Chapter 44: Penetration Safety

Quick Start Summary

1 Who needs to know about these requirements

The requirements of Penetration Safety apply to workers engaged in penetrations (drilling, cutting, or otherwise piercing) of a wall, ceiling, or floor, their supervisors, area and building managers, the penetration safety program manager, and Radiation Protection. The requirements do not apply to the placement of thumbtacks, picture nails, or similar items in a hollow wall or ceiling that do not go beyond the thickness of the external material (that is, sheetrock, wood, plaster board).

2 Why

Penetrations may expose workers to hazards from unidentified utilities and materials affected by chemicals or radiation.

3 What do I need to know

Penetrations are classified as either Class 1 (made into hollow walls, ceilings, or floors or into solid materials to a depth of 2 inches or less) or Class 2 (deeper than 2 inches or all the way through solid material). A penetration permit is required for

- Class 2 penetrations
- Class 1 penetrations where the hazards and controls are not documented in a job safety analysis (JSA) (unless the supervisor has direct knowledge that a structure, wall, floor, or other surface does not contain electrical, gas, or other hazards)
- Any penetration within a radiologically controlled area (RCA), a radioactive material management area (RMMA), or into accelerator shielding

4 When

These requirements take effect 14 June 2021.

5 Where do I find more information

SLAC Environment, Safety, and Health Manual (SLAC-I-720-0A29Z-001)

- Chapter 44, “Penetration Safety”

Or contact the program manager.