

Requirements for Temporary Mobile Distribution Boxes



Overview

If you have a temporary installation, you don't just apply the requirements of Article 590 and consider the installation Code-compliant.

Key Takeaways

Temporary mobile distribution boxes must meet safety, durability, and regulatory standards, including IP protection, circuit protection, robust construction, and compliance with IEC standards.

1. **Electrical Protection and Circuitry** Temporary distribution boxes should include residual current devices (RCDs), miniature circuit breakers (MCBs), and master switches to ensure safe operation and prevent overloads or short circuits. The protective devices must be harmonized and of high quality to maintain maximum safety during temporary use . 2. **IP Ratings and Environmental Protection** Boxes must be rated for the environment in which they are used. For dry indoor areas, lower IP ratings may suffice, while outdoor or wet conditions require higher IP protection (IP54 to IP69) to prevent water ingress and dust penetration . Explosion-proof or chemical-resistant enclosures may be necessary in hazardous environments such as chemical plants or oil and gas facilities . 3. **Material and Construction** Robust materials such as GRP (glass-reinforced plastic), stainless steel, or copper-free aluminum alloys are recommended for durability, corrosion resistance, and heat dissipation. The casing should withstand mechanical stress, extreme temperatures, and repeated handling . 4. **Modularity and Flexibility** Temporary boxes should allow modular configurations to adapt to changing site requirements. Standardized cable entries, industrial waterproof connectors (e.g., IP67), and flexible component fitting options enable quick installation, easy maintenance, and scalable power distribution . 5. **Compliance with Standards** Construction and industrial temporary distribution boxes should comply with IEC 61439 for low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies and IEC 61535 for connector systems. This ensures safe, standardized, and reliable operation across different applications . 6. **Practical Handling and Installation** Boxes should be portable, easy to mount, and equipped with handles or brackets for safe handling. They must support symmetrical load distribution and allow for energy monitoring if required, using multifunction meters for logging consumption . 7. **Application-Specific Considerations**

- **Construction sites:** Must handle rough terrain, frequent cable movement, and exposure to moisture .
- **Events and trade fairs:** Require compact, flexible setups with quick commissioning .
- **Hazardous environments:** Require explosion-proof or chemical-resistant enclosures with high IP ratings . By meeting these requirements, temporary mobile distribution boxes provide safe, reliable, and adaptable power distribution for construction, industrial, and event applications while minimizing downtime and safety risks.

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