

## Electrical Distribution Safety

### GENERAL STATEMENT:

ESA has received questions regarding working around meter bases. In general, the requirements with respect to working around meter bases are dependent on whether the work involved falls under Regulation 22/04 or under the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC). If the work falls under the OESC then the Code, Contractor Licensing and Electrical Product Safety apply.

### QUESTION:

The LDC is at a residential customer's house to change the meter. After pulling the meter off the meter base the LDC employee finds one of the meter lugs is broken inside the meterbase and therefore cannot replace the meter. In order to restore power to the customer the meter jaw(s) will require replacement.

- a) Can the utility employee exchange the meter base socket using a factory made, like for like replacement piece in order to restore power to the customer?

#### ANSWER:

No. Meter base socket retrofit, using parts as shown below, is work covered by the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) and must follow all requirements detailed in that code. Upon discovery of a broken meter base, the utility employee should contact an Electrical Contracting Business with an Electrical Contractor Licence working under a Master Electrician Licence, or the home owner should be made aware of the issue so arrangements for a Licenced Electrical Contractor to implement repairs.

The Electrical Contracting Business could include the utility's licenced affiliate company.



- b) Can the utility employee jumper the line and load side wires in the meter base, until the meter base can be permanently repaired by our electrical contractor?

#### ANSWER:

Yes. Temporary jumper work falls under Regulation 22/04. Some LDCs have approved design standards in order to make safe temporary electrical power connections for these temporary installations.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For additional information regarding working around meter bases please see Safety Bulletin DSB – 01 / 07.

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 "DIB-08/09".