

Working Clearance For Electrical Equipment

Summary of Working Clearance Requirements

Purpose: This handout is intended to provide clarification and guidance relating to the code-required ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT working clearance. **Building Official Note:** Only code excerpts have been provided for simplification. The installer shall Refer to California Electrical Code and verify code compliance of adequate working clearance before installation. The typical side-yard setback for homes in Daly City is exactly 3 feet. As a result, the main service electrical panels installed at side yards were recessed to provide a safe working clearance. **Working clearance shall be entirely within your property and shall not extend into a neighboring property.** If you are upgrading a recessed main service panel it is best to recess the new panel to ensure code compliance. Existing permitted nonconforming installations, other than repairs, can remain so long as the existing condition remains unaltered. Historical records are available at the building counter during normal business hours.

The Term “Working Space” generally applies to the protection of the worker when performing any operations without jeopardizing workers. Code required working clearances must be entirely within the applicant’s property. Minimum working clearances are not required if the equipment is not likely to require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance while energized. However, access and working spaces are still required. Examples of such equipment include panelboards, switches, circuit breakers, controllers, and controls on heating and air-conditioning equipment. Note that the word “examination” includes tasks such as checking for the presence of voltage using a portable voltmeter.

Relevant Code Section(s) & Information:

→ PGE Electric & Gas Service Requirements Greenbook www.pge.com/greenbook : Section 5.4.4 Working Space: **A working Space must be located entirely on the applicant’s property.**

→ California Electrical Code – 110.26 Spaces About Electrical Equipment

(A) Working space for equipment operating at 1000 volts, nominal, or less to ground and likely to require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance while energized shall comply with the dimensions of 110.26(A)(1)

1. Depth of Working Space. The depth of the working space in the direction of live parts shall not be less than that specified in Table 110.26(A)(1) Distances shall be measured from the exposed live parts or from the enclosure or opening if the live parts are enclosed.

Table 110.26(A)(1) Working Spaces

Nominal Voltage to Ground	Minimum Clear Distance		
	Condition 1	Condition 2	Condition 3
0-150	900 mm (3 ft)	900 mm (3 ft)	900 mm (3 ft)
151-600	900 mm (3 ft)	1.0 m (3 ft 6 in.)	1.2 m (4 ft)
601-1000	900 mm (3 ft)	1.2 m (4 ft)	1.5 m (5 ft)

Note: Where the Conditions are as follows:

Condition 1 – Exposed live parts on one side of the working space and no live or grounded parts on the other side of the working spaces, or exposed live parts on both sides of the working space that are effectively guarded by insulation materials.

Condition 2 – Exposed live parts on one side of the working space and grounded parts on the other side of the working space. Concrete, brick, or tile walls shall be considered as grounded.

Condition 3 – Exposed live parts on both sides of the working space.

2. Width of Working Space: The width of the working space in front of the electrical equipment shall be the width of the equipment or 762 mm (30 in.), whichever is greater. In all cases, the work space shall permit at least a 90 degree opening of equipment doors or hinged panels.
3. Height of Working Space: The work space shall be clear and extend from the grade, floor, or platform to a height of 2.0 m (78 in.) or the height of the equipment, whichever is greater. Within the height requirements of this section, other equipment or support structures, such as concrete pads, associated with the electrical installation and located above or below the electrical equipment shall be permitted to extend not more than 150 mm (6 in.) beyond the front of the electrical equipment.

SEE FIGURES 1 & 2 ON NEXT PAGE FOR ILLUSTRATION OF A SAFE WORKING SPACE

→ Daly City Municipal Code 15.24.090 - Article 230-70(A) (1). Location of Disconnecting Means, amended.

Article 230-70(A)(1) of the California Electrical Code, 2022 Edition, Service Location is deleted and substituted with the following paragraph, to read as follows: Article 230-70(A)(1). Location. The main service disconnecting means and meter or meters shall be installed at a readily accessible location on the exterior of the building. All utility service meters shall be obscured from public view unless approved by the Administrative Authority.

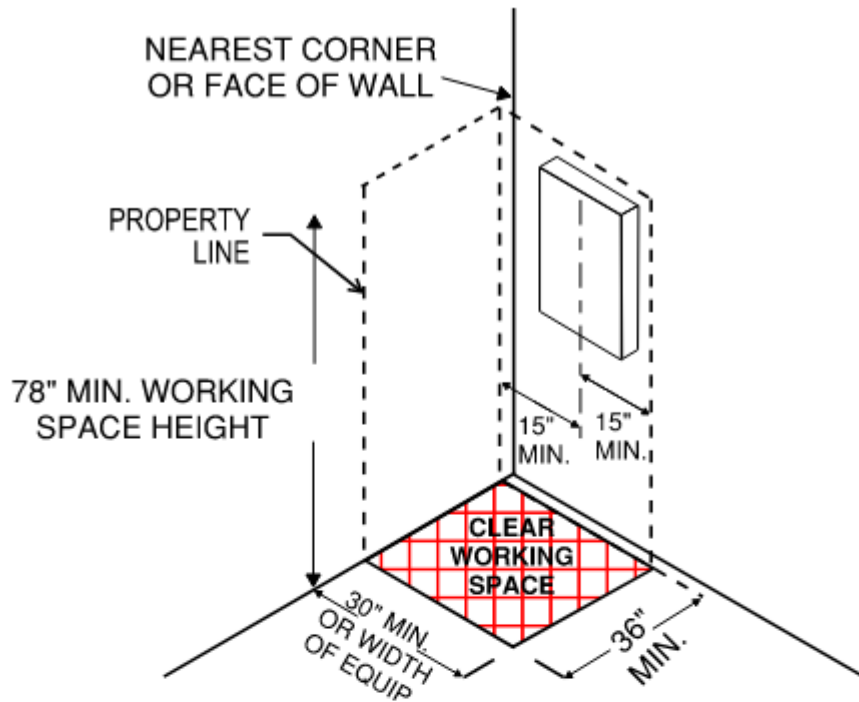


FIGURE 1
SURFACE OR SEMI-FLUSH
INSTALLATIONS

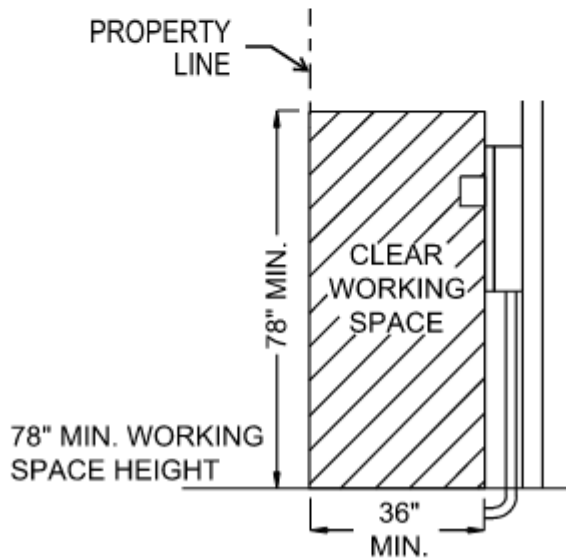


FIGURE 2
WORKING SPACE - ELEVATION

Note: It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure compliance with all other regulations such as PGE.

[END]

