

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
FACILITIES INSTRUCTIONS, STANDARDS & TECHNIQUES
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**PCB TRANSFORMER PROTECTION
AND MARKING REQUIREMENTS**

PCB Transformer Protection and Marking Requirements

(This information is from the Federal Register of July 17, 1985, pages 29170 through 29101)

Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 761, which regulates PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) in concentrations greater than 50 p/m has been amended effective August 16, 1985. This final rule contains several changes that affect Bureau equipment and operation. This final rule prohibits.

1. The continued use of higher secondary voltage network PCB Transformers (network PCB Transformers with secondary voltages at or above 480 volts, including 480/277 volt systems) in or near commercial buildings beyond October 1, 1990. As the EPA definition of commercial buildings is nonindustrial, non-substation buildings, our power and pumping plants would normally not be considered commercial buildings. However, facilities that have a large number of visitors due to tourism or other reasons should be considered as commercial buildings.

2. The further installation of PCB Transformers (which have been placed into storage for reuse) in or near commercial buildings.

The final rule requires the following:

1. The installation, by October 1, 1990, of enhanced electrical protection on lower secondary voltage network PCB Transformers and on higher secondary voltage radial PCB Transformers (radial PCB Transformers with secondary voltages at or above 480 volts, including 480/277 volt systems) used in or near commercial buildings. The enhanced electrical protection requirements consist of the installation of high current fault protection on all commercial PCB Transformers and low current fault

protection on higher secondary voltage commercial PCB Transformers.

2. The registration, by December 1, 1985, of all PCB Transformers with fire departments or fire brigades with primary response function, and the registration, by December 1, 1985, of all PCB Transformers located in or near buildings with building owners.

3. The marking by December 1, 1985, of the exterior of all PCB Transformer locations (the marking should be on the vault door, machinery room door, or other means of access, excluding grates and manhole covers).

4. The removal, by December 1, 1985, of combustible materials stored within a PCB Transformer enclosure, within 5 meters of a PCB Transformer, or within 5 meters of an unenclosed PCB Transformer,

The final rule also requires immediate notification of the National Response Center (24-hour toll free line -- 800-424-8802) in the event of a PCB Transformer fire-related incident; and, that PCB Transformer owners take measures as soon as practically and safely possible to contain any potential water releases associated with a PCB Transformer fire-related incident. These measures include, but are not limited to, blocking of floor drains, containment of water runoff, and control and treatment of cleanup water prior to discharge. Appropriate documents or instructions at plant sites should be revised to reflect the notification requirements and actions required by the amended final rule.

The rules listed in this volume are in addition to the inspection, record keeping, and servicing requirements contained in the FIST Volume 5-6, as a result of the August 25, 1982 electrical Equipment Rule issued by EPA.