

UPDATED: Connection Authorization

General

Some Electrical Distributors have inquired when a customer or contractor requests a disconnection of power if they may reconnect the service without a Connection Authorization. This bulletin has been updated to include raising of buildings and to clarify how the Electrical Distributor demonstrates compliance with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) Rule 2-012 Connection Authorization.

This bulletin supersedes all previous bulletins regarding Connection Authorizations.

Background

There have been some misapplications that have occurred where some Electrical Distributor 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 Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC) repairing/replacing customer owned electrical equipment or downed powerlines causing the incoming fuse to blow. Customer owned electrical equipment beyond the ownership demarcation point includes but not limited to the following items:

- Poles, guy wires, conductors, insulators, fuses;
- Meter base including conduit*, service conductors, service mast and associated support (guy wire);
- Service panel, main breaker, ground wire and electrode.

*does not include the repair of the line side conduit containing the Electrical Distributor's service conductors that are exposed.

A temporary Connection Authorization may be issued to the Electrical Distributor as permitted by OESC 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 Electrical Distributor will be non-compliant with the OESC and the Electricity Act, accordingly, enforcement orders may be applied against the Electrical Distributor.**

Exemptions

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 Electrical Distributor may reconnect the service without a Connection Authorization provided there is no evidence that work of an electrical nature has been performed to customer owned equipment.

However, work involving the installation of siding, stucco or raising of buildings 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, meter base, and extending the service ground wire or installing an electrode. A Connection Authorization will be required.

ESA Recommendation

- Inform all Electrical Distributor personnel involved with customer connections of the OESC requirements and exemptions prior to connecting a customer.
- Coordinate energizing of the electrical installation with the LEC/or the occupant. Caution should be exercised to avoid a possible electrical hazard upon initial energization.