
Electrical Distribution Safety

GENERAL

This Distributor Bulletin contains information on how an LDC demonstrates compliance with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) Rule 2-012 connection authorization. It is recommended that copies of DIB-04-12 be destroyed and replaced with this bulletin.

BACKGROUND

Some LDCs have inquired about when a customer or contractor requests a disconnection of power if they may reconnect the service without a connection authorization.

ESA DIRECTION

The disconnection of a service to safely perform tasks when working in the vicinity of overhead powerlines or electrical equipment such as tree trimming, painting, eavestrough replacement, flashing installation or roofing does not require a connection authorization before reconnecting the service. The LDC may reconnect the service without a connection authorization provided there is no obvious indication that work of an electrical nature has been done to customer owned infrastructure.

Work of an electrical nature includes the installation, repair, alteration, replacement and re-attachment of customer owned electrical equipment.

The installation of siding or stucco would not fall under this exemption since typically the work would involve either enclosing the service mast, service conduit and meter base or detaching the service mast, service conductor support attachment and meter base.

Customer owned electrical equipment includes the following items such as:

- Poles, guy wires, conductors, insulators;
- Meter base including conduit, service conductors, service mast including guy wire;
- Service panel and main breaker.

This Direction is based on OESC Rules 2-012 and 2-014.

A CONNECTION AUTHORIZATION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE RE-ATTACHMENT OF THE SERVICE MAST OR METER BASE.

NOTE: ONLY ESA CAN AUTHORIZE A RECONNECTION OF SERVICE, INCLUDING AFTER HOURS.

When electrical work is performed and the service is energized without a connection authorization, electrical safety hazards for persons or property may be present and is a Non-Compliance with the OESC. A temporary connection authorization may be issued to the LDC as permitted by Rule 2-014. Such an installation may have defects to the service, but in some emergency situations, the installation is required to be energized under a temporary basis.

Electrical Distribution Safety

RECOMMENDATION

- ✓ Inform all LDC personnel who are involved with customer connection orders of the OESC requirements prior to connecting a customer.
- ✓ Inform line crews of the exemption who are directly involved with the disconnection and reconnection of consumer services.
- ✓ Energizing of the electrical installation should be coordinated between the licensed electrical contractor/or the occupant and the LDC. Caution should be exercised to avoid a possible electrical hazard upon initial energization.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information requests and follow-up may be directed to ESA at Utility.Regulations@ElectricalSafety.on.ca. For questions on this bulletin please be prepared to quote Bulletin “DB-05/16”.