



# Interpretation

## Section 23. Clearances

**Rule 235C1b** Clearance for wires, conductors, or cables carried on the same supporting structure—Vertical clearance between conductors at the support—Basic clearance for conductors of same or different circuits—Between supply lines and communication lines

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**Question:** Do the clearances listed in Table 235-5 for vertical clearance between communication and supply circuits at the support extend to situations in which supply conductors are run below communication conductors and do not meet the requirements of Note ①?

**Discussion:** Rule 239G1 creates confusion as to what the vertical clearance between communication and supply circuits at the support should be when supply conductors are run below communication conductors and do not meet the requirements of Note ①. The portion of Rule 239G1 that requires guarding of vertical supply conductors from 40 in above the highest communication line *does* align with the 40 in required by Table 235-5. However, the portion of 239G1 that requires guarding of vertical supply conductors to 6 ft below the lowest communication attachment creates confusion as to what the vertical clearance at the support between supply conductors run below communication conductors should be. Rule 239G1 suggests that the vertical clearance at the support between supply conductors run below and communication conductors should be 6 ft, while Table 235-5 suggests that when the requirements of Note ① are not met, the clearance should be 40 in. This question specifically relates to trolley conductors which by Rule 220B1 *EXCEPTION* may be run below communication conductors.

### Interpretation

The simple answer to your question is “yes.” Rule 235C applies to vertical clearances between conductors and cables located at different levels on the same support. Table 235-5 specifies the required clearance between the attachment points. Note that Rule 235C, Table 235-5 does not apply to vertical runs of conductors or cables attached to the same supporting structure.



Conversely, Rule 239G applies to vertical runs of supply conductors and cables passing through the communication space of jointly-used structures. Rule 239G1 specifies requirements for guarding such construction that is attached to the structure. Note that Rule 239G does not apply to vertical clearance between communication and supply circuits.

The guarding requirements of Rule 239G1 are intended to limit the likelihood of communication workers:

- Gaffing a supply cable attached to the structure.
- Being exposed to an energized supply cable.

See also:

- Rule 239G3 that is specific regarding protection near trolley attachments.
- Table 238-2 for vertical clearance requirements between trolley and communication construction.

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