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RELAY

A newsletter for Electrical Contractors

June 2010, No. 8

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

New State-wide manual from 1 July

As of 1 July 2010, there will be one Electricity Connection and Metering Manual for Queensland's electrical installers.

Electrical Contractors who are currently registered with the Queensland Electrical Safety Office should now have a copy of the new Queensland Electricity Connection and Metering Manual (QECMM). The QECMM was progressively mailed out from 31 March.

Previously, industry professionals had to use separate electricity connection and metering manuals for both Ergon Energy and Energex. Feedback indicated this sometimes led to confusion for professionals working across both areas of responsibility. The new manual aligns requirements and work practices for both distribution companies and provides minimum requirements for connection of supply and metering of customers' installations.

Compliance to the new QECMM will be required from 1 July 2010. Additional copies of the QECMM are available to download from www.ergon.com.au. A hard copy can be ordered via the Printed Copy Order form (\$20 per copy). This form is also available from www.ergon.com.au.

Contractors are urged to familiarise themselves with the new manual prior to implementation, including the amendments and changes which are listed in Appendix C.

Isolation for single and multiple installations with whole current metering

There is now an option for Contractors to install a circuit breaker in lieu of a metering isolation link on the line side of whole current metering to protect consumer mains against overcurrent on single customer installations. This option should be used when overload protection cannot be achieved, in accordance with AS/NZS 3000 by the positioning of main switches on the load side of the metering. For example, the sum of the main switch circuit breakers (C/Bs) exceeds the current carrying capacity of the mains cable. The meter isolating circuit breaker will need to be installed on the metering panel, sized for overload protection of the mains and installed in a sealable non-metallic enclosure with a clear cover. This will allow the customer to determine if the C/B is in the open or closed position.

Please refer to Clause 7.2 of the QECMM for further information.

Multiple installations **shall** have a circuit breaker main switch sized for overload protection of the consumers mains in accordance with AS/NZS 3000 connected on the line side of the metering. Metering isolation links are still required for individual customers before the metering. Refer to clause 7.2.2 of the QECMM.

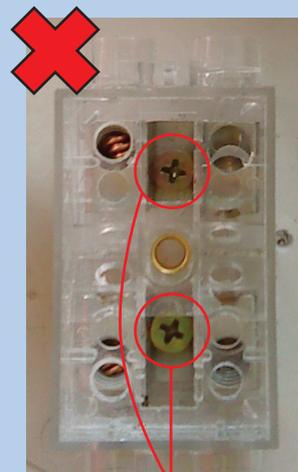
Safety Alert

Correct mounting of Meter Isolation Links (MILs)

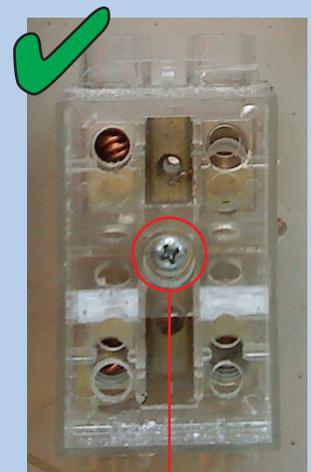
Instances where Electrical Contractors have drilled through the brass terminal block and mounted the meter isolation link/s with metal screws have been reported across the state. This creates a very dangerous situation with exposed live metal screws protruding through the meter panel, which has resulted in an electric shock being received by workers.

This work practice is defined as a "Dangerous Electrical Event" under the Electrical Safety Regulations 2002 and is reportable to the Electrical Safety Office.

Note: All meter isolation links are manufactured with mounting holes in the base. No additional holes need to be drilled.



Screw installed through terminal block



Correct mounting point

Amendments to the QECMM

The following amendment is issued for the new QECMM and is effective immediately -

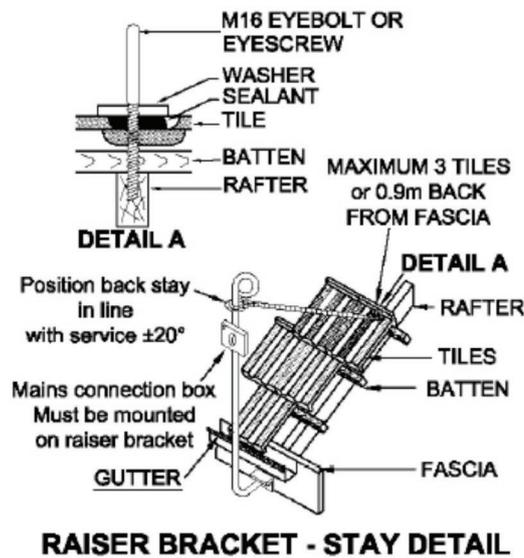
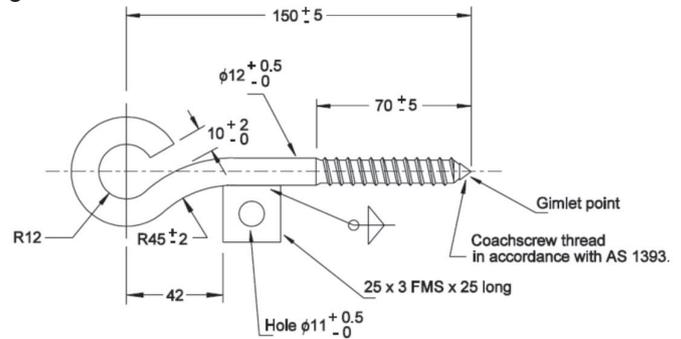
Clause 5.4(e)

Initial feedback from users of the QECMM v5.0 has indicated clarification is required regarding overhead service line attachments, in particular the requirement for an eye screw/eye bolt in lieu of 'J' hooks as detailed in Clause 5.4 (e).

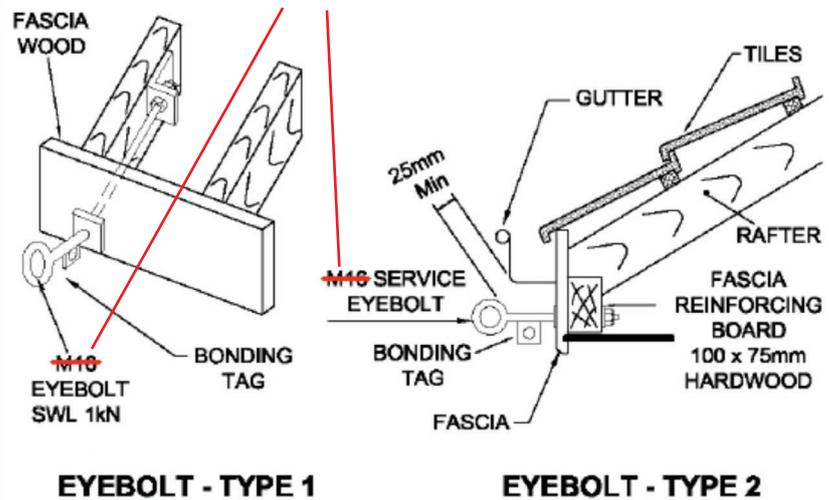
Figure 1 shows an example of the eye screw service attachment acceptable for use at the fascia. Note that a fully closed eye screw is not mandatory. To avoid confusion, all further documentation will refer to this

attachment as an open eye screw. In Ergon Energy's distribution area the open eye screw must have an earth tag with Ø12mm hole to connect the bonding conductor.

Figure 1



The drawings below should refer to a M12 eyebolt not a M16



Changes have been made to drawing 5.7 as detailed above. These drawings incorrectly refer to an M16 eyebolt as the attachment instead of an M12.

2010-11 Price List

New prices for **Alternative Control Services** (previously Excluded Distribution Services) come into effect on 1 July 2010. As part of these new prices there have been some changes to services. For example some services that previously had a Fixed Fee are now Quoted so you will need to contact Ergon Energy to get a quote for the service.

The new prices and product codes that apply in Ergon Energy's supply area in relation to Alternative Control Services can be found online at ergon.com.au.

Check out the new and improved Contractors site at ergon.com.au to access information, download forms, register for Alerts, and much, much more.

Needlepoint screws

Non conformance issues regarding the use of needlepoint screws to mount equipment to the switchboard continue to be reported from around the state. This practice does not comply with the Electricity Connection and Metering Manual clause 6.4.2 and must stop. Having live screws accessible at the front of a switchboard has the potential to create a very dangerous situation.

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:

- Central:** matthew.vanderwerff@ergon.com.au
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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.