

**WORKSAFE SERVICES DIVISION
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
LEGISLATIVE INTERPRETATIONS**



Topic	Blasting - Near Electric Power Lines	Issued by: V.P., WorkSafe Services
Statute	<i>Regulation 91-191</i>	Date Issued: September 8, 1997
Section	167(3) <i>b</i>)	Date Revised:

167(3) A powderman shall ensure that electric initiation of blasting is not used

b) when blasting within 100 m of electric power lines

Question

Would we consider a lesser distance than 100 m? What is included in the definition of electric power lines (generators, 110 and 220 lines)?

Response:

Many blasters' licences are restricted to electric means of initiation only and unfortunately about 90% of blasting is done within 100 m of power lines. Some non-electric means of initiation are quite new, therefore some powderman may have to undergo retraining.

The wording in 77-1 was "a safe distance". After a review of the requirement it has been decided, in the interest of safety, that the restriction should be applied at 100 m as stated.

The definition of a power line does not include 110 and 220 wiring in a building, or a generator, but refers only to high-tension power lines such as those running between hydro poles along city streets.