



RELAY

A newsletter for
Electrical Contractors
June 2012, No. 13



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

ELECTRICIANS ALL CHARGED UP FOR RECESS INFORMATION SESSIONS

More than 800 electricians from across the state attended Ergon Energy's Residential Electrical Contractor Engagement Sessions, better known as RECESS, last month.

The information sessions covered compliance, demand management, tariffs, emerging technologies and connection issues.

Ergon Energy Implementation Manager Greg Dwyer thanked everyone for attending. "It was a great opportunity to meet with electrical contractors from across the state and share information on a wide range of issues," he said.

For those who could not attend, check out the electrical contractor webpage on www.ergon.com.au for all the relevant information discussed at the sessions.



The RECESS information session in Townsville drew large numbers of contractors.

METERING NEWS AND UPDATES

Moving or relocating meters

Electrical contractors are reminded that you cannot move or relocate revenue meters. Any attempt to move or relocate the meter by anyone other than an appointed metering provider for that installation is in breach of the National Electricity Rules.

Meter wiring

Electrical contractors need to ensure there is sufficient length in the metering wire when undertaking work on a switchboard that requires a metering upgrade. Failure to do so will incur charges for a 'wasted truck visit'.

Meter upgrades

Installation of all direct connected electronic metering must comply with the Queensland Electricity Connection and Metering Manual.

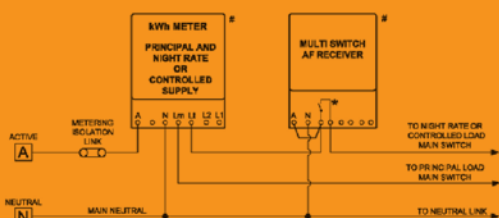
A meter isolation link (MIL) must be installed on the line side of metering, with the installation main switch/s installed on the load side of each separate tariff or controlled supply metering. Each main switch must comply with AS/NZS 3000, including identification, marking and location requirements.

New standard meter comes on board

From 1 July, Ergon Energy will be utilising integrated (2 element) metering as its standard single phase multi-tariff arrangement.

Refer to drawing 8.4 of the Queensland Electricity Connection and Metering Manual for how it should be wired.

ERGON ENERGY RIPPLE CONTROL AREAS ONLY (REFER TO CLAUSE 6.3)



■ ITEMS SUPPLIED BY METERING PROVIDER
* SWITCH POSITION DETERMINED BY TARIFF AND LOAD TYPE.
● SOLDERED CONNECTION

NEW TARIFF FOR ERGON ENERGY CUSTOMERS

In 2011 the former Queensland Government directed the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) to develop a new pricing system and tariff structure for electricity consumers, proposed to start on 1 July this year.

In April, the newly-elected Queensland Government also froze the price of our main residential tariff, Tariff 11, for 12 months, except for the inclusion of a carbon tax component.

The proposed new structure includes a voluntary time-of-use tariff - Tariff 12 for residential customers. This tariff may benefit those customers with higher levels of energy consumption who can shift their electricity consumption from peak periods. Customers considering changing tariffs should contact Ergon Energy after 1 July, once the new tariffs are confirmed and introduced.

Residential customers who choose to move to Tariff 12 will require installation of a new meter. If you are contacted by a customer requesting to move to Tariff 12 you need to determine if the customer's switchboard is compliant with current Queensland Electrical Connections and Metering Manual standards.

When work is completed electrical contractors will need to submit a Form A to Ergon Energy which will permit the installation of the new meter.

Customers who choose to remain on Tariffs 11, 31 and 33 will not require changes to their meter.



NEW LAWS BRING IMPORTANT CHANGES

From 1 July, a new set of national laws governing how we interact with our customers will come into place, meaning some changes to how Ergon and electrical contractors work.

The National Energy Customer Framework or NECF will set out nationally consistent specifications around a range of activities including how and when we respond to enquiries, applications for new and altered connections, and when we must notify customers about planned interruptions.

One impact is that from 1 July a new version of the Form A will be available and contractors will need to start using it from that date.

For further information or to obtain a new Form A contact **1800 237 466** or visit ergon.com.au.

UPDATED VERSION OF ELECTRICITY MANUAL AVAILABLE IN JULY

An updated version of the Queensland Electricity Connection and Metering Manual will be available from 1 July. To get a copy of the updated version go to ergon.com.au, select the 'Contractors and Suppliers' link and follow the prompts.



HAVE YOUR SAY

If you have any enquiries about the information contained in this newsletter or topics you would like to see included in future editions please contact your regional representative:

Central: crm.central@ergon.com.au

Northern: vince.prasser@ergon.com.au

Far North: david.dehnen@ergon.com.au

Southern: robert.rafter@ergon.com.au

Alternatively, you can phone our contractor hotline on **1800 237 466**.



Ian Burroughs from Brite-Lec Electrical in Townsville.

INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS AND INVERTERS

Electrical contractors will need to advise Ergon Energy if a customer wants to install extra solar panels to an already existing system, and leave the inverter unchanged.

However, if the inverter is increasing, an Inverter Energy System (IES) application must be resubmitted to Ergon Energy.

Customers also need to have Ergon Energy approval before installing an IES to prevent any risks to the network, the customer's premises and potentially to other customers' premises on the network.

SWITCHBOARD PANEL NOT SECURED AFTER COMPLETION OF WORK

Electrical contractors must ensure that switchboards are secured by screws or nuts to prevent access to live parts without a tool. Instances where the panel is found unsecured and allowing access to live parts will be reported to the Electrical Safety Office.

ASBESTOS IN SWITCHBOARDS AND METER PANELS

Under new workplace health and safety laws any work that involves, or is likely to involve, the disturbance of asbestos is deemed as high risk construction work. This work requires a Safe Work Method Statement.

Asbestos is commonly found in switchboards and meter panels that were installed prior to 2004.

Many older switchboard panels are not labelled as containing asbestos. Switchboards that may contain asbestos may be black or dark brown in colour. The surface may be rough and fibrous with a tar-like smell. Switchboard panels marked with Labah, Zelemite, Miscolite, or Ausbestos are all brand names of asbestos switchboards panels.

The contractor must arrange for any asbestos debris or disturbance to be cleaned up prior to Ergon Energy working on site.

For further information visit <http://www.deir.qld.gov.au/asbestos/>