

Electrical Safety

It is the responsibility of the farmer to ensure that all electrical installations (e.g. wires, device or equipment receiving, distributing or using electrical power or energy) are designed, installed, operated, inspected and serviced in accordance with the CSA Standard (CSA C22.1). Anyone working on an electrical installation must be competent.

Hazardous Work

There are often instances on the farm that require you to work near electrical power lines. Use the distances set out in the following table to ensure the safety of those working around overhead power lines:

Phase to Phase Voltage of Electrical Power Line	Distance (metres)
Unknown	6.0
Less than 750 volts	1.0
750 – 69 000 volts	3.0
69 000 – 138 000 volts	5.0
Greater than 138 000 volts	6.0

If a situation arises that does not allow you to work at the above distance from an energized electrical power line, you must contact the owning authority (i.e. NS Power) before starting work. In the case that an electrical power line is running low in the farm yard or field, contact the owning authority (i.e. NS Power) to discuss permanently raising the line.

DISCLAIMER:

This fact sheet is a general overview for information purposes only. Farmers must reference legislation to ensure compliance.

Personal Protective Equipment and Electrical Rooms

When work is required on an energized electrical installation, the employer must provide the appropriate personal protective equipment and devices as stated in the applicable standards.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia highly recommends that farmers ensure they hire/have qualified individuals working on any energized electrical installations.

It is important that an electrical room:

- Is kept clean and orderly.
- Is not used for storage of unrelated materials.
- Has a “**Danger – High Voltage**” sign outside the room if components are rated at more than 750v phase to phase.

Plan of Electrical Installation

The owner of a building must ensure that a plan is created, maintained and updated by a competent person if there is an electrical installation that meets any of the following criteria:

- Rated greater than 250 v phase to phase
- Rated at greater than 250 amp
- Has multiple service entrances

The plan must include a line diagram:

- Describing the position and ratings of the components of the electrical installation
- Reflecting all repairs and alterations to the electrical installation