

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



Topic	Electrical equipment – Protective equipment	Issued by: V.P., WorkSafe Services
Statute	<i>Regulation 91-191</i>	Date Issued: August 9, 2001
Section	287.4(1)	Date Revised:

287.4(1) Where it is not practicable to de-energize electrical equipment before working on or near energized exposed parts of the equipment, an employee shall use rubber gloves, mats, shields and other protective equipment to ensure protection from electrical shocks and burns while performing the work.

Question

What is proper shielding or protection? Does it include face shield?

Response

The intent of the new provisions in the Electrical Section was to provide some rules to follow when working on electrical systems other than distribution or transmission lines.

Every effort should be made to ensure electrical equipment is de-energized prior to working on the system, however section 287.4 (1) allows for work on energized systems where de-energizing is not practicable. In this case protective equipment must be used, such as appropriate rated rubber gloves, rubber mats to stand on, non-conductive shields placed over energized parts to prevent contact, and face shield to prevent against flash burns in the event inadvertent contact with energized parts is made and flash fire ensues.