

SERVICE & INSTALLATION RULES

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Locked Bag 14090
Melbourne 8001

Date: 27 March 2001

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 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.



B&R Service Fuse
Padlocking Kits
SFPLK1 – For 1 Fuse
SFPLK3 – For 3 Fuses



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

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.

For the SIR Management Committee:

**Ken Greenway
(CHAIRMAN)**