

**(E) Working Platform.** Lighting busway and trolley busway shall not be installed less than 2.5 m (8 ft) above the floor or working platform unless provided with an identified cover.

**368.17 Overcurrent Protection.** Overcurrent protection shall be provided in accordance with 368.17(A) through (D).

#### See also

**Section 240.21(E)**, which specifies that overcurrent protection for busways and busway taps is covered by the rules in 368.17

**(A) Rating of Overcurrent Protection — Feeders.** A busway shall be protected against overcurrent in accordance with the current rating of the busway.

*Exception No. 1: The applicable provisions of 240.4 shall be permitted.*

*Exception No. 2: Where used as transformer secondary ties, 450.6(A)(3) shall be permitted.*

Busways not intended for use on the line (supply) side of service equipment are marked with the maximum rating of overcurrent protection required on the supply side. The current rating of a busway can be determined in the field only by reference to the nameplate data. The applicable sections of 240.4 referenced in Exception No. 1 are 240.4(B) and (C).

**(B) Reduction in Ampacity Size of Busway.** Overcurrent protection shall be required where busways are reduced in ampacity.

*Exception: For industrial establishments only, omission of overcurrent protection shall be permitted at points where busways are reduced in ampacity, provided that the length of the busway having the smaller ampacity does not exceed 15 m (50 ft) and has an ampacity at least equal to one-third the rating or setting of the overcurrent device next back on the line, and provided that such busway is free from contact with combustible material.*

In industrial establishments, where the size of a smaller busway is kept within the specified limits, providing overcurrent protection at the point where the size is changed is not required. For example, a busway protected by a 1200-ampere overcurrent device may be reduced in size, provided the smaller busway has a current rating of at least 400 amperes ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of 1200 amperes) and does not extend more than 50 feet. Restricting the length of smaller busway and establishing a relationship between the busway current rating and the rating of the feeder overcurrent protective device (OCPD) provides a level of protection for the smaller section of busway in the event of a short circuit or a ground fault. These restrictions are analogous to those required by 240.21(B) for feeder taps.

**(C) Feeder or Branch Circuits.** Where a busway is used as a feeder, devices or plug-in connections for tapping off feeder or branch circuits from the busway shall contain the overcurrent devices required for the protection of the feeder or branch circuits. The plug-in device shall consist of an externally operable circuit breaker or an externally operable fusible switch. Where

such devices are mounted out of reach and contain disconnecting means, suitable means such as ropes, chains, or sticks shall be provided for operating the disconnecting means from the floor.

#### See also

**Exhibit 100.1**, which illustrates methods of operating elevated busway plug-in devices from floor level

*Exception No. 1: As permitted in 240.21.*

*Exception No. 2: For fixed or semifixed luminaires, where the branch-circuit overcurrent device is part of the luminaire cord plug on cord-connected luminaires.*

*Exception No. 3: Where luminaires without cords are plugged directly into the busway and the overcurrent device is mounted on the luminaire.*

*Exception No. 4: Where the branch-circuit overcurrent plug-in device is directly supplying a readily accessible disconnect, a method of floor operation shall not be required.*

Exception No. 4 allows alternative methods of providing ready access to disconnects with an equivalent level of safety. Receptacles may be used as a disconnecting means where permitted.

**(D) Rating of Overcurrent Protection — Branch Circuits.** A busway used as a branch circuit shall be protected against overcurrent in accordance with 210.20.

**368.30 Support.** Busways shall be securely supported at intervals not exceeding 1.5 m (5 ft) unless otherwise designed and marked.

Busways are marked if suitable for installation in a specified position, for use in vertical runs, or for support at intervals greater than 5 feet.

**368.56 Branches from Busways.** Branches from busways shall be permitted to be made in accordance with 368.56(A), (B), and (C).

**Δ (A) General.** Branches from busways shall be permitted to use any of the following wiring methods:

- (1) Type AC armored cable
- (2) Type MC metal-clad cable
- (3) Type MI mineral-insulated, metal-sheathed cable
- (4) IMC intermediate metal conduit
- (5) RMC rigid metal conduit
- (6) FMC flexible metal conduit
- (7) LFMC liquidtight flexible metal conduit
- (8) PVC rigid polyvinyl chloride conduit
- (9) RTRC reinforced thermosetting resin conduit
- (10) LFNC liquidtight flexible nonmetallic conduit
- (11) EMT electrical metallic tubing
- (12) ENT electrical nonmetallic tubing
- (13) Busways
- (14) Strut-type channel raceway
- (15) Surface metal raceway
- (16) Surface nonmetallic raceway