

National Electrical Safety Code Committee, Accredited Standards Committee C2

National Electrical Safety Code®

Interpretation

Section 11.

Protective Arrangements in Electric Supply Stations

Rule 110A1, Types of Enclosures (21 February 2002) IR526 of the 2002 Edition of the NESC

I would like to get an official interpretation of Rule 110A1, second paragraph, which states:

“A safety sign shall be displayed at each entrances. For fenced electric supply stations, a safety sign shall be displayed on each side.”

For a fenced substation yard, it is not clear if this paragraph states a requirement for a safety sign on the entrance gate(s) and on each side of the gate(s), or a safety sign on each side of the gate(s) only. My company currently installs a safety sign on the entrance gates as well as on each side of the gates to ensure that a safety sign is in the direct line of sight of the vehicle operator approaching the entrance. The safety signs on either side serve to provide a visible warning to those approaching the entrance in the event the gate is open. It has been my belief that this was consistent with compliance to the basic Code requirement as stated above, but it has come to my attention that other companies/consultants are interpreting the paragraph differently. That is, safety signs at fenced substations only need to be placed on each side of the gated entrance to be compliant.

Interpretation

The NESC Interpretations Subcommittee has considered the subject Interpretation Request and has developed a consensus report as follows:

“The portion of Rule 110A1 that you quote in your request for interpretation has two separate and distinct requirements:

1. The first sentence requires a safety sign at each entrance to an electric supply station (note that “entrances” should be “entrance”). This requirement for signs applies whether or not the station is fenced, in whole or in part.
2. The second sentence requires a safety sign on each side of a fenced station yard, whether or not there is an entrance at one or more sides.

The rule does not require more than one sign at any single entrance to a station yard, nor does it prohibit multiple signs at such an entrance. The intent of this portion of the rule is to provide notice to any and all parties who may enter the station, either through a gate in a fence or through a door in a building.

A single sign (or set of signs) may be used to meet the requirement for one fence side and gate, assuming that adequate sight coverage is provided both at the gate and along the fence. Conversely, two gates in one side of a fence (such as pedestrian and vehicle gates) may require more than a single sign (or set of signs) to provide adequate sight coverage.”