

## OSHA Stays Effective Dates Under Electric Power Generation Rule

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is amending the new Electrical Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution standard (1910.137 and .269), first published in the January 31, 1994 *Federal Register*.

The revisions include 1) clarification on flame-resistant clothing, 2) stay dates for several requirements under the standard, and 3) editorial and technical corrections.

The revisions regarding clothing worn where potential for ignition from electric arcs exists, clarify that the fabric used must resist these hazards. Employers must still determine whether clothing material is acceptable under the conditions to which a worker is exposed. Factors to consider when making this decision are:

- material weight;
- available current involved;
- exposure duration;
- distance from potential flames or arcs;
- presence of other flammable materials.

OSHA has delayed enforcement of the following paragraphs of 1910.269 until November 1, 1994:

(b)(1)(ii), training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation for employees at fixed work locations;

(d) except for (d)(2)(i) and (d)(2)(iii), control of hazardous energy sources;

(e)(2), enclosed space training;

(e)(3), rescue equipment for enclosed spaces;

(j)(2)(iii), cleaning, repair, and testing of live line tools;

(l)(6)(iii), clothing worn by employees working on or near exposed energized parts;

(m), deenergizing transmission and distribution installations for the protection of employees;

(n)(3), equipotential zone for protective grounding;

(n)(4)(ii), impedance of protective grounding devices;

(n)(8), additional precautions for protective grounding;

(o) except for (o)(2)(i), high-voltage and high-power testing and test facilities;

(r)(1)(vi), line-clearance tree trimming during and after storms and other emergencies;

(u)(1) access & working space for electric equipment in substations;

(u)(4), guarding of rooms containing electric supply equipment in substations;

(u)(5), guarding of energized parts in substations.

OSHA is also staying the enforcement of paragraphs (n)(6) order of

connection grounds; and (n)(7) order of removal grounds until November 1, 1994, but only insofar as they apply to lines and equipment operated at 600 volts or less. Further, OSHA is staying the enforcement of paragraph (v)(11)(xii) control or elimination of ignition sources in coal handling operations until February 1, 1996.

In addition to several editorial corrections, OSHA has reviewed several national consensus standards published shortly after January 31, 1994. The agency found these newer standards to provide more technically up-to-date information and now references them in non-mandatory notes and an appendix.