

*(Effective 1996/12/02)*

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## **Metal Well Casing as a Grounding Electrode**

### **CEC Rule 10-700(1)(b)**

When using a Metal Well Casing as a ground electrode as permitted by CEC Rule 10-700(1)(b), it has been a common practice to attach the ground clamp to the well casing by drilling the metal case and attaching the ground clamp to the case by means of a bolt, washer and nut assembly. The location of the ground clamp is usually at or below grade thus providing a potential opening for surface water to enter the well casing and possible contamination of the water supply.

New regulations from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment requires the well casing to be installed in such a manner so as to minimize the possibility of surface water migrating into the well. This has been interpreted to mean that the well casing must extend two (s) feet above grade and be free of any openings that may allow surface water to enter.

Therefore, effective 96-12-02 the practice of drilling a hole to facilitate the attachment of a ground clamp will not be acceptable. An approved "U" clamp or thermit process as permitted by CEC Rule 10-908 will be acceptable.

Further, it has been observed that the ground clamp is being installed in such a location which makes it difficult to remove the well cap and/or the well pump without first removing the grounding conductor.

Care shall be taken to ensure that the grounding clamp is installed in such a location so as not to interfere with the normal maintenance of the well.