



# Interpretation

## Section 22

### Section 22.

### Relations between various classes of lines and equipment

### and Section 23.

### Clearances

**Rule 224A** Communication circuits located in the supply space

**Rule 238D** Clearance of drip loops of luminaire or traffic signal brackets

(2012 Edition, pages 82-83 and page 177) IR 575

#### Question

Do the reduced clearances of rule 238D apply to supply wire drip loops from the pole to a traffic signal messenger? Secondly, are communication cables controlling traffic signals allowed under 224A to utilize the same messenger that supports the traffic signal luminaires and traffic signal supply cables?

#### Discussion

While this inquisition is two distinct questions, there is a strong enough common thread to include them in the same interpretation request. Because traffic signal facilities supported by cable messengers must be installed at a height above ground similar to communication conductors, they are often competing for the same space on poles. Additionally, transportation communication circuits often utilize the same messenger that supports traffic signal luminaires and traffic signal supply circuits. It is uncertain if under rule 238D clearances required between traffic signal power drip loops and communication circuits may be reduced, and if under any circumstances traffic signal power and communication circuits may utilize the same cable messenger.

The language of 238D suggests that only supply wires entering a traffic signal *bracket* are subject to such reduced clearances. It is my interpretation of this rule that supply wire drip loops from the pole to a traffic signal messenger attached to the same pole are not allowed the reduced clearances described in 238D, and as such must meet the clearances described by 235C.



Rule 224A states that communication circuits located in the supply space must achieve clearances required by Rule 235 and 238. My interpretation of rule 224A as applied to my above question is that communication circuits controlling traffic signal operation may not utilize the same messenger as traffic signal supply circuits, and must adhere to the clearances described in 235 and 238.

### **Interpretation**

The Interpretations Subcommittee was not able to reach consensus on this request; therefore, no interpretation is rendered for IR 575.