



Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 213: Drop Lights and Cords in Confined Working Areas

Introduction: Workers using drop lights in attics, cellars, and other confined areas need to be aware of the hazards from hot wires and bulbs. Flammable and combustible material can ignite from heat sources. Following are safety guidelines for using drop lights and cords:

Drop lights: Temporary lights must be equipped with guards to prevent accidental contact with the bulb. The guard must not be removed. The guard also prevents heat contact with flammable products (e.g. paper, insulation, wood, etc.). Guards can be plastic wire (polypropylene) or heavy-duty steel wire, depending on the location used.

- **Always** use the proper lamp (bulb) according to the manufacturer's specifications. Use the proper rated extension cord.
- **General purpose** incandescent hand lamps should have a circuit breaker that provides overload protection. A dual guard will isolate heat from surrounding surfaces.
- **Rubber handled** lights with an insulated socket are safe. A rubber diaphragm covers the switch, sealing it against moisture and dusts.
- **Lamps** should be CSA certified. These lights are for maximum safety and durability.
- **String lights** should be molded with a mounting hole on top for messenger wire suspended applications.
- **Hazardous** location drop lights are specifically designed for use in areas where ignitable vapors may be present. Lights should have rubber grommets to accommodate safety cords.
- **Working spaces**, walkways, and similar locations must be kept clear of cords that could cause tripping hazards.
- **Portable** electric lighting in moist or other hazardous locations (drum, tanks, pipes, etc.) must be operated at a maximum of 12 volts.
- **Attics** may need to have insulation or flammable debris moved to another location while work is being performed.
- **There should** be a designated employee who makes sure that all lights are turned off after use. This will ensure that the lights are only used when they are needed. Lights must be hung where they will not create a fire hazard.



Cords and Portable Tools: All extension cords, portable electric tools, and equipment must be of three-wire type.

- Flexible cords must be used only in continuous lengths without splice unless the insulation is equal to the cable being spliced and wire connections soldered.
- Cable passing through work areas must be covered or elevated.
- Worn or frayed electrical cables must not be used.
- Extension cords should not be fastened with staples, hung from nails, or suspended by wire.
- Ground fault circuit interrupters are to be used on 120 volt, single phase 15 and 20-ampere outlets in line with cord on all temporary-wiring receptacles.



Electrical inspection and repairs: Employers should maintain a record of all electrical equipment in use. The record will include all extension cords and drop lights that have been made for the field. All of this equipment must undergo an inspection prior to being made available to the field and is to be re-inspected when returned. A monthly inspection program is optional when a site is using total GFCI protection.

Drop Lights and Extension Cords

- **When** any electrical equipment is in need of repair, it is the worker's responsibility to turn it in for the needed repairs. Do not use the cord or drop light until all necessary repairs are made or the equipment is replaced if warranted.
- **No** repairs should be made on electrical equipment other than by a competent electrical repairman. After a thorough inspection, place an inspection tape on each item indicating the month of expiration.
- **It is the responsibility** of a supervisor who has the equipment under his control to establish adequate measures to ensure that the equipment is returned when the color code indicates that it is time for the equipment to be re-inspected. No equipment should be used with an expired inspection code on it unless prior permission has been obtained.
- **Prior** to issuing any portable electrical tools or equipment, check the tool or equipment to ensure that it is safe to use at that time.



Conclusion: Confined spaces can contain hazardous materials and atmospheres. The lights need to be turned off when the work is done. Inspect the area after work is complete. Use these safety guidelines to eliminate flammable and combustible hazards.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.