



NOTICE TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

April 27, 2010

TRANSFORMER CLEARANCES 26-246(2)

26-246 Dry-core, open-ventilated type transformers

1. Transformers of the dry-core open-ventilated type shall be mounted so that there is an air space of not less than 150 mm between transformer enclosures and between a transformer enclosure and any adjacent surface except floors.
2. Notwithstanding Subrule (1), where the adjacent surface is a combustible material, the minimum permissible separation between the transformer enclosure and the adjacent surface shall be 300 mm.

The Fire Marshal's Office was asked to interpret the word combustible material as it relates to drywall. The reply was, *"Ordinary drywall is considered combustible in this application, and does not meet the requirement. Type X gypsum board is considered limited combustible and again does not meet the requirement."*

Since this interpretation from the Fire Marshal's Office was recently made on combustible material as it relates to drywall and type X gypsum board we have no choice but to apply the rule as per CEC 26-246 (2). This recent interpretation from the Fire Marshal's Office presently does not allow any relaxation of the rule on all future installations. If you are able to obtain types of materials considered by the Fire Marshal's Office to be acceptable as non-combustible, a clearance reduction may be allowed.