

## Access to Consumer Service Entrance Equipment

### Distribution Company Awareness

The intent of this updated Bulletin is to provide clarity regarding the requirements of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) with respect to application of the Electrical Distributor's locks applied to customer-owned equipment. Previous version DB-04-24-v1 should be replaced.

### Introduction

In accordance with some Electrical Distributor's Conditions of Service, Electrical Distributors apply their locks on the consumer's service entrance equipment (main switch) or restrict access to the customer's substation gates, vaults (e.g. electrical rooms), that contains customer-owned equipment.

OESC Rule 6-206 1) b) requires the consumer's main switch to be readily accessible or have the means of **operation** readily accessible. Readily accessible is a defined term in Section 0 of the OESC meaning capable of being reached quickly for operation, renewal or inspection. Electrical Distributors should avoid applying their locks on the consumer's main switch operating handle, gates, vault (electrical room) doors, such that the customer cannot operate the main switch handle without removing the Electrical Distributor's lock, since this creates an OESC non-compliance. However, where the Electrical Distributor locks on consumer's main switches or substation gates are deemed necessary in accordance with the Conditions of Service, means such as horseshoe locks that allows access to both the customer and the Electrical Distributor should be employed.



## ESA Recommends

- Electrical Distributors inform and train their field staff on the requirements not to apply locks that restrict access to the consumer's main switch operating handle, including restricting access to the customer-owned substation.
- Electrical Distributors review their existing services to ensure the consumer's access or ability to operate the main switch is not prevented by a lock previously placed by the Distributor. Co-ordination with the customer should be done prior to removing any Electrical Distributor locks.
- Electrical Distributors review their procedures, plans and conditions of service to ensure the consumer's main switch is not installed in areas where Electrical Distributors prevent consumer's access.