



## **BEST PRACTICE**

### **SUBJECT: CRADLE-TO-CRADLE USE OF INSULATING RUBBER GLOVES AND SLEEVES**

**PRACTICE STATEMENT:** Protocols related to effective use of insulating rubber gloves and sleeves.

#### **PRACTICE DESCRIPTION:**

1. When employees are working on energized circuits or equipment using the rubber glove method, rubber protective-insulating gloves and sleeves rated for the exposure of the highest nominal voltage shall be worn cradle-to-cradle when working from an aerial platform.
  - a. Rubber protective insulating sleeves are not required when employees are working circuits with a potential of 600 volts or less if there is no upper arm exposure and the worker will not encroach the 5-foot primary zone.
  - b. The term “effective cover up” is used to describe the installation of phase-to-phase rated insulating protective cover on energized conductors and/or equipment of different potentials when the lineman is within reaching distance or in areas extended by handling conductive objects.
  - c. The term “extended reach” is used to describe being within five feet of energized conductors and/or equipment or having a conductive object within five feet of energized conductors and/or equipment.
2. Electrical class rating of the insulating rubber sleeves shall meet or exceed the electrical class rating of the insulating rubber gloves when working on primary conductors.
3. Company policies shall apply when the above conditions cannot be met. Alternative work methods ensuring worker safety shall be identified, communicated to all affected workers, implemented and documented as part of the Job Briefing process.

#### **BENEFITS:**

- Provides specific use requirements that are proven methods for reducing electrical contact injuries and fatalities.
- Provides for uniform use guidelines that can be applied industry wide.

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**Cradle to Cradle Gloves & Sleeves**

1. Can I swing the bucket out of the energized zone and remove Gloves and Sleeves in order to smoke, dip, etc.?
  - The bucket must be repositioned to the cradle or lowered to its lowest possible elevation before gloves and sleeves may be removed.
2. Are there examples when gloves and sleeves are required, when working in a bucket (cradle to cradle) when can I remove rubber gloves and sleeves while in the bucket?
  - When the bucket has been repositioned to the cradle or lowered to its lowest possible elevation.
  - When the circuit has been deenergized, grounded and an EPZ has been established.
  - Refer to company policies for specific work procedures.
3. When ascending to perform work on a transmission line with energized under build, do I need gloves and sleeves while moving past the energized under build?
  - No, as long as the 5 ft. primary zone is not encroached.