

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR UPDATE



Safe Work Month

In a high-risk industry we can't afford to take our eyes off the ball when it comes to safety.

Safe Work Month in October is about promoting healthy, safe and productive workplaces.

We encourage you to make a plan to stay safe when working around our electrical network and offer [free safety advice](#) to keep you and your workers safe.

Whether you're an old hand or just starting out, there's also a wealth of information on the [Work Safe Queensland website](#).



**Queensland
Government**

Proud sponsor of Safe Work Month 2019

Meter Positioning

We've noticed an increase in metering panels installed in unsuitable locations on newly constructed homes.

As per the [QECM clause 6.6.2](#) meter positions on a domestic property must satisfy the below criteria:

a) Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Distributor, meters shall be erected in the side of the premises facing a street from which there is pedestrian access or within the first 2 metres along an adjacent side of the premises (refer to drawing QECM 6.4).

b) Meters shall not be located behind any fence in an urban area, other than the perimeter fence located at the extremities of the property boundary.

Also, refer to this clause for additional information on domestic large, rural and farming properties.

If you need advice on a meter position please call our [Electrical Contractor Hotline](#) and select option 1 for technical advice.

To request a dispensation against QECM clause 6.6.2 please contact tech.enquiries@ergon.com.au prior to any works being completed.

Electrical Contractor Hotline

As we're always striving to improve your interactions with us, we've made some changes to our Electrical Partner phone lines and options. The below changes are now live.

The [1800 237 466](#) menu options have been updated to better support your common enquiries.

- Option 8 for Loss of Supply and Emergencies – this option is presented first, bypasses all outage messaging and is treated with priority
- Option 1 for Technical Advice
- Option 2 for all other enquiries

The Distributed Energy Resources Register is coming

The Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Register is a new regulatory requirement that places an obligation on the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to establish and maintain a register of DER up to 30MW in the National Electricity Market. The register will include small-scale energy resources such as battery storage, rooftop solar PV and other renewable energy and fossil-fuelled generating systems.

From 1 December 2019, for all DER applications you'll be required to provide us with additional information, through an expanded network connection application form, about all relevant proposed DER installations.

What is changing?

Our Embedded Generation connect application forms will be expanded to collect new mandatory DER information. We've planned ahead and enhanced our portal to make the additional data as easy as possible for applicants to enter, including pre-populating some fields based on the inverter

selected and connection standards. For a typical solar PV application, while around 97 fields will be stored in the DER Register, only an additional 8 fields will need to be completed or selected.

Want to know more?

You're invited to join a webinar to further discuss specific information on how these changes will impact you. Our DER Register webinar will be held on Tuesday 8 October at 4pm. You'll receive an invitation to this event soon but if you'd like to get in early [you can register now](#).

For further information about the DER Register, please refer to the [AEMO website](#).

A message from the Electrical Safety Office - Take care with switchboard wiring

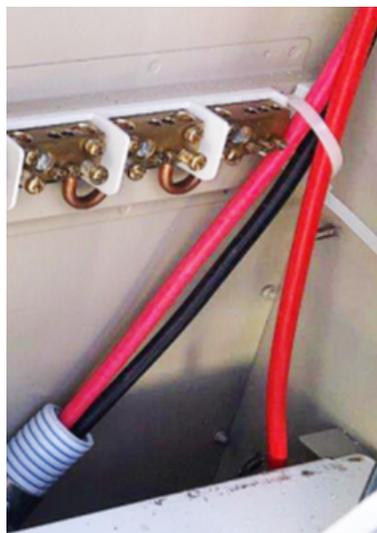
Electrical workers and contractors should take care when locating meter wiring and other cables in switchboards. The clearance between hinged escutcheon panels and the neutral and earth links on some switchboards can be quite small.

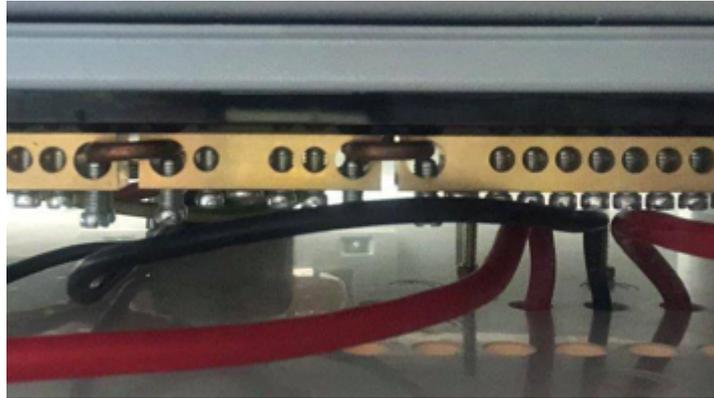
Ergon Energy Network have advised of many incidents where active meter wiring has short circuited against neutral and earth links when the escutcheon panel is closed, damaging the conductor insulation and resulting in the operation of the service fuse.

These incidents can cause electric shock or arc flash injuries to workers, and can result in significant property damage and expensive call out fees to replace blown service fuses. You can avoid them by taking the time to fully consider the layout of your switchboard wiring, particularly cables that might move when you close a hinged panel.

As every switchboard is different, you'll need to assess the best approach when selecting and installing wiring systems. For example, one practical method to make switchboard wiring safer is to use the supplied cable tie access points to hold cables clear of anything that could damage the cable insulation.

For more information refer to the [Wiring Rules AS3000](#) section 3.3.2.6 Mechanical damage and section 3.3.2.8 Other mechanical stresses. The below images are examples of poor installation practices and depict building wire in contact with or near the neutral bar.





Contact Details

420 Finders St,
Townsville, Qld 4810

Electrical Contractors Hotline [1800 237 466](tel:1800237466)

Network General Enquiries [13 74 66](tel:137466)

7:00am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday

networkenquiries@ergon.com.au



About Electrical Contractor Update

This newsletter will keep you informed about what's happening in the industry and any changes to compliance, rulings and legislation.

www.ergon.com.au

