



ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR CONSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES

New conditions of supply requirements with effect from, 2 April 2001

Recent audits of various building estates, conducted by the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, found an average of over 70% of dwellings under construction connected to an electricity supply by unsafe means.

Specifically, electrical installations were connected to supply whereby the 'Protective Equipment' (service fuse assembly) installed on the meter panel had been bridged by a conductor thus providing an unsafe connection of electricity supply to the installation.

This Office is also aware of a practice used by some building industry workers, which is to remove meter panel service fuse carriers from an existing electrical installation to enable insertion at another installation under construction, to provide for unauthorised electricity supply. This is an unsafe and dangerous practice, which may result in parts of the electrical installation not yet completed becoming energised, e.g. unterminated wiring. It is of concern that meter panel mounted service fuse carriers, when removed from the fuse-base assembly, expose the energised parts of the fuse-base assembly connection terminals to possible inadvertent contact.

Electricity supply for constructional purposes, either via a Builders Supply Pole or arranged through the use of permanent consumers mains and metering facilities installed in their permanent position where the 'Protective Equipment' (service fuse assembly) is installed on the meter panel, will require a suitable process which will prevent an unsafe connection of supply being effected.

With effect from Monday 2 April 2001, all Electricity Distribution Companies will require a suitable process to be in place before electricity supply is made available.

Such processes may include the use of,

- a reusable locking and/or securing device such as the,
 - B & R Service Fuse Padlocking Kit (SFPLK1)
 - Clipsal Security Cover (230DRAV-SEC), or
- a suitable Circuit Breaker in lieu of the meter panel mounted Service Fuse, or
- other suitable means acceptable to the OCEI.

To enable access by Electricity Distribution personnel, the reusable locking and/or securing device will need to be supplied with a suitable locking arrangement acceptable to the Electricity Distribution Company such as the Victorian Power Industry (VPI) master keyed padlock.

Signed by
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CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR