

**PROVIDE A 30 INCH CLEAR SPACE TO AND IN FRONT OF ELECTRICAL PANEL**CODE SECTIONS

*International Fire Code 2006 Edition*

**605.3 Working space and clearance.** A working space of not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in width, 36 inches (914 mm) in depth and 78 inches (1981 mm) in height shall be provided in front of electrical service equipment. Where the electrical service equipment is wider than 30 inches (762 mm), the working space shall not be less than the width of the equipment. No storage of any materials shall be located within the designated working space.

**Exceptions:**

1. Where other dimensions are required or allowed by the ICC *Electrical Code*.
2. Access openings into attics or under-floor areas which provide a minimum clear opening of 22 inches (559 mm) by 30 inches (762 mm).

EXPLANATION

An area or path measuring 30 inches wide and 78 inches high must be maintained free of any obstructions or storage to and in front of the electrical panel. This includes the door that enters the electrical room or any pathway that may be necessary to reach the electrical panel.

RATIONALE

In the event of a fire or emergency, a primary concern is to disconnect the electrical power at the electrical panel. This must be completed rapidly and with minimum effort. To achieve this, a clear and unobstructed means of access must be maintained at all times to reach the electrical panel. Additionally, storage near an electrical panel poses a significant fire risk, as the panel is a potential ignition source for the combustible storage.