Computer Room Equipment Power Distribution

The distribution to the critical loads must be exactly mapped to the redundancy of those loads and the cord and circuit diversity that they require.

The upstream systems must be able to deliver the source diversity to the computer room circuiting under normal maintenance and failure modes of operation as prescribed in the Class performance descriptions.

At this level, the electrical system is downstream from the PDU or transformer level, and this system is typically operating at the utilization voltage level for the ITE or critical equipment. This distribution can be present in several forms such as bus way or individual circuits.

For high-density loads, a given design may separate the panel board branch circuit sections of the PDU into cabinets near the critical loads. This system may have either single or dual-inputs and is commonly known as a remote power panel (RPP). RPPs reduce installation labor and reduce the cable and circuit length to the load.

Distribution to the loads may be either overhead or underfloor. Underfloor power distribution is most commonly accomplished using liquid tight flexible metallic conduit, although in some jurisdictions, hard conduit may be required. IEEE 1100 recommends hard steel conduit with the Rwanda standards board approved insulated grounding wire for added safety, performance, and protection.

Power distribution should be located under the cold aisle and telecommunications cabling located under the hot aisle to minimize air blockages.

Overhead power distribution can frequently eliminate the cost of conduits (with the addition of cable tray or bus way) and can have the added benefit of eliminating cables as a cause of underfloor air blockage.

Overhead cabling, if used, should be planned to minimize blockage of airflow above the floor.

For future and high-density loads, traditional 20A circuits may not be enough for power strips in the IT cabinets, and in some installations, 3-phase power strips with appropriately sized circuit capacity may be required to support the load. To accommodate future power requirements, installation of three-phase cabling at a capacity of up to 50 or 60 A or at utilization voltages of around 400 VAC is recommended even if such power is not immediately required.

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