirements: A Simple Guide

Understand the NEC electrical panel clearance requirements, including the 3-foot rule, to prevent fires and ensure

Obstacles

Obstacles may be temporary or permanent and typically encroach into walkways. The best solutions are designs that keep items off

§2340.16. Work Space About Electric Equipment.

§2340.16. Work Space About Electric Equipment. (a) Space about electric equipment. Sufficient access and working space shall be

Working Clearances for Electrical Panelboards & Equipment

Working Clearances for Electrical Panelboards & Equipment: Enough space should be provided to work on electrical equipment.

110.26 (C) (2) Large Equipment.

For large equipment that contains overcurrent devices, switching devices, or control devices, there shall be one entrance to and

What are the common problems of distribution boxes?

In summary, the distribution box may encounter a variety of problems during operation,

§2340.16. Work Space About Electric Equipment.

When normally enclosed live parts are exposed for inspection or servicing, the working space, if in a passageway or general open

5 Common Electrical Panel Code Violations and How to

Learn about common electrical panel code violations in residential remodels and how to fix them to ensure

2-9-* Working space around electrical equipment

Installing the washer/dryer stack in the position shown violates OESC Rule 2-314 which requires the passageways and the working

Working Clearances, based on the 2020 NEC

If one occurs, you may need to secure equipment covers and clear the passageway of ladders, tools, and other items that impede

Distribution Box and Selection Guide: Internal Structure, Components ...

Learn how to choose a distribution box and understand its internal structure, including MCBs, busbars, neutral bars,

Clearance and Egress Changes in the 2023 NEC

This new code requirement will cause many e-house applications to expand in size, as the space between electrical

Safe Clearances for Electrical Equipment: Working Space and

Dedicated electrical rooms should never be used for storage, and a clear path of travel should be maintained for emergency egress.

2026 NEC 110.26 Working Space | Electrical Clearance Reference

NEC 110.26 working space reference for electrical equipment clearance, access, egress, dedicated space, storage limits, and field

110.26 (C) (2) Large Equipment.

For large equipment that contains overcurrent devices, switching devices, or control devices, there shall be one entrance to and

What are the common problems of distribution boxes?

In summary, the distribution box may encounter a variety of problems during operation,

§2340.16. Work Space About Electric Equipment.

When normally enclosed live parts are exposed for inspection or servicing, the working space, if in a passageway or general open

5 Common Electrical Panel Code Violations and How to

Learn about common electrical panel code violations in residential remodels and how to fix them to ensure

2-9-* Working space around electrical equipment

Installing the washer/dryer stack in the position shown violates OESC Rule 2-314 which requires the passageways and the working

Working Clearances, based on the 2020 NEC

If one occurs, you may need to secure equipment covers and clear the passageway of ladders, tools, and other items that impede

Distribution Box and Selection Guide: Internal Structure, Components ...

Learn how to choose a distribution box and understand its internal structure, including MCBs, busbars, neutral bars,

Clearance and Egress Changes in the 2023 NEC

This new code requirement will cause many e-house applications to expand in size, as the space between electrical

Safe Clearances for Electrical Equipment: Working Space and

Dedicated electrical rooms should never be used for storage, and a clear path of travel should be maintained for emergency egress.

2026 NEC 110.26 Working Space | Electrical Clearance Reference

NEC 110.26 working space reference for electrical equipment clearance, access, egress, dedicated space, storage limits, and field

Contact Us

Continue your research online:

Website: <https://rivomultitrade.co.za>

Technical inquiry: <https://rivomultitrade.co.za/contact.html>

This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

