

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS**

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August 12, 2022

INFORMATION BULLETIN 2022-07 (SHL, FBH)

TO: City/County Building Officials
Factory-Built Housing Manufacturers
Third-Party Agencies
Interested Parties

FROM: Kyle Krause, Deputy Director
Division of Codes and Standards

SUBJECT: **Electrical Service Drops and Metering Equipment**

This Information Bulletin (IB) clarifies the application of the California Electrical Code (CEC), California Code of Regulations, title 24, part 3 as it pertains to utility company-owned overhead electrical service drops and metering equipment to specified residential occupancies, buildings, and structures accessory thereto.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) previously issued associated IB SHL 89-04 on February 27, 1989, and IB 2005-08 on July 29, 2005, attached for reference. Those IBs provided HCD's position that utility company-owned overhead service drops and metering equipment are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) under General Order (GO) 95 and clarified they are not regulated by the CEC. This IB reiterates HCD's position and provides notification of updated code sections.

The scoping provisions of the CEC, section 90.2(A), state in relevant part, that the CEC applies to the installation and removal of electrical conductors, equipment, and raceways. CEC section 90.2(B), states in relevant part, that this code does not cover the installations under the exclusive control of an electric utility where such installations consist of service drops or service laterals, and associated metering. Additionally, underground electrical supply and communication systems are also specifically regulated by the CPUC through its GO 128.

For any questions regarding this IB, please contact the State Housing Law Program at Title24@hcd.ca.gov or (800) 952-8356. For questions concerning GO 95 and 128, please contact the CPUC at (800) 649-7570.

Attachments

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS - Administrative Office
6007 Folsom Boulevard, Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95819
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1407, Sacramento, CA 95812-1407
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February 27, 1989

INFORMATION BULLETIN SHL 89-04

TO: CITY BUILDING OFFICIALS
COUNTY BUILDING OFFICIALS
CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING OFFICIALS
DIVISION STAFF

SUBJECT: ELECTRICAL SERVICE DROPS AND METERING EQUIPMENT

It has come to the attention of this Department that there is some misunderstanding as to the applicability of Part 3 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations to utility owned electrical service drops and metering equipment.

It is the position of this department and the California Public Utilities Commission that the California Code of Regulations do not apply. Utility owned electrical service drops and metering equipment on private property serving individual dwellings are specifically regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission's General Safety Order 95 (GSO-95).

If you have any questions concerning this, please contact Chuck McNamee, State Housing Law Assistant Program Manager at (916) 445-9471.

Sincerely,


John Ellis
Acting Chief

JE/CMC:pm

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS**

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July 29, 2005

Information Bulletin #2005-08 (SHL, FBH)

**To: City and County Building Officials
Factory-Built Housing Manufacturers
Third-Party Agencies
Interested Parties (SHL) & (FBH)
Division Staff**

SUBJECT: Electrical Service Drops and Metering Equipment

It has come to the attention of the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) that some misunderstanding exists in the application of the California Electrical Code (CEC), Title 24, California Code of Regulations, Part 3, as it pertains to utility company-owned overhead electrical service drops and metering equipment to specified residential occupancies and buildings and structures accessory thereto.

HCD Information Bulletin SHL 89-04, issued February 27, 1989, provided HCD's and the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) position that utility company-owned overhead service drops and metering equipment are regulated by the CPUC under General Order (G.O.) 95 and not the CEC. The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to reaffirm, and remind building departments of, this previously stated position.

The scoping provisions of the CEC, located in Section 89.3, state in relevant part that the CEC applies to electrical equipment, wiring and systems "except such electrical equipment, wiring and systems which are expressly exempted by Section 89.4." CEC section 89.4(E) exempts equipment and installations under the exclusive control of electrical utilities for the purpose of among other things, distribution of electrical energy etc. Additionally, CEC section 90.2(B)(5) states in part "This Code does not cover the following:.....(5) Installations under the exclusive control of an electric utility where such installations a. Consist of service drops or service laterals, and associated metering....." (Emphasis added)

An example of a conflict exists when applying the provisions of CEC section 680.8 to the clearance of utility company-owned overhead electrical service conductors above swimming pools, rather than the provisions of G.O. 95. The provisions of CEC sections 89.3, 89.4 and 90.2, as noted above, prohibit applying the provisions of Section 680.8, in this example, to utility company-owned overhead electrical service drops.

Utility company-owned overhead electrical service drops and metering equipment are specifically regulated through the CPUC's G.O. 95 for overhead electric line construction and are not subject to the provisions of the CEC. Additionally, underground electrical supply and communication systems also are specifically regulated by the CPUC through its General Order 128 (G.O. 128).

Please direct any comments or questions to the Department's State Housing Law Program at the address noted above, at (916) 445-9471, or by use of the Department's web comment at www.hcd.ca.gov. For questions concerning the California Public Utility Commission's General Orders 95 and 128, please contact Julian Ajello, Utilities Safety Branch Chief, at (415) 703-1327 for assistance.

Kim Strange
Deputy Director