

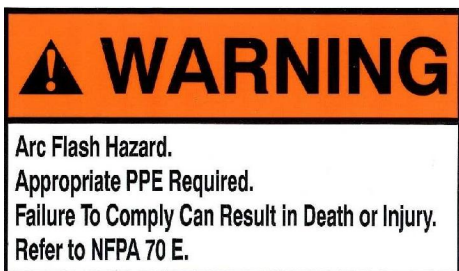
Testing Times

A newsletter for the electrical construction and maintenance industry

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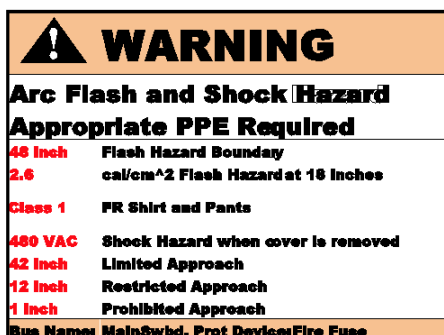
Arc Flash Hazard Labels Revisited

Recent *Testing Times* issues have dealt with the topic of Arc Flash Hazard studies and Arc Flash Hazard labels as described in National Electrical Code (NEC) article 110.16. This article requires that electrical equipment be “field marked” to warn qualified persons of potential electrical arc flash hazards. This article was first introduced in the 2002 NEC. As awareness of this new article has increased, it has led to some different interpretations of compliance.



A generic label does not give any information about what PPE is required

Equipment manufacturers are complying by shipping separate **generic arc flash hazard labels** with their equipment which must then be applied in the field to meet the “field marked” requirement of the article. A generic label tells you an arc flash hazard is present and



A site specific label includes important details such as the actual PPE requirement

appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is required. It does not tell you what level of arc flash hazard is present nor what specific PPE is required. It would be up to the qualified person to perform an arc flash hazard study to determine the necessary PPE prior to performing his work on the equipment.

Another labeling option to meet the 2002 and now the 2005 NEC is to provide **site specific arc flash hazard labels**. These labels include the necessary warning and also provide personnel with the level of the arc flash hazard present at each specific piece of equipment. This information tells personnel what PPE is required for work on each piece of

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**¡Buenos Días Amigos!
¿Cuál es su opinión?**

We need your opinion. As the construction and utility industry has evolved, many of us find ourselves needing to communicate with our Spanish speaking co-workers. Hood-Patterson & Dewar is considering offering two types of courses: “Basic and Technical English as a Second Language” and “Basic Supervisory Spanish.” The first course would benefit Spanish speaking employees in the electrical industry and the second course would be geared towards English speaking project managers, foremen, etc. These courses would be focused on the electrical construction industry, could be custom tailored to fit your needs and could be offered at our location or yours. These courses would be designed to enable better communication between your supervisory personnel and your Spanish speaking employees, customers and clients. If you have any interest, please contact Lyn Cosby at phone (404) 296-5990, fax (404) 299-3534 or e-mail Lcosby@hoodpd.com. ❖



HOOD - PATTERSON & DEWAR

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND TESTING
POST OFFICE BOX 1048 • DECATUR, GA 30031
TELEPHONE (404) 296-5990 • FAX (404) 299-3534
www.hoodpd.com

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equipment. In order to obtain site specific labels, a formal arc flash hazard study must be performed. On most new construction, a Short Circuit and Coordination study (SCCS) is already specified. The additional cost to perform an Arc Flash Hazard study (AFHS) is a minimal adder as most of the required information is already available from the SCCS data. The AFHS produces site specific labels which are also field applied.

In enforcing the NEC, the City of Atlanta was planning to require new construction locations to provide site specific arc flash hazard labels. In recent local Metro Code Council meetings, it was discovered that other jurisdictions were only requiring the use of generic labels. The City of Atlanta has reconsidered its position and will allow the use of generic labeling.

While the NEC does allow generic labels, the "field marked" requirement begs to be defined as "site specific." If generic labels are acceptable, why not allow the equipment manufacturers to apply labels at

the factory? We believe that future editions of the NEC may require site specific labels. We encourage all safety minded and forward thinking owners, consulting engineers and electrical contractors to encourage site specific AFH labels. Although necessary from a safety standpoint, the practicality of an electrician performing his own arc flash hazard calculations every time he opens the door of an energized piece of equipment isn't realistic. While the generic labels warn of a hazard, they do not give personnel enough information to determine what PPE is needed. By specifying an AFH study at the time of construction, the cost will be minimal and valuable information will be available at the equipment when it is needed.

Note: Thanks to Jerry Hayes at United Electric Company of Marietta, GA for informing us of the update in the City of Atlanta's AFH labeling requirements. He will be receiving the \$25.00 American Express gift card as promised. See below for details. ❖

All questions, comments and topics for future discussion are welcomed. If we use your topic in a future *Testing Times* issue we will send you a \$25.00 American Express gift card. Please send to Ms. Lyn Cosby at e-mail Lcosby@hoodpd.com or fax (404) 299-3534.

Please let us know if you would like to receive the *Testing Times* by e-mail.

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