

ELECTRICAL INSPECTION BULLETIN

B-02-018

Use of Electrical Jumpers

(Effective 12/15/2015)



Background

The Electrical Code Regulations and Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1, Rule 2-018 require that no re-connection, installation, alteration, or addition shall be connected to any source of energy by a supply authority, electrical contractor, or other person, until authorization has been obtained from the Inspection Department.

Both the supply authority and the Inspection Department have encountered a number of cases where electrical jumpers have been installed at service equipment without authorization. These unauthorized connections are common during service upgrades, repairs and in multi-tenant buildings where the main service entrance equipment is energized and tenant sub-services are powered through the use of temporary jumpers. Improper use of jumpers can cause a back feed, thus energizing electrical equipment such as meter sockets and disconnect switches. These back feeds can create a potential safety hazard for both the general public and utility personnel. NSPI has encountered instances where unauthorized use of electrical jumpers have been discovered in meter sockets, as well as between various components of an electrical installation, in an effort to bypass a portion of the electrical system or to supply power to de-energized electrical equipment.

Requirements

1. The installation of temporary electrical jumpers shall only be permitted during service entrance upgrades, emergency repairs and other special circumstances as permitted by the Inspection Department.
2. In all cases the electrical contractor shall notify the Inspection Department by contacting the local Wiring Inspector for each specific job where temporary jumpers are to be installed.
3. In no case shall a temporary electrical jumper be energized until: (a) A Wiring Permit is in place prior to the commencement of any work and (b) A wiring inspection has been performed. The installation of the jumper must comply with the Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1. Consideration is to be given, but not limited to proper type and size of cable, over-current protection, cable connectors and terminations, as well as ensuring that no live parts are exposed. The use of an approved jumper must never cause a back feed to a meter socket.
4. In cases where a jumper has been installed, the electrical contractor must be present at the time of the wiring inspection. During the inspection, the Wiring Inspector will affix a "Caution Equipment May Be Energized" tag on the service conduit adjacent to the meter socket.
5. Electrical Contractors must also be on site to remove the electrical jumper during the time NSPI personnel are present to make the utility power connection. **Failure to be present, a utility connection will not be made.**
6. The Caution tag will provide a visual indicator to NSPI personnel that there is a possibility of a jumper and back feed. Only an NSPI representative is permitted to remove this tag.
7. **Unmetered energy provided through the installation of jumpers may lead to prosecution.**

Non- Compliance

Failure to comply with the requirements as noted may result in additional service charges and may also affect future permission to use temporary electrical jumpers.