



Canadian Standards Association
Mississauga, Ontario
To the Part I Committee

Subject No: 3034 **Chair:** M.D. Gardener **Date:** January 29, 2004

Title: Clearance of Conductors, Rule 12-310

Submitted by: Steve Douglas of Electrical Safety Authority, 87 Logan Crt., Barrie, Ontario, Tel: (905) 712-7810, Fax: (705) 726-9090 on July 13, 2001.

Proposal (Specifically Worded):

12-310 Clearance of Conductors. Conductors shall be located or guarded so they cannot be reached by a person standing on a fire escape, or other portion of a building and they shall be at least:

- (1) 2.5 m above the highest point of a roof with permanent access to the roof such as a ladder, door, etc. and,
- (2) 1 m above the highest point a roof without permanent access to the roof,

Reasons for Request: This request is to clear up the existing Code Rule. At the June 2001 Part 1 meeting an Interpretation of Rule 12-310 was discussed under Subject 2903.

The original question from Subject 2903 asked: Rule 12-310 refers to a "roofs that can be readily walked upon". Does this mean a roof that can be physically walked on (without sliding off), a roof with access to be walked on (such as a permanent ladder of stairs) or both?

Original reasons for the interpretation request: We have been asked if low voltage conductors can be run over portable classrooms to feed additional classrooms. If roofs that can be readily walked upon means a roof that can be physically walked on without sliding off then a clearance of 2.5 m between the low voltage overhead conductors and the roof is required.

Question asked of the Subcommittee and the Part 1 committee:

- 1) Does "roof that can be readily walked upon" refer to:
- 2) The physical ability to walk on the roof; or
- 3) The ready access to the roof.

The key word is "readily". In order for a roof to be "readily" walked upon would have some type of permanent access to it, such as, stairs or doorway. If there were no permanent access to the roof, then the roof is not considered to be "readily" walked upon, even if the roof is flat.

Answer from the Part 1 meeting:

- 1) No
- 2) Yes
- 3) No

Supporting Information: Subject 2903

Chair's Comments: With the permission from the Submitter, I've done a minor editorial change. After Subrule (1) change "and" to "or". With this change, I agree with the proposal.

Subcommittee Deliberations:

Note: This proposal is referring to Rule 12-310 not 12-3010

There were nine members in support of the proposal and three members who disagreed.

The main thought was that any conductor over "flat roofs" should be at least 2.5 m regardless if there wasn't any permanent access to the roof.

The new proposal eliminates such terms as "easily walked upon" which makes the rule ambiguous. This term can mean different things to Code users and becomes a judgement call for electrical inspectors.

Subcommittee Recommendation: To accept this proposal.