

Every employee and contractor, working for Northern Powergrid, should go home at the end of each shift uninjured and in good health after a productive days work

## Checking whole current meter connections

The **Distribution Connection and Use of System Agreement (DCUSA)** is a multi-party contract between licensed electricity distributors, suppliers and generators of Great Britain.

A change to the DCUSA was implemented on 1st September 2016 to permit a Distribution Network Operator (DNO), when it replaces its service cut-out, to retighten the meter tails connecting into and out of a whole current meter and/or remake connections to meter terminals as necessary prior to re-energisation.

The change also permits the DNO to temporarily remove the meter to carry out work e.g. meter board replacement, and then replace it as close as is reasonably practicable to its original position.

There is a common industry belief that this practice was already permitted, however under DCUSA this was not formally recognised.

As there is a potential safety risk in relation to the disturbance of meter connections during replacement of the service cutout it is recognised that the checking of meter terminals for tightness represents good practice in reducing the risk associated with the integrity of electrical supply equipment on the customer's premises. Therefore, a change to DCUSA was required to formally document and approve this practice.

In practical terms this change means that whenever an operative carries out any work on DNO service equipment that may cause the meter tails to be disturbed then the meter terminals shall be checked for tightness. On completion of any works, the DNO shall seal the meter after access.

This change also allows for the removal and replacement of the meter (in a similar position) and the re-terminating of connections where required.

It does not permit the distributor to move the meter to a new position as would be required for a service alteration. This activity must continue to be carried out by the meter operator agent on behalf of the supplier.

