

Electrical installation or equipment ?

Often the border between equipment and installation is not well defined; ESF wishes to provide some useful description in order to help clarify the matter.

Electrical equipment includes any machine powered by electricity. They usually consists of an enclosure, a variety of electrical components, and often a power switch or a power cord with plug.

The Low voltage Directive says: "electrical equipment" means, unless the context otherwise requires, any electrical equipment (including any electrical apparatus or device) designed or adapted for use with voltage (in the case of alternating current) of not less than 50 volts nor more than 1,000 volts or (in the case of direct current) of not less than 75 volts nor more than 1,500 volts. Very simply: anything requiring electric energy to operate, provided with a power cord falls into such a definition.

Electrical installation means any fixed appliances, wires, fittings, apparatus or other electrical equipment used for (or for purposes incidental to) the conveyance, control and use of electricity in a particular place.

All those components are assembled on site and cannot be moved unless disassembled.

A first key word can be "assembled"; while the equipment is a "ready to use" machine the installation is mounted together on the place designed for its operation.

Another basic requirement is the portability: the equipment can be moved easily, just disconnecting the plug and placed on a another site; the installation will operate on the site where it has been assembled for its entire life.