



ACN 064 651 109

Connection
Standards

Tech Talk

February 2002

To all Registered Electrical Contractors

This edition of Tech Talk contains a newly developed interpretation of “ground traversable by vehicles” that will impact on electricians in the provision of a suitable point of attachment for customers supplied from an overhead aerial service cable.

Extracts from Powercor’s 1 January 2002 Standard Service Prices are also included for your information.

Please note and advise your employees of these important changes, and I trust this information will assist you in the provision of industry best service to our mutual customers.

Ken Greenway
CONNECTION STANDARDS MANAGER

CLEARANCES OF AERIAL SERVICE CABLES - GROUND TRAVERSABLE BY VEHICLES

Clause 5.5.1.4. of the Service & Installation Rules states in part: “The minimum clearances of all new and replacement service cables above and from ground, structures or objects shall be as detailed in Figures 5.14(a), 5.14(b) and 5.15 unless otherwise agreed between the relevant Distributor and the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector”. Figure 5.14(a) row B specifies a minimum clearance of 4600mm (and 5200mm in Broad Acre Areas) over driveways and *ground traversable by vehicles*.

Further to the advice in the November edition of “Tech Talk” Powercor has obtained from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector (OCEI) an agreed interpretation of the previously undefined land use of “ground traversable by vehicles” used in the Regulations.

This interpretation is the result of significant effort from Powercor and the OCEI to obtain a practical and sustainable solution to the problem of obtaining clearances over these areas.

Therefore, as from 6 February 2002 the advice provided in the November “Tech Talk” is superseded, and the following interpretation of “ground traversable by vehicles” is now to be applied in the Powercor distribution area:

“ground traversable by vehicles” means any ground area utilised as part of a normal business activity for the passage or parking of vehicle.

- Areas that are considered as “ground traversable by vehicles” include farm paddocks, car parks, industrial or commercial premises loading/unloading bays, parking areas in public parks and ovals, and any other areas that have been made ready specifically for the purpose of the passage or parking of vehicles.
- Ground areas that are part of a single occupancy domestic property are to be regarded as “ground traversable by vehicles” only where the area under the service line has been specifically constructed or prepared for the passage or parking of vehicles. Consequently, lawns, ornamental garden areas and the like are not considered as “ground traversable by vehicles”.

Please address any queries you may have on this topic to the personnel listed in the “Connection Advice” section of the November “Tech Talk”.

SERVICE RAISER BRACKETS

1.5m and 2m “fascia mount” and “through the tile” service raiser brackets have been accepted for use and are available through most electrical wholesalers.

Note that all service raiser brackets must comply with Service & Installation Rules Clause 5.5.1.6 “VESI Specification - Service Raiser Brackets and their Installation”.

EXTRACT - STANDARD SERVICE PRICES

The following prices may be of relevance to Electricians and Contractors. The prices have been extracted from the Powercor Standard Service Prices list for your information.

The prices have been approved by the Office of the Regulator General and are effective 1 January 2002. The complete list of Powercor Standard Service Prices is available on the Powercor website: www.powercor.com.au.

Connection	Normal Hours GST Inclusive	After Hours GST Inclusive
New Premises - Residential ^a	\$ 186.69	\$ 362.69
New Premises - Non Residential	\$ 274.57	\$ 395.57
Existing Premises - Reconnection	\$ 21.97	\$ 159.47
Existing Premises - Customer Transfer	\$ 21.97	\$ 159.47
^a Also applies to a Builders Supply Permanent Domestic Location (Partial Supply) and any Builders Supply Pole		
Field Office Visit		
Reconnect After Disconnection for Non Payment	\$ 49.44	\$ 159.45
Adjust Time Switch - Tariff Change	\$ 21.97	NA
Fuse Removal/Insertion for Electrical Contractor Per Visit	\$ 21.97	\$ 159.47
Special Meter Reading	\$ 21.97	\$ 159.47
Underground Cable Location	\$ 60.42	\$ 296.92
Service Truck Visit		
Service Truck Visit	\$ 170.20	\$ 340.70
Wasted Service Truck Visit	\$ 142.75	\$ 142.75
Low Voltage Meter Conversion		
Low Voltage Meter Conversion - To Winner (New Installation)	\$ 285.99	NA
Low Voltage Meter Conversion - To Winner (Existing Installation)	\$ 516.69	\$ 879.69
Low Voltage Meter Conversion - To Time of Use (Existing Installation)	\$ 676.13	\$ 1,017.13
Installation of 5 Day Electric Time Switch	\$ 313.24	\$ 362.74
Meter Equipment Test		
Single Phase	\$ 170.12	NA
Single Phase - Each Additional Meter	\$ 65.81	NA
Multi Phase	\$ 252.51	NA
Multi Phase - Each Additional Meter	\$ 87.73	NA
Provision of Service Fuses		
160A 4 Pole	\$ 404.67	RW
400A 3 Pole	\$ 758.87	RW
400A 4 Pole	\$ 885.37	RW
Hinged Fuses: 300A Group of 3	\$ 417.74	RW
Elective Underground Servicing		
Supply up to 100A (Existing Installation) ^b	\$ 572.57	RW
Supply between 100A - 197A (Existing Installation) ^b	\$ 707.83	RW

^b Excludes all civil works, reinstatement, cable and conduits.