

Electrical Distribution Safety

This bulletin is intended to replace DSB-03/09 titled “3rd Party Attachments”. DSB-03/09 has generated some confusion and this bulletin is meant to clarify the guideline and previous bulletin. It is recommended that copies of DSB-03/09 be destroyed and replaced with this bulletin.

This bulletin is intended to clarify the 3rd Party Attachment Guideline for O. Reg. 22/04 as it relates to service drops. Specifically it covers the intent and scope of the service drop definition and clarifies the exemption of a service drop with respect to audit requirements. **All service drops (longitudinally or laterally) shall be designed and installed to meet or exceed the requirements of CSA 22.3 No.1, primarily for adequate ground clearance and spacing to other attachments.**

DEFINITION OF SERVICE DROP:

As per the “Guideline for Third Party Attachments” – October 5, 2005:

Section 1.1.20 -

“Service Drop” means a small light weight single communication cable or wire between an attacher’s plant and customer’s residence or place of business. The cable or wire shall be affixed in span, to a pole or existing messenger, constructed per the attacher’s engineered “service drop” standard. The owner should establish a maximum lateral load to the plant.

CLARIFICATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- “Service Drops” are wires or cables installed between the attacher’s plant and the customer’s point of service. A laterally installed “Service Drop” is not limited in length, or number of spans. Longitudinally attached communication’s plant along a LDC pole line is usually not a “Service Drop”.
 - Each owner should establish the maximum unbalanced loadings (primarily lateral tensions) of the “Service Drops”, imposed on the distribution plant. Anything in excess of the defined maximum loadings would not qualify as a “Service Drop” and therefore would not be exempted from the audit requirements of Section 7 and Section 8 of the Regulation.
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EXEMPTION OF SERVICE DROPS FROM AUDIT REQUIREMENTS:

The intent of the audit exemption is to avoid the review of site document records by the auditors and delays in providing service to attachment customers. As per the “Guideline for Third Party Attachments” – October 5, 2005:

Section 2.2 -

The installation and removal of Service Drops are exempted from the audit requirements of section 7 and 8 of the Regulation. Service Drops are not exempt from Sections 4,5,7, and 8 of the Regulation and as such, must meet CSA C22.3, No. 1-01 Overhead Systems or C22.3, No. 7-94 Underground Systems

CLARIFICATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The owner is not required to keep records of service drop installations for the purposes of the audit although it is required that the installation meets CSA standard C22.3 No.1.
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

If you can provide additional information on this Bulletin or any other Utility issue, please contact ESA to share your experiences. Additional information requests, and follow-up information, may be directed to ESA. Please be prepared to quote Bulletin “DSB-01/10”.
