

## **UPDATED: Connection Authorization**

### **General**

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. This Distributor Bulletin has been updated to clarify how an LDC demonstrates compliance with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) Rule 2-012 Connection Authorization.

This bulletin supersedes all previous bulletins dealing with that matter.

### **Background**

There have been some misapplications that have occurred where some LDC crews re-energized customers without a connection authorization even though electrical work was performed by the customer.

### **ESA Direction**

Based on OESC Rule 2-012, work of an electrical nature includes the installation, repair, alteration, replacement and re-attachment of customer owned electrical equipment and will require a Connection Authorization when the installation has been disconnected or cut off from any service or source of supply. This will also include unplanned work such as the customer or their electrical contractor repairing/replacing customer owned electrical equipment or downed powerlines causing the incoming fuse to blow.

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.

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. This will be at the ESA's discretion.

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. THE LDC WILL BE NON-COMPLIANT WITH THE OESC, ACCORDINGLY, ENFORCEMENT ORDERS MAY BE APPLIED AGAINST THE LDC.

## **Exemption**

The disconnection of a service to safely perform planned work in the vicinity of overhead powerlines or electrical equipment such as tree pruning and or removal, 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 evidence that work of an electrical nature has been done to customer owned infrastructure.

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. A connection authorization will be required for the re-attachment of the service mast or meter base.

## **ESA Recommends**

- 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.
- Coordinate energizing of the electrical installation with the licensed electrical contractor/or the occupant. Caution should be exercised to avoid a possible electrical hazard upon initial energization.