

RELAY News for electrical contractors

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(General enquiries)
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New 'Form A' requirements for alterations/upgrades to IES

Within Ergon Energy's distribution area, a Form A must be submitted whenever an existing IES inverter is upgraded or replaced, or when an additional inverter is added.

While a new meter will not be required, Ergon still requires the usual system compliance checking. A new application must also be lodged for any inverter change or addition, and also for solar panel changes within Ergon's distribution area. (Refer QECMM Clause 10.2).

Online lodgement best bet for Form As

PEOPLE lodging Form As are encouraged to take advantage of the online submission option via the Ergon Energy website. When a Form A is submitted online, a confirmation email is sent to the initiator and the Form A is directed to the appropriate depot for action.

Form A's received by fax or delivered to the depots will continue to be accepted, however there is no receipt issued and the manual processing of these forms may take more time than the streamlined on-line process.

It is also important to note the mandatory sections on Form As which must be completed for an application to proceed. The reverse side of the form outlines what data is required, along with useful advice on how to lodge the form, where to direct enquiries, and how to access pricing information. **Find out more here.**

New assembly rules for property poles

The QECMM Version 8 has introduced a new ruling relating to the type of assembly needed for steel property poles:

5.4.2 Property Poles

(a) Precautions must be taken to prevent both internal and external corrosion in steel property poles. Due to the difficulties of assessing the extent of internal corrosion of steel in ground poles a rag bolt assembly is mandatory where a steel pole is used for the first property pole. (Refer to Drawings ECMM 5.3, 5.4-1 and 5.4-2).

For Builder's Temporary Supply (BTS), where a steel reusable pole is used, refer to Drawings ECMM 5.5, 5.6-1 and 5.6-2 for details of an approved design. The connection of the overhead service line can be facilitated with the use of a mains connection box suitable for copper conductors.

(b) Hardwood timber property poles are to be suitably treated and have a minimum SWL rating of 5kN (as indicated on the pole disc). Other types of timber property poles are acceptable provided they meet the requirements of AS/NZS 3000 (Wiring Rules) Appendix D.

Improving customer service and outcomes

Electricity retail price increases over the last several years have put significant pressure on household budgets. Ergon Energy is doing all it can to address affordability, and electrical contractors have a critical role to play.

Customers trust electrical contractors to provide them with money-saving options, both short and long term. For example, a customer with a swimming pool or an electric hot water system (even solar or heat pump) connected to Tariff 11 would probably be very pleased to hear that their electrician could help them reduce those running costs by a minimum of *30% by connecting them to Tariff 33. They'll be joining the 68% of residential customers who already enjoy the benefits of Economy tariffs (at December 2013).

**A minimum of 30% saving in running costs between Tariff 11 (29.4 c/kWh) and Tariff 33 (19.9c/kWh)

It's an easy way for licensed electrical contractors to generate goodwill with clients by helping them to slash potentially hundreds of dollars off their annual power bill, while also assisting Ergon to optimise its network use and manage long-term network costs that influence future pricing.

Remember when considering connecting a customer's hot water system to Tariff 33 or Tariff 31 (depending on size), there is a \$100 incentive available for customers from Ergon Energy until 30 June 2014. For more details on the incentive go to www.ergon.com.au/your-home/save-on-your-bill/hot-water-cash-back-offer.

Contractor Hotline: 1800 237 466

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