
INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT VAULTS AND ROOMS

This bulletin provides clarification of the requirements for installation of electrical equipment in electrical equipment vaults and rooms.

BACKGROUND

Electrical equipment vaults and electrical equipment rooms (See Rule 26-012 for further explanation) are designed to contain only electrical equipment for which these rooms are intended. However, some designers and installers interpret “electrical equipment” that is allowed to be installed in these vaults and rooms as any equipment with electrical connections, including community antenna distribution cabinets, panelboards for optical fibre and communication cables, fire alarm control units and security alarm panels. The fact is that the latter is not the case. Rules 2-202, 36-004 and 36-006 of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, regulate access restriction and warning sign requirements for all electrical equipment vaults and rooms containing High Voltage installations.

Rule 2-124 of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, requires that equipment or material of other than an electrical nature shall not be installed or placed so close to electrical equipment as to create a condition that is dangerous.

Rule 2-200 states that electrical equipment shall be installed and guarded so that adequate provision is made for the safety of persons and property and for the protection of the electrical equipment from mechanical or other injury to which it is liable to be exposed.

The Vancouver Building By-law also mandates that unsprinklered electrical equipment vaults must be designed for no purpose other than to contain the transformer and its associated equipment.

Further, Section 19.6 of the BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (BC Regulation 296/97) states that electrical equipment rooms and vaults must be used only for the purpose for which they are intended.

REQUIREMENTS

Equipment or material other than an electrical nature installed or placed in electrical equipment vaults and rooms can pose a shock or fire hazard to people needing access to the equipment, material or electrical equipment. All High Voltage electrical equipment vaults and rooms shall contain only electrical service equipment. All other equipment not associated with the electrical service (such as telephone, fire alarm and security system cabinets, panels for optical fibre and data communication cables, etc.) are not permitted in H.V. electrical vaults and rooms.

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