

Connection Standards *“Tech Talk”*

URGENT BULLETIN 27 March 2001

To: All Registered Electrical Contractors

NEW REQUIREMENT – APPLICABLE 2 APRIL 2001 LOCKING OF METER PANEL SERVICE FUSES ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

Due to new “Electricity Supply Conditions For Constructional Purposes” conditions of supply issued by the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector (OCEI), from 2 April 2001 all meter panel fuses on construction sites must be fitted with an acceptable device to prevent unauthorised interference prior to connection. Construction sites include builder supply poles and builders supplies in permanent in positions.

Unauthorised interference has resulted in dangerous practices and electrical hazardous through persons breaking seals, removing and reinserting fuse carriers and links and/or bridging the fuse base contacts with wire or leaving them exposed. Stealing fuse carriers with their links from bonafide customers has left these customers without supply and with the problem of having to supply a new fuse carrier and to arrange reconnection.

The new conditions were developed and issued following a recent industry meeting convened by the OCEI. Representatives from building and electrical contracting organisations, electricity distributors and the OCEI expressed their concern at the unauthorised interference and the resultant hazards, and agreed that immediate preventative measures were required

The conditions do not allow Powercor to connect supply to a new construction site with a meter panel fuse unless the fuse has been fitted with an acceptable device to prevent interference.

The recently released B&R SFPLK1 & SFPLK3 Service Fuse Padlocking Kit and Clipsal 230DRAV-SEC Security Cover are acceptable devices, provided they are fitted with a Victorian Power Industry Padlock. These devices are available from most electrical wholesalers. The locks are available at most locksmiths and hardware stores.



B&R Service Fuse Padlocking Kit
SFPLK1 for 1 Fuse
SFPLK3 for 2 or 3 Fuses



Clipsal 230DRAV-SEC
Security Cover
For Clipsal 230 Series
Meter Boxes

A more detailed report of the situation has been provided on the rear of this document.

To prevent undue connection delays and to provide the best possible service to our mutual customers, please ensure that any new construction site with a meter panel fuse to be connected from 2 April 2001 is fitted with one of these devices prior to arranging for it to be connected.

**Ken Greenway
CONNECTION STANDARDS MANAGER**

Statement -27 March 2001

Victorian Service & Installation Rules Management Committee

NEW REQUIREMENT – APPLICABLE 2 APRIL 2001 LOCKING OF METER PANEL SERVICE FUSES ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

Unauthorised interference with Meter Panel Service Fuses and subsequent adverse effects for electrical safety on construction sites has resulted in the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector (OCEI) issuing new supply conditions for electrical installations on construction sites.

The most common interference identified is the removal of the fuse wedge (and link) and bridging the fuse base terminals with wire. The interference has also lead to the fuse carriers being left out and exposing live contacts, and bonafide customers have been left without supply due to tradesmen and others removing and inserting fuse carriers and links. These are extremely dangerous practices, and in many cases they create an unacceptable electrical hazard.

The new supply conditions were issued following a recent industry meeting convened by the OCEI. Representatives from the five Victorian Electricity Distributors, Master Builders Association, Housing Industry Association, Electrical Contractors Associations, individual builders and the OCEI were present at the meeting. All representatives expressed their concern for the safety of on site workers where this danger existed, and agreed it was essential for this practice to be stopped.

The new supply conditions are aimed at preventing electrical hazards due to interference and include the fitting of a device over the fuse locked with a suitable locking arrangement acceptable to the Electricity Distribution Company, such as the Victorian Power Industry (VPI) lock.

The conditions apply to all construction sites to be connected to supply within Victoria from 2 April.

The recently released B&R SFPLK1 (for one fuse) and SFPLK3 (for three fuses) Service Fuse Padlocking Kits and Clipsal 230DRAV-SEC Security Cover (for Clipsal 230 series meter boxes) are acceptable devices, provided they are locked with an acceptable lock such as the VPI lock. These devices are available from most electrical wholesalers, and the VPI locks are also available from most locksmiths and hardware stores.

Alternative arrangements to achieve equal or better safety outcomes will be considered by the OCEI. The OCEI option to fit a circuit breaker in lieu of a fuse is currently being reviewed by the Electricity Distributors.

Therefore, until advised of other acceptable arrangements by the OCEI, and as required by the new supply conditions, from 2 April 2001 Victorian Electricity Distributors will not connect electrical installations fitted with meter panel fuses on construction sites unless they are fitted with a device as detailed.