

(Effective 2007/03/01)

Unauthorized Connections - Working on Live Equipment **Rules- 2-012 & 2-304**

The Electrical Code Regulations and Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1 requires that no person shall perform electrical work without first obtaining a wiring permit. In addition no repairs or alterations shall be carried out on any live equipment except where complete disconnection of the equipment is not practicable.

NSPI's Inspection Department has become aware of several cases where contractors have replaced main switches and panelboards while the incoming service conductors are energized. Contractors have not been requesting NSP to disconnect power at the service weather head or through the removal of the utility meter in order to perform this work in a safe manner.

This practice of working on live equipment is extremely dangerous and can result in both shock and fire hazard and may expose workers to arc flash hazards which can result in serious electrical burns.

Under no condition should equipment be removed and new equipment installed unless the power has been disconnected, a wiring permit obtained and an inspection scheduled.

Caution shall also be taken in cases where utility power has been disconnected through the use of insulating sleeves installed by NSPI on the meter tabs at the meterbase. The uses of insulation sleeves installed by NSPI are not considered to be a suitable disconnecting means thus ensuring the equipment is in a de-energized state.

In order to ensure power is completely disconnected the meter must be physically removed from the meterbase. Meters can only be removed by NSPI employees or a NSPI approved Service Provider. Service Providers can only perform work as outlined under the Service Provider Program.

Failure to comply with these requirements, the party responsible can be charged under the *Electrical Installation and Inspection Act, R.S., c. 141, s. 1.* and subject to a summary fine.

In addition, the party responsible for a violation could also be subject to criminal or civil action by the property owner as a result of personal injury or property damage occurring as a result of failure to comply with the Act and Electrical Code Regulations.