

The following was our response to an e-mail from an employer concerned about electrical panel clearance.

### **Question:**

I own a Pizza parlor. There is an electrical panel in our back room near storage racks. The panel is about chest to head high. Some people have told me I must keep the area around the panel clear from the panel to the floor. Others say just around the panel so it opens easily with no obstructions.

Can you tell me which is true?

### **Answer:**

The minimum requirements for both access and working space for electrical equipment used on circuits 600 volts nominal or less are 30 inches wide and 3 feet deep. Equipment examples include panelboards, switches, circuit breakers, controllers, and controls on heating and air-conditioning equipment. This area cannot be used for storage. Sufficient access (numerically undefined) is required for equipment that is not likely to require access for examination, adjusting, servicing, or maintenance and include junction boxes and terminal boxes.

For circuits greater than 600 volts, the access and working space increases. Electrical requirements are found in Division 2, Subdivision S, Electrical, 1910.303, General Requirements. I've attached a link to the rule for your review.

[http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/pdf/rules/division\\_2/div2\\_s.pdf](http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/pdf/rules/division_2/div2_s.pdf)

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