

Recommendations for

Transporting Under Energized Lines

What are the concerns?

Accidental contact with any overhead power lines, either distribution or transmission, is a real and increasing hazard in the over-dimensional load transport industry.

As more over-height loads hit the road and the demand for transport of ever taller loads increases coupled with new projects located in increasing difficult and older infrastructure regions exponentially increase the risk for accidents with overhead line obstacles.



What is a SAFE distance?

OSHA Standard 1926.1408 Operating GUIDELINE

Working	Clearance	Distances
Voltage ("V")	Fully Insulated Minimum Distance	Un-insulated (or covered) minimum distance
Less than 300 volts (phase to phase)	3 – feet	10 – feet
300V to 50 kV	10 – feet	10 – feet
More than 50 kV	10-feet plus 0.4 inches for each 1kV > 50 kV	10-feet plus 0.4 inches for each 1kV > 50 kV
Vehicle in transit	Clearance	Distances
Voltage ("V")	Minimum Distance	
Less than 50 kV	4-feet	
50 kV up to & including 345 kV	10-feet	
More than 345 kV	16-feet	

OSHA and individual utility companies, and possibly your own company, have set safe minimum distances for operating machinery traveling near or underneath, energized lines.

Failure to pre-plan and maintain these clearances can result in accidental contact with energized overhead lines.

Local Utilities

Some states may allow third-party electrical companies to accompany over-height loads to facilitate line lifts; others may require representatives from their own company to travel with the load. Contact the appropriate utility company for information.

All utilities will dictate their own safe minimum operating distances that carriers must follow. It is crucial to check with the Department of Transportation and local utilities in each state you will be hauling through to understand and comply with their unique requirements.