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RELAY

A newsletter for Electrical Contractors

December 2009, No. 7

Welcome to another edition of our RELAY newsletter, which has been produced to provide information to Electrical Contractors across Ergon Energy's distribution area.

Clarification of the ruling on grouping of main switches

The ruling published in the June 2009 RELAY Newsletter has been further clarified by the Electrical Safety Office (ESO) as set out below.

The ESO can assist in general guidance of the wiring rules; however, it does not provide rulings.

Clarifications to requirements of the Wiring Rules that were covered by rulings and interpretations in earlier editions are included in Frequently Asked Questions as the need arises. These FAQs are developed by the joint Standards Australia / Standards New Zealand Committee EL-001, Wiring Rules.

FAQs for the 2007 Wiring Rules are available on www.wiringrules.com.au.

Regarding the main switch identification issue, we can advise that Clause 2.3.3.4 AS/NZS 3000:2007 requires each main switch to be marked MAIN SWITCH and imposes the additional condition of readily distinguishing the MAIN SWITCH / SWITCHES from other switches by using one or a combination of means such as grouping, contrasting colour or other suitable methods mentioned in the clause.

Solar Inverter Energy Systems (IES) electrical installations

Electrical Contractors are reminded that wiring for the installation of an IES meter shall comply with the requirements of 5.6, 6.1.2, 6.1(a), and the drawings 887940-01, 887941-01, 887941-02, 887941-03, 887942-01 of the Electricity Connection & Metering Manual (ECMM).

Metering **will not be changed** if the installation does not meet these requirements including installation and accessibility of meter isolation links, meters, wiring, and condition of the switchboard.

Installers of IES systems should carry out site inspections of switchboards (including multiple installations) to determine upgrade requirements. If any doubt exists contact Ergon Energy for advice.

Failure to have the switchboard comply with the required standard may involve additional expense to the consumer before upgrading of the metering can be carried out.

Terminating compressed / compacted cables into meter terminals

Please take care when installing meter wiring.

Ergon Energy has been advised by a cable manufacturer that all building wire is now classed as compressed / compacted cables and may not be suitable under Clause 6.10.7 in the Electricity Connection & Metering Manual (ECMM).

For example, cables of this type larger than 10mm can cause connection difficulties. When bent to connect into the meter terminals, larger cables do not meet the manufacturers' recommendations for minimum bending radius.

ECMM update released

Version 4 of the Electricity Connection & Metering Manual (ECMM) was released in October.

Electrical Contractors are urged to obtain a copy and make themselves familiar with the changes. Refer to Appendix D for a list of changes from previous versions.

Any variations to the practices detailed in the ECMM must be discussed in advance with an Ergon Energy Senior Regulatory Officer.

The ECMM is available from our Website. To download it online or to order a printed copy go to www.ergon.com.au and click on the Contractors, Suppliers & Developers link.

New connection arrangement approved to join consumer mains to ABC service cables

Ergon Energy has approved the use of the Sicame mains connection box incorporating ILC 3595 insulation piercing clamps to join consumer mains to ABC service conductors up to 95mm².

This arrangement can be used as an alternative to using a UV resistant insulated enclosure.

More details can be found in Electricity Connection & Metering Manual 4.3.2 (drawing 887928-03).



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Supporting of meter enclosures mounted on temporary structures

Hager B&R recently released the new Horizon "Q" series switchboard enclosures.

The new enclosure incorporates a number of improved features, including a temporary mounting arrangement. This allows it to be moved from a temporary location to the permanent position without the need to open the panel.



▲ B&R recommended mounting arrangement



▲ B&R mounting bracket

Ergon Energy Connection Officers have encountered situations where the stability of the enclosure has been compromised because Electrical Contractors have not complied with the manufacturers' mounting instructions.



▲ Unacceptable mounting arrangement



▲ Example of an acceptable alternative mounting arrangement

Alternative mounting arrangements deemed to comply with Electricity Connection & Metering Manual 6.3.2 will be acceptable.

Failure by Electrical Contractors to satisfy the requirements of ECMM 6.3.2 will result in the installation not being connected to supply and a wasted truck visit charge being levied against the contractor.

Distribution Service Charges

As previously communicated in October, Ergon Energy has a list of service charges for most works we perform. They will apply each time we need to perform work as prescribed in the **Excluded Distribution Services 2009-10 Price List**. The Price List can be downloaded directly from our Website. Go to www.ergon.com.au and click on the Contractors, Suppliers & Developers link.

When work is carried out by Electrical Contractors, which results in Ergon Energy performing a chargeable service we need to know who to charge for the work. It is important that you and your customer provide accurate information about the job so correct fees and charges are advised and directed to the correct person.

Ergon Energy is also requesting that when contractors submit Form A's for chargeable works, they note who will be responsible for the charge in the "Request Details" section of the form.

For advice on our fees and charges, please call our National Contact Centre on 13 10 46 or go directly to our Website on www.ergon.com.au and click on the Contractors, Suppliers & Developers link.

Have your say

With regard to inquiries on information in the RELAY newsletter, or issues you may like to have considered for inclusion in future editions, contact your regional representative:

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Or telephone them through our National Contact Centre on 13 10 46. When asked for information about your call, say CONTRACTOR ENQUIRY and your call will be directed to the appropriate person.

You can check out more about
Ergon Energy at www.ergon.com.au