

The following was our response to an e-mail from an employer concerned about enforcing the principles of NFPA 70E.

3/16/04

Question:

In reviewing the Forward to NFPA 70E, it appears that it was developed to resolve enforcement problems that OSHA is/was experiencing with NEC, and that 70E's primary purpose is for use by OSHA.

But I've not seen where OSHA or OR-OSHA has incorporated 70E by reference.

I'm curious about if/how the principles of 70E may be enforced...; & particularly the provisions of Chapter 3 Personal and Other Protective Equipment. So, would like to present a couple of questions to you.

1. Have you seen any effort to-date by OSHA (or OR-OSHA), to incorporate NFPA 70E by reference, into occupational safety & health regulations?
2. Can you provide me with references (electronic or otherwise) that might give me a clue as to if/how OSHA or OR-OSHA is/may be using NFPA 70E as part of enforcement or outreach activities.

Answer:

You're correct that NFPA 70E was originally developed as an electrical safety standard to serve OSHA's needs. In answer to your questions: (1) At this time federal OSHA has not indicated that adoption, or incorporation by reference of NFPA 70E will take place soon. Oregon OSHA will probably follow federal OSHA's lead. Federal OSHA is beginning to review the new 70E arc flash requirements, but we are not aware of anything else happening. (2) Both federal OSHA and Oregon OSHA use NFPA 70E as guidance and in support of current rules (such as PPE and work clothing), or in support of an "industry standard". Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at (503) 947-7450.

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