

National Electrical Safety Code Committee, Accredited Standards Committee C2

National Electrical Safety Code®

Interpretation

Section 23. Clearances

Rule 234

Clearances of Wires, Conductors, Cables, and Equipment From Buildings, Bridges, Rail Cars, Swimming Pools, and Other Installations (2002 Edition, page 96)

Table 234-1

**Clearances of Wires, Conductors, Cables, and Underground Rigid Live Parts Adjacent but Not Attached to Buildings and Other Installations Except Bridges (2002 Edition, page 102)
(5 July 2006) IR543**

Footnote 11 to Table 234-1 states: “Where available space will not permit this value, the clearance may be reduced to 2.00 m for conductors limited to 8.7 kV to ground.”

What is the meaning of “available space will not permit this value” from the quoted footnote of Table 234-1?

Interpretation

The Interpretations Subcommittee has considered the subject Interpretation Request for Rule 234 and has developed a consensus report as follows:

“The intent of Footnote 11 is to limit application of the reduced 2.00 m (7.0 ft) clearance to situations where the voltage is not more than 8.7 kV to ground and where the normal 2.30 m (7.5 ft) clearance cannot be obtained. For example, physical obstructions on both sides of a line are constraints that might not permit the 2.30 m (7.5 ft) normal clearance.

The designer should determine if alternate pole location(s) and/or construction (such as alley arms, non-standard pin positions, etc.) can be used to obtain the preferred 2.30 m (7.5 ft) clearance before resorting to the reduced 2.00 m (7.0 ft) clearance.”

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