

### Electrical Distribution Safety

This bulletin is intended to clarify the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Attachment Guideline for O. Reg. 22/04 as it relates to service drops. Specifically it covers the intent and scope of the service drop definition and clarifies the exemption of a service drop with respect to audit requirements. The primary safety issue with service drops is clearances.

#### **DEFINITION OF SERVICE DROP:**

As per the Guideline For Third Party Attachments (section 1.1.20):

**“Service Drop” means a small light weight single communication cable or wire between an attacher’s plant and customer’s residence or place of business. The cable or wire shall be affixed in span, to a pole or existing messenger, constructed per the attacher’s engineered “service drop” standard. The owner should establish a maximum lateral load to the plant.**

Clarification and recommendation:

- The definition of the service drop is not limited in length, or number of spans along a pole line.
- Each owner should establish a maximum lateral loading of a service drop. As an example, some owners have deemed a light-weight telecom service drop with a maximum **breaking strength** of 300lbs as being acceptable.
- An Engineer approved site assessment is not required, for service drops as long as the service drop installation meets the attacher’s standards (that have been previously approved by an Engineer). Upon completion of the installation an attacher’s qualified person can confirm the installation meets the attacher’s standard.

#### **EXEMPTION OF SERVICE DROPS FROM AUDIT REQUIREMENTS:**

The intent of the audit exemption is to avoid the review of site document records by the auditors and delays in providing service to attachment customers. As per section 2.2 of the Guideline For Third Party Attachments;

**The installation and removal of Service Drops are exempted from the audit requirements of section 7 and 8 of the Regulation. Service Drops are not exempt from Sections 4,5,7, and 8 of the Regulation and as such, must meet CSA C22.3, No. 1-01 Overhead Systems or C22.3, No. 7-94 Underground Systems**

Clarification and recommendation:

The owner is not required to keep records of service drop installations for the purposes of the audit although it is required that the installation meets CSA standard C22.3.