

# TECH NOTES

## *OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES SECTION*

**TOPIC: HOT STICKS**, OAR 437-03-Construction code and OAR 437-02-Power generation code.

The following are the requirements for testing and maintenance of hot sticks used for employee protection.

### 1. CONSTRUCTION.

- A. **437-03-335** Hot sticks to be maintained in a manner that will preserve adequate dielectric strength.
- B. 437-03-340 All equipment to be maintained in a safe condition.
- C. 437-03-345 Any piece of protective equipment suspected of being defective to be **tested**.
- D. 1926.951(d)(2) All live line tools to be visually inspected before each day's use.
- E. Hot stick to be wiped clean and checked for defects.
- F. 437-03-370 Hot line tools to be inspected by a **competent** person frequently enough to insure they are in good operating condition.
- G. Surface finish to be kept free from scratches and abrasions which would reduce the insulation value.
- H. 437-03-375 Hot line tools to be transported in special storage compartments or bags.
- I. They shall not be laid on the ground.
- J. 437-03-395 Only hot line tools that are **tested** and warranted by the manufacturer to be used.

## 2. POWER GENERATION

- A. 1910.269(j)(1) Live line tools of plastic or fiberglass to be **tested** to 100,000V per foot. Wood tools to be **tested** to 75,000V per foot.
- B. If the tool meets ASTM standard F-711-89 it is considered to be in compliance.
- C. 1910.269(j)(2) Tool to be wiped clean and inspected daily.
- D. **If any defects are found that affect the insulating qualities of the tool it shall be tested.**
- E. Live line tools used for **employee protection** to be removed from service every two years **AND IF DEFECTS OR CONTAMINATION ARE FOUND THAT AFFECT THE INSULATING QUALITIES OF THE STICK UPON EXAMINATION IT SHALL BE TESTED.**
- F. Testing is required every two years on all sticks made of materials other than Fiberglass-Reinforced plastic.
- G. If the rod is FRP or foam filled tube and the employer can show that the rod have no defects then it **need not be tested.**
- H. For cleaning, repair and testing guide lines see IEEE standard 978-84.

### **Disclaimer:**

This Tech Note has been compiled to provide information and guidance to employers on the subject of Hot Sticks and should not be considered a substitute for any provisions of the Oregon Safe Employment Act or for any standard issued by OR-OSHA.