



● ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE • CONDITION MONITORING

NFPA 70B inspection interval *quick reference.*

As of the 2023 edition, NFPA 70B is an enforceable standard, not a recommended practice. Infrared inspection is now a required condition-monitoring activity for electrical equipment, run on intervals set by risk. This sheet summarizes how the interval is chosen and what every record must contain.

01 / THE RULE Interval is set by risk, not a single number

ANNUAL FLOOR

Start yearly

General facility electrical distribution is commonly surveyed annually. Treat annual as a floor to build from, not a target to settle on.

CONDITION-BASED

Tighten by class

Equipment in poorer condition classes calls for more frequent scans. NFPA 70B Table 9.2.2 is the basis; document the logic behind each interval.

CRITICALITY-DRIVEN

Weight the asset

Criticality, load, environment, and repair history all move the interval. A critical bus earns a shorter cycle than a low-risk panel.

02 / TYPICAL INTERVALS A starting framework

ASSET CLASS	TYPICAL INTERVAL	DRIVER
Critical distribution, main switchgear, paralleling gear	Quarterly to annual	Consequence of failure; life-safety and revenue load
Equipment with a repair or fault history	Monthly to quarterly	Known deterioration; verify the fault cleared and stays clear
MCCs, panelboards, general distribution	Annual	Standard condition monitoring for energized distribution
Low-risk, lightly loaded, benign environment	Annual or longer	Low criticality and stable history can lengthen the cycle

Intervals are a facility-specific decision from its risk profile. Use NFPA 70B Table 9.2.2 as the governing framework and record the reasoning for each asset.

03 / DOCUMENTATION What every finding must carry

- ✓ **Radiometric thermal image** paired with a matching visual photo
- ✓ **Emissivity and reflected temperature** values used
- ✓ **Component, panel, and location ID** so the finding is repeatable
- ✓ **Delta-T and severity class** tied to a defensible threshold
- ✓ **Load at time of scan** (amps) and operating conditions
- ✓ **Corrective action** routed to a work order, then re-inspected

THE POINT OF THE RECORD

A finding without a work order is not a finding. The closed loop — identify, repair, verify by re-inspection — is what an audit actually cares about, and what makes the program defensible if an incident is ever reviewed. Scan under load: a de-energized check passes connections that are quietly failing when current flows.