

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-02-10

June 30, 2010

The following is offered in response to your correspondence in which you seek a formal interpretation. The question would apply to Article 110.26 (A) of the 2005 National Electrical Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code.

Question:

Is working clearance in accordance with NEC Section 110.26 (A) required for dry type transformers?

Answer:

No. The 2005 National Electrical Code Section 110.26 (A) *Working Space* states in part, “*Working space for equipment operating at 600 volts, nominal, or less to ground and likely to require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance while energized.*” Transformers are not meant to be worked on while energized, therefore the work space in front of a transformer can be less than that required by Table 110.26(A)(1).

An example of the code not requiring the above noted “Working Space” is in the 2005 National Electrical Code Section 450.13(B) *Hollow Space Installations* that states in part, “*Dry-type transformers 600 volts nominal, or less and not exceeding 50kVA shall be permitted in hollow space of buildings not permanently closed in by structure, provided they meet the ventilation requirements of 450.9 and separation from combustible materials requirements of 450.21(A). Transformer so installed shall not be required to be readily accessible.*”