



# Interpretation

## Section 41. Supply and communications systems—Rules for employers

**Rule 410.A.3.b. General requirements – General**  
(2012 Edition, page 262)  
(3 May 2012) IR568

**Question:** Is the wording, “clothing or a clothing system” meant to include face protection, i.e., flame resistant (FR) face shield, flash suit hood, or FR goggles and FR balaclava when necessary?

Can a definition of this term be included in Section 2 of the next edition?

**Discussion:** There are some instances where the employee’s face would sustain burns from an arc flash, since the face may be close enough to the source, so face protection may be needed. However, it has been suggested by some people that the words, “clothing or clothing system” exclude face protection, since one does not normally wear clothing over the face. This leads them to believe face protection is not required by Rule 410.A.3.b.

### Interpretation

The wording, “...clothing or clothing system...” as used in Rule 410.A.3.b. is not intended to include face or eye protection items. The wording in the subject Rule includes normal garments such as shirts, pants, jackets and coveralls, whether in single or multiple layers.

---

National Electrical Safety Code and NESC are both registered trademarks and service marks of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. The NESC is available from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA (<http://standards.ieee.org/>)