



# FAQ

## What kind of facilities does NFPA 70B apply to?

NFPA 70B Chapter 1 designates the systems and equipment found in industrial plants, commercial buildings, and large multi-family residential buildings.

## As an engineer, do you see NFPA 70B impacting design drawings or is it more of a maintenance requirement for end users?

It's not a requirement in the design itself to set up the full maintenance program. However, the designer of the system needs to consider how the owner plans to maintain their system and the system design. This can impact the design because it can change aspects like how many lock out points are needed or how to verify when a facility is deenergized before starting maintenance on a piece of equipment by considering arc flash, overcurrent protection, etc. If these aren't considered during the design, this can cause problems down the line when trying to set up a maintenance program

## Is condition-based maintenance required for NFPA 70B compliance?

The short answer is no. NFPA 70B requires an electrical maintenance plan including the inspecting, testing, monitoring, analysis, and service of equipment. However, a condition-based maintenance program utilizing predictive techniques is permitted to help meet those requirements and recommended over interval-based maintenance.

## What are the most common disadvantages to being out of compliance?

Non-compliance to a core industry standard is not a best practice and comes with risk and liability for property damage and people's safety.

If OSHA takes a look at your facility and finds you are not compliant, you're at risk of being cited and fined.

## What is the difference between standard and enforceable code?

Both standards and enforceable codes are written with mandatory provisions. They are written with "shall" language as opposed to a recommended practice which is written with "should" language. Some large entities adopt standards and enforce them as much as their code.

## Is primary breaker injection testing required for breakers larger than 250 A (Table 15.3.5)?

For thermal-magnetic circuit breakers, yes (Table 15.3.5 test no. 5). For electronic-trip circuit breakers, calibration of all functions of the trip unit by means of the manufacturer's specified test set is required (Table 15.3.5 test no. 5). This does not have to be a primary-injection test. This is aligned with allowances in NEMA AB-4 section 9.1, which allows circuit breakers with electronic trip units to be checked by primary or secondary injection testing.

## Some places choose which year of the NEC they are to comply with. How does this work with 70B? Does each plant get to decide if they want to comply with earlier versions of 70B?

The first edition of NFPA 70B that is a standard is the 2023 version, which is the version that should be adopted. All prior versions were only recommended practice. Regarding all standards, it is recommended to adopt the latest standards for all codes as soon as possible. Not doing so comes with risk and liability.

Is NFPA 70B for power distribution like SWBD, panel boards, MCC, etc.? Would it apply to OEM equipment machines? Does it include down to the control level, 24 VDC and 120 VAC??

It applies to some of the components on the OEM build equipment. For example, a disconnect switch incorporated into the equipment would require a look at the chapter dedicated to switches to see what maintenance performance is required. You will not find requirements in NFPA 70B for fabricating equipment but many of its components will have maintenance requirements.

Are the new changes for NFPA 70B applied in NEC 23?

The 2023 edition of the NEC has maintenance requirements included, but they are non-mandatory requirements to follow 70B. It has an informational note that mentions 70B as the standard for electrical equipment maintenance, but the year is not required.

Adopting the latest edition when able is always recommended.

Could you further explain the difference between Testing Category Types 2 and Category 2A (chapter 8.3), and provide an example of each?

Both Category 2 and Category 2A tests are done offline (equipment disconnected from source of supply). Category 2 tests are standard tests performed during maintenance. Category 2A tests are not typically performed during maintenance but can give additional diagnostic data. An example of a Category 2 test would be a turns ratio test on a transformer—a standard test. An example of a Category 2A test would be a Sweep-Frequency Response Analysis (SFRA)—a test that can give additional information on the transformer condition but is not a usual test performed during maintenance.

What is the size of the US market for NFPA 70B business for electrical contractors?

NFPA 70B deals with maintenance and related services for electrical equipment. According to verified market reports, the electrical services market size was valued at \$122.18 Bn in 2023 and is projected to reach \$186.16 Bn by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 6.2% from 2024 to 2030. As a national consensus standard, we expect most of this work to be performed in compliance with NFPA 70B.



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**Schneider**  
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Schneider Electric  
6700 Tower Circle Suite 700,  
Franklin, TN 37067