

3rd Party Attachments Service Drop Definition & Exemption

Distribution Company Awareness

This bulletin is meant to clarify the intent and scope of the Service Drop definition and audit exemption in the "Guideline for Third Party Attachments" for O.Reg. 22/04.

"Guideline for Third Party Attachments", Section 1.1.20, defines a Service Drop:

"Service Drop" means a small light weight single communication cable or wire between an attacher's plant and customer's residence or place of business. The cable or wire shall be affixed in span, to a pole or existing messenger, constructed per the attacher's engineered "Service Drop" standard. The owner should establish a maximum lateral load to the plant.

"Guideline for Third Party Attachments" Section 2.2, exempts audit requirements:

The installation and removal of Service Drops are exempted from the audit requirements of section 7 and 8 of the Regulation. However, Service Drops are not exempt from Sections 4,5,7, and 8 of the Regulation and as such, must meet CSA C22.3 No.1 Overhead Systems and C22.3 No.7 Underground Systems.

ESA Direction

"Service Drops" are wires or cables installed between the attacher's plant and the customer's point of service. A laterally installed "Service Drop" is not limited in length, or number of spans. Longitudinally attached communication's plant along an Electrical Distributor pole line is usually not a "Service Drop".

The audit exemption is to avoid the review of site document records by the auditors and delays in providing service to attachment customers. All Service Drops (longitudinally or laterally) shall be designed and installed to meet or exceed the requirements of CSA 22.3 No.1, including adequate ground clearance and spacing to other attachments.

The owner is not required to keep records of Service Drop installations for the purposes of the audit although it is required that the installation meets CSA standards C22.3 No.1 and C22.3 No.7.

ESA Recommends

Each owner should establish the maximum unbalanced loadings (primarily lateral tensions) of the "Service Drops", imposed on the distribution plant. Any loading in excess of the defined maximum loadings would not qualify as a "Service Drop" and therefore would not be exempted from the audit requirements of Section 7 and Section 8 of the Regulation.