

ARC FLASH WORKERS

The most recent NFPA 70E standard identifies 4 PPE categories related to incident energy analyses. Each number represents an increased risk of danger and requires a higher level of PPE as shown below.

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Arc Rating Minimum 4 cal/cm²

This is the lowest level when arc-rated PPE is required to perform a work function. This category requires a single layer of arc-rated PPE material.

Body:

Long sleeve shirt or coat and pants. Workers can also use coveralls.

Face and Head:

Wrap-around face shield with guarding or a comparable arc flash suit hood.

Supplemental PPE:

Arc-rated jackets, rainwear, and lined hard hats.

PPE CATEGORY



Arc Rating Minimum 8 cal/cm²

Although this is the second category for protective measures when dealing with arc flash, most businesses utilize Category 2 materials in place of Category 1 for added protection and versatility.

Body:

Arc-rated long sleeve shirt or jacket, pants, and/or coveralls.

Face and Head:

Arc-rated face shield or flash suit hood and sock hoods.

Supplemental PPE:

Arc-rated jackets, rainwear, and lined hard hats.

Mandatory

For environments requiring Category 2 PPE, it is also mandatory to use protective eyewear, gloves, hearing protection, and leather shoes.

PPE CATEGORY



Arc Rating Minimum 25 cal/cm²

Both PPE categories 3 and 4 require multiple layers of PPE. Arc flash hoods and rubber insulated gloves with leather protectors are mandatory.

Body:

arc-rated flash suit jacket, pants, and/or coveralls.

Face and Head:

Arc-rated flash hood.

Hands:

Rubber insulated gloves with leather protectors or specific arc-rated gloves.

Supplemental PPE:

Arc-rated jackets and rainwear.

Mandatory

For environments requiring
Category 3 PPE, it is also
mandatory to use hard hats,
protective eyewear, gloves,
hearing protection, and leather
shoes.

PPE CATEGORY



Arc Rating Minimum 40 cal/cm²

Both PPE categories 3 and 4 require multiple layers of PPE. Arc flash hoods and rubber insulated gloves with leather protectors are mandatory.

Body:

arc-rated flash suit jacket, pants, and/or coveralls.

Face and Head:

Arc-rated flash hood.

Hands:

Rubber insulated gloves with leather protectors or specific arc-rated gloves.

Supplemental PPE:

Arc-rated jackets and rainwear.

Mandatory

For environments requiring
Category 4 PPE, it is also
mandatory to use hard hats,
protective eyewear, gloves, hearing
protection, and leather shoes.

