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NEC Article 409 - The Basics

When the 2005 Edition of the National Electrical Code® (NEC®) was released in January of 2005, an addition to the code known as Article 409 went into effect. This article provided new minimum requirements for the design, installation and inspection of Industrial Control Panels (ICPs). It was no surprise that we at EPG took notice and immediately began to identify how this would impact our design and manufacturing process and what affects these new requirements would have on our current and future customers. We wanted to be certain we were providing reliable, high quality and most importantly, safe equipment.

We will try to provide you with a basic understanding of this new article and encourage you to educate yourselves to insure that your facility is in compliance and operating under the safest conditions

possible.

New Article 409 states "This article covers industrial control panels intended for general use and operating at 600V or less." One significant item to note is how the control panel is to be marked for its short circuit current rating (SCCR). In the past, control panels were rated based on their individual withstand potential. Now, the SCCR must be based on the highest withstand potential, taking into account the potential load of the entire circuit ahead of the panel itself.



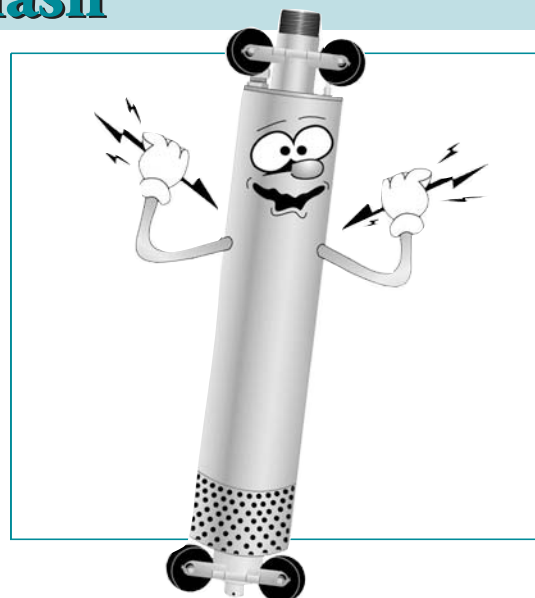
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Safety Focus - Arc Flash

Throughout our industry, both in manufacturing, installation and operation, safety is a major concern. One of the greatest hazards facing those in the field today is Arc Flash. Arc Flash is basically an explosion of energy often times resulting in severe injury and damage to equipment. The costs of medical treatment and equipment repair or replacement due to these incidents can be great. It is more important than ever that Employers be diligent in their effort to provide a safe working environment.

Both OSHA and NFPA codes outline regulations and requirements for employers to assist them in compliance and to protect employees from hazards such as Arc Flash.

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