

Bulletin 6-7-7
Hot splitters/tapping existing services
Rules 6-200, 6-212 and 12-3032

Issued May 2022
Supersedes Bulletin 6-7-6

Scope

- 1) Existing hot splitters
- 2) Taps off existing service equipment

1) Existing hot splitters

Background

There are many installations in Ontario that do not have a main service switch. They are called hot splitters.

Periodically we receive questions concerning the need to install a main service switch, or whether it is acceptable to add another sub service to the existing hot splitter. There are three options to consider.

Option 1

Where the installation meets the requirements of Rule 8-106 8), and does not exceed 6 subdivisions, the additional service does not require the installation of a main service disconnect.

Option 2

Where the demand load over the past 12 months is not available and there are no more than 6 subdivisions, a written demand load calculation for the complete installation should be obtained. Where the calculated demand does not exceed the rating of the splitter equipment, the additional service does not require the installation of a main service disconnect.

Option 3

If the subdivision of the main service exceeds 6 sub services or the requirements of Option 1 and 2 cannot be met, a single main disconnect shall be installed.

2) Taps off existing service equipment

Background

Rule 6-212 1) states that service equipment enclosures shall not be used as junction boxes for conductors tapping off to other electrical equipment.

On an existing service, sometimes the only way to supply power to new electrical equipment is to tap into the existing service box.

Direction

Notwithstanding Rule 6-212 1), based on past practice and satisfactory experience, a deviation is permitted for a maximum of one tap on the line or load side of the service box with the following conditions:

- a) An independent clamping means is provided for each conductor as per Rule 12-3032 2) a) i), e. g. multiple barrel lug as shown in Photo B1; and
- b) The tap conductor is installed as permitted by Rule 14-100.

Tapping for an additional service shall only be permitted in the service box per Bulletin 6-7-* and not inside a meter mounting device unless it is multiple or dual lug.

Where the tap is made on the load side of a service box by drilling and tapping the bus bar, such drilling and tapping shall be performed according to the switchgear/equipment manufacturers' recommendations.

Where the tap is made on the line side of service box, the conductors, methods of termination and equipment shall comply with Section 6 requirements.

Photo B1 – Double barrel lug

