Thinking about building a grain bin?

If you're planning to build or move a grain bin, either on your property or for someone else, you need to be familiar with Iowa's law on required distances from overhead electric lines. This law was put in place to provide protection from the hazard of contacting overhead electric lines to anyone working around grain bins with augers, elevators, or other equipment.

The drawings inside this brochure show the specific clearance requirements related to permanently installed augers and portable augers. There must be at least 18 feet between the top of any grain bin and any overhead electric lines. These distances were developed by the American National Standards Institute. Figure 232-4(b) can be found in the 2023 Edition National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). As your electric service provider, we're responsible for ensuring that these specifications are met. In fact, in any situation where minimum clearance requirements are not observed, the utility may refuse electric service.

So if a new grain bin is on your list of projects, please give us a call. We will work with you in developing a site plan for your project.

* *

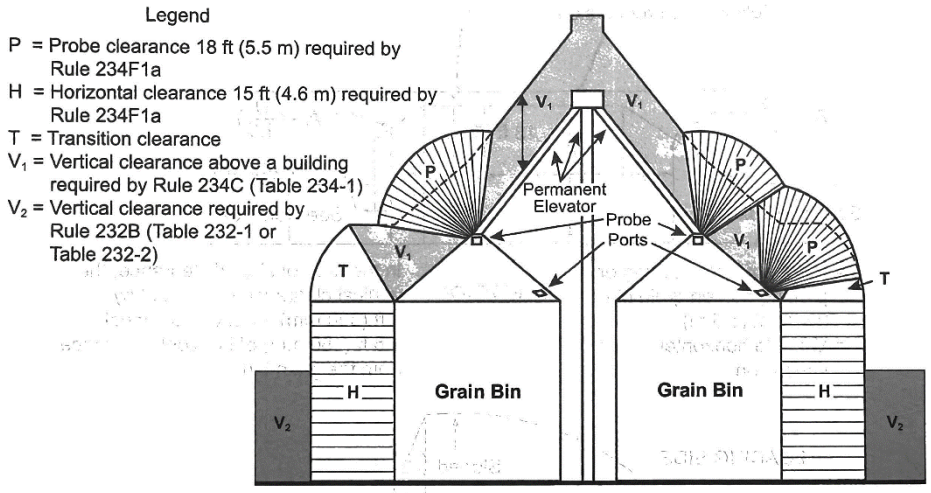


Figure 234-4(a)—Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevators

Grain Bin Clearance Guidelines

Source: The 2023 Edition National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI C2-2023).

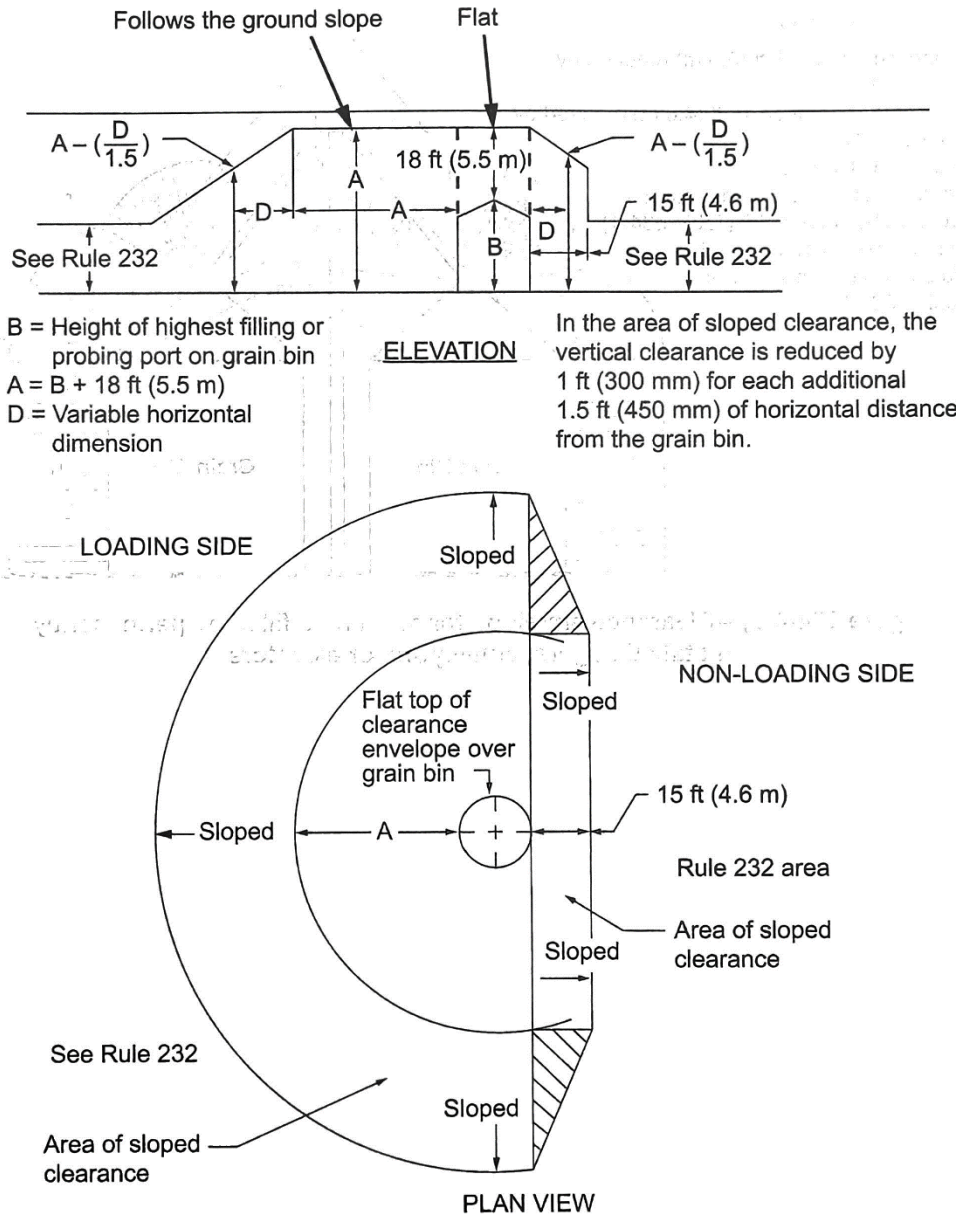


Figure 234-4(b)—Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers conveyors, or elevators