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Electrical Standards and Safety Technical Compliance Guide

Occupational Licensing (Electricity Consumption Metering) Code of Practice 2022 FAQs

Below are some answers to frequently asked questions about the *Occupational Licensing (Electricity Consumption Metering) Code of Practice 2022* which commences in Tasmania on 2 May 2023.

Read the Code of Practice for the full requirements.

1. What is an Installation Protection Device (IPD)?

Answer: An IPD is a circuit breaker that must be located upstream of the meters. It provides overcurrent protection for the consumer's mains and an isolation point for the switchboard and meters.

An IPD must be provided on each electrical installation connected to electricity infrastructure. The Code of Practice lists all the requirements the IPD needs to meet.

Reference: Clause 22

2. Does the IPD need to be a D curve circuit breaker?

Answer: No, the IPD can be a B, C or D curve circuit breaker.

Reference: Clause 22

3. Why is the IPD required to comply with AS/NZS IEC 60947.2?

Answer: A circuit breaker manufactured to comply with this Standard provides protection for the electrical installation and metering equipment.

Reference: Clause 22

4. Can I still use a metering fuse?

Answer: The IPD replaces the need for a metering fuse.

Electrical contractors working at the property can use the IPD to isolate the installation to work safely on the switchboard.

If the owner overloads the consumer's mains for any reason, they can also reset the IPD themselves.

Reference: Clause 22

5. With an IPD installed, do I need to install other overcurrent (short-circuit and overload) protection for the mains?

Answer: The IPD provides sufficient overcurrent protection for the mains and the installation. Additional overcurrent protection would need to be installed for sub-circuits and sub-mains originating at the switchboard.

Reference: Clause 22

6. What are the minimum clearances from the front of meter enclosures and around meter enclosure doors?

Answer: A minimum clearance of 1000mm is required from the front of the meter enclosure. A minimum clearance of 600mm is required around the meter enclosure door in any open position. These measurements are to a fixed structure or the property boundary irrespective of a fence or wall being in place.

Reference: Clause 18(D)

7. What are the minimum height requirements for meter enclosures?

Answer: The height must be sufficient to allow the top edge of the meters to be no higher than 2000mm, and the bottom edge to be no lower than 600mm.

Reference: Clause 18(I)

8. What are the requirements for main switchboards in multiple title installations (e.g strata schemes)?

Answer:

There must be one main switchboard that:

- Is located on common property,
- Contains a main switch that provides suitable overcurrent protection for the entire property,
- Contains the overcurrent protection devices for each consumer's main to the individual titles,
- Contains the first M.E.N for the installation,
- Complies with AS/NZS 3000, and
- Has a sealable barrier covering connections and live parts and allows the circuit breakers to be re-set by an unskilled person.

Reference: Clause 23

9. What is a service protective device (SPD)?

Answer: An SPD used to be called a service fuse. It provides fault protection to the distribution network.

Reference: Clause 17

10. When does the Code of Practice apply to existing installations?

Answer: The Code of Practice applies to existing installations when:

- Replacing the meter enclosure due to damage, upgrading, renewing or to accommodate additional equipment,
- Relocating the meter enclosure, and
- Upgrading the supply from single to multi-phase.

Part 3 of the Code of Practice also applies when installing import/export meters, replacing the switchboard, replacing the consumer's mains or altering/adding to the meter enclosure.

Reference: Clause 5

11. What are the requirements if there's asbestos in an existing meter enclosure?

Answer: If components containing asbestos (such as meter panels) are removed from a meter enclosure for any reason they can't be reused.

This could also include the fireproofing sheet lining the switchboard.

Reference: Clause 14

12. What are the requirements for fireproofing an existing meter enclosure?

Answer: All combustible surfaces such as timber, plasterboard and the like within an existing meter enclosure must be lined with a fibre-cement sheet at least 3mm thick.

This includes:

- Behind the meter panel,
- The exposed surfaces of the meter cleats, and
- The area in front of the meter panel and metering equipment (including the inside of the door).

In addition, all conductor entries larger than 5mm must be filled with a suitable fire sealant (refer to clause 2.10.7 of AS/NZS 3000).

Reference: Clause 15

13. When I replace an old fuse board with a new circuit breaker switchboard module contained in a timber metering enclosure do I need to fireproof the whole enclosure?

Answer: Yes. When replacing the switchboard module contained within a metering enclosure, you need to fireproof all combustible material inside of the metering enclosure. You are also required to install RCDs as per the requirements of AS/NZS 3000.

Reference: Clause 5(B)(iii) and Clause 15

14. What if my proposed design doesn't comply with the Code of Practice, but I have an alternative method?

Answer: You can depart from the Code of Practice provided that the design:

- Achieves an equivalent or superior level of safety and reliability, and
- Is approved by the installation owner, electricity retailer, metering provider and electricity entity.

The electrical contractor needs to keep records of this approval for 10 years.

Reference: Clause 8

15. What if I have commenced work prior to 2 May 2023 and am waiting for meters to be installed?

Answer: The Code of Practice is mandatory for electrical work commenced from 2 May 2023. Electrical work that has commenced prior to this date must comply with either the revised Code of Practice or the previous version.

16. For single title electrical installations, can I install the metering equipment and sub-boards inside the main switchboard?

Answer: Yes, provided the metering equipment and sub-board for each separately metered electrical installation is segregated from one another.

Reference: Clause 24(A)

17. Can I install customer owned communication equipment in the switchboard that contains the meter enclosure?

Answer: Yes. Customer owned communication equipment, for example, solar system power monitoring equipment, can be located in the switchboard, provided it is not mounted on a meter panel or located somewhere that restricts access to a meter panel or meter equipment.

Reference: Clause 21

18. For multiple title electrical installations, can I install a meter enclosure on each separate land title?

Answer: Yes, if the meter enclosure on each land title just contains metering equipment for that individual land title.

A meter enclosure containing metering equipment for more than one land title must be located on common property.

Reference: Clause 18(C)(iii)

Version	Application Date	Sections amended
1.0	April 2023	Original release
2.0	May 2023	Additional question added
3.0	July 2023	Additional questions added

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