

Bulletin 2-33-0
Meter base plug-in transfer device
Rules 2-005, 2-013 and 2-024

Issued May 2026

Scope

- 1) Background
- 2) Approval
- 3) Notification of work requirements
- 4) Meter base terminations

1) Background

ESA has seen an uptake in the number of homeowners requesting different methods of connecting a portable generator to their service. One method is the installation of a meter base plug-in transfer device. Section 2 of the OESC contains rules when a notification of work is required to install the device depending on who is performing the installation and requirements of the supply authority. There have been non-compliant installations when connecting the neutral conductor that comes with the plug-in transfer device to the neutral inside the meter base.

2) Approval

Meter base plug-in transfer devices as shown in Photo B1 are required to be approved. Acceptable approval options are:

- Field Evaluation to SPE 1000 by a recognized Field Evaluation agency (Inspection Body).
- Certification to Standard ANSI/CAN/UL1008M (Note 1) “Transfer Switch Equipment.”

(Note 1) Although the Canadian standard is published, ESA will continue to accept certification to UL1008M to allow for transition.

Photo B1 – Meter mounted transfer switch plug-in



3) Notification of work requirements

The installation of a meter base plug-in transfer device does not require a notification of work in accordance with Rule 2-005 f) if installed (Note 2):

- by a Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC) in accordance with Ontario Regulation 570/05, and
- in accordance with the requirements of the supply authority.

Although a notification of work is not required when performed by an LEC, where a notification of work is filed, a Connection Authorization shall be needed.

(Note 2) Note: Supply authorities are not permitted to perform the installation on behalf of the LEC unless the supply authority meets the requirements of Ontario Regulation 570/05.

Appendix B note to Rule 2-005 f) provides additional information.

Excerpt to Appendix B: Some supply authorities do not permit the installation of a meter base plug-in transfer device or require a Connection Authorization. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the licensed electrical contractor to ensure the supply authority permits the use of meter base plug-in transfer devices and to verify if a notification needs to be filed for the purpose of Connection Authorization for the installation of these devices.

The exemption provided by Rule 2-005 f) does not apply when the meter base plug-in transfer device is installed by a homeowner. They will be required to file a notification of work, to perform the work themselves and ESA will issue a Connection Authorization to the supply authority once the installation is compliant.

A notification of work is required to hardwire a generator to a transfer switch since it is considered an electrical installation even when performed by an LEC. The exemption only applies to the installation of the meter base plug-in transfer device.

4) Meter base terminations

The meter base plug-in transfer device requires a neutral connection to the neutral conductor within the meter base. It is not permitted to connect the neutral conductor from the meter base plug-in transfer device to the ground terminal in the meter base or to install multiple conductors under the meter base neutral terminal -see Photo B2.

Accepted OESC compliant methods to connect the neutral conductor may include crimped, split bolt, insulation piercing or separate neutral connector-see Photo B3 (Note 3).

Since the installation requires a connection of the transfer device neutral to the neutral in the meter base, these devices shall not be installed where a neutral is not present in the meter base such as a TEE service.

Photo B2
Non-compliant terminations

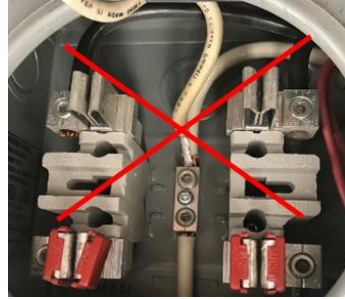


Photo B3
Compliant terminations
Examples: split bolt, insulation piercing, separate connector



(Note 3) Note: Some supply authorities may require a different type of connector. It's up to the installer to communicate with the supply authority to determine the accepted style of connector to be used.