

ASP Safety Alert Electrical Safety & Authorisations

Alert Number: SA03_19

27 March 2019

Subject: Accessing black Bakelite wall mounted service termination enclosures

Key Messages

ASPs and electrical contractors must NOT remove the cover or perform any work on the black Bakelite boxes, unless arrangements have been made with Ausgrid to isolate the electricity supply to the box

A recent incident involving an ASP working on an energised Black Bakelite service termination enclosure has highlighted the importance of ensuring that ASP's Safety Management Systems align with the relevant parts of Ausgrid's standards when completing work on or near the Ausgrid network.

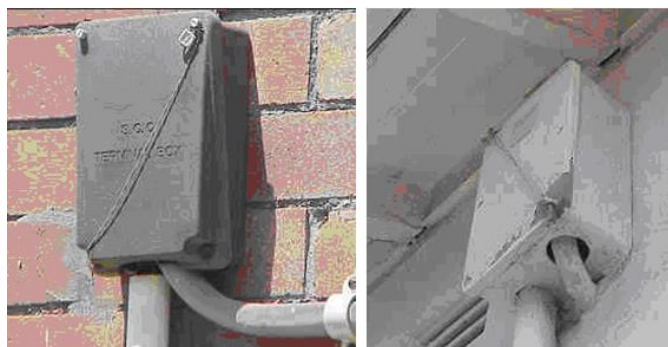
Description of incident or hazard:

Ausgrid recently completed an investigation into an incident where an ASP/2 recently disconnected an energised in service cable from the existing Black Bakelite wall mounted service termination enclosure. The investigation found that the ASP had not arranged for the termination enclosure to be de-energised, as outlined in [NS199 Safe Electrical Work On Low Voltage Underground Assets](#), prior to removing the cover and commencing work.

The enclosure and live cables were also re-diverted to a Temporary Building Supply (TBS) with new consumer mains ran to the TBS. The new consumer mains and existing service cable were left lying on the ground level for most of their length and were also unprotected by conduit for part of the cable run.

Extent of impact:

No one was injured, however there was the potential for a serious injury to the ASP or other workers on the construction site where the cables were left unprotected.



Immediate action taken (or to be taken) to eliminate or control the risk:

The area was cordoned off until the mains connection box could be de-energised by Ausgrid, and the site could be made safe.

Reminder:

All ASPs are reminded that these service termination enclosures are not to be accessed whilst energised and to ensure their procedures align with the requirements of Ausgrid's *NS199 Safe Electrical Work On Low Voltage Underground Assets*, in particularly *Clause 10* for the black Bakelite boxes.

De-energisation will in most cases require the issuing of a low voltage Clearance to Work in accordance with Ausgrid's Electrical Safety Rules by an Ausgrid authorised operator to allow the work to be completed by the ASP. These outages can be arranged by emailing OperationalSupport@ausgrid.com.au.

The customer must replace their old box with a new box, when the customer carries out any work on the box (necessitating the isolation of electricity supply to the box).

Box replacement work (material and labour), including the associated Disconnection and Reconnection (D&R) of the underground service mains and consumers mains, is contestable work, funded and arranged by the customer.

Refer to NS199 Clause 10.3 for specifications for suitable new boxes and associated requirements for the box replacement work.

Links

ES4 Accredited Service Provider Authorisation

<https://www.ausgrid.com.au/-/media/Documents/Technical-Documentation/ES/ES4-Accredited-Service-Provider-Authorisation.pdf>

NS199 Safe Electrical Work on Low Voltage Underground Assets

<https://www.ausgrid.com.au/-/media/Documents/Technical-Documentation/NS/NS199.pdf>

If you or your employees have any questions, please email ASPLLevel2@ausgrid.com.au.

Ausgrid

Project Officers