

Memo

To	REC's, Electrical Consultants, Meter Providers, Zinfra & Approved Contractors
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From	Work Practices
Title	UPDATE - Electricity Meters Installed in Basements
Date	3/11/2022

The purpose of this memorandum update from March 2020, is to advise of the specific change in the Victorian Service & Installation Rules 2014, 2022 Amendment 3 (A3) that refers to Metering Access and Location requirements, and states:

(A3) 8.5.1 Access

The preferred location of metering is at the ground floor level and accessible to the general public. If metering is located in a basement, access shall be via one pedestrian door and keyed with a VPI2 key. The metering shall be not more than 10 meters from the access door and not more than one level below ground level.

The Responsible Officer shall be consulted prior to locating any metering in a basement.

8.6.1 Location

All meters (manual and remote read) shall be located in accordance with these Rules to enable safe and unhindered access in accordance with clause 8.5 (Access) for installing, fixing, reading, testing, maintenance and removal of metering equipment without difficulty or hazard. For electrical installations on properties exceeding 4,000 m2 in area, the Responsible Officer shall be consulted regarding a suitable meter location.

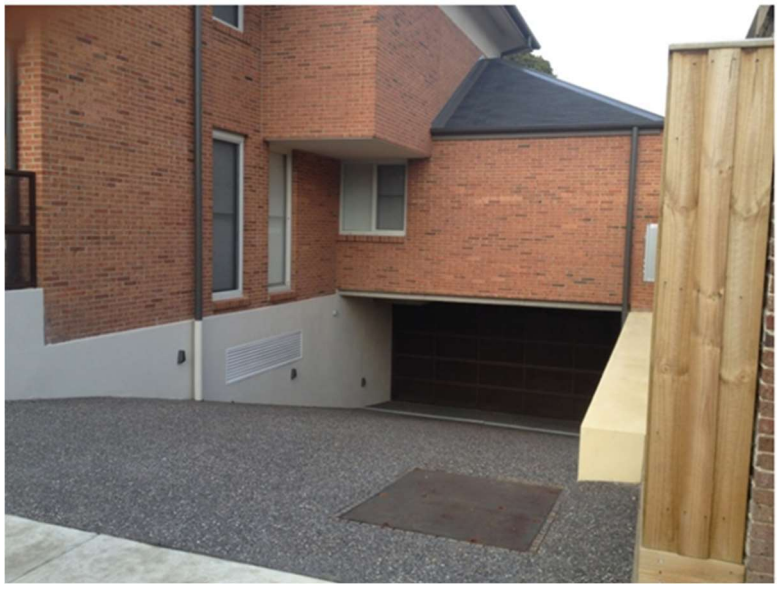
The Rules amendments have been incorporated and published in PDF and can be downloaded from the VSIR website. The revised Rules should be implemented as soon as practicable and will be **mandated from 1st January 2023**.

Memorandum March 2020 *(Document № UE MM 2020 002 – Electricity Meters Installed in Basements)*

The purpose of this memorandum from United Energy is to remind Meter Providers, REC's and Electrical Consultants of the requirements for external antenna requirements in underground carparks at residential developments.

For background, metering communications equipment forms part of the metering installation requirements in the Victorian Service & Installation Rules. At the design stage of all electrical installations, consideration shall be given to the amount of space required and location for the metering equipment including metering communications equipment.

Recently, United Energy are identifying a substantial increase of new unit developments where the metering enclosures are installed below ground level in carparks (in common property), surrounded by steel and concrete with no meter communication functionality available.



For new developments, please take into consideration the metering communication component during preliminary supply arrangement planning. There are many situations where there's no viable alternative option for the metering equipment to be installed, such as this shared driveway entrance in the developments common property.

The final dot point in Clause 8.12.2.1 (Location) in the 'Metering Communication Equipment' section from the Victorian Service & Installation Rules shall be applied.

8.12.2.1 Location

For remote read meters owned by the Distribution Businesses which are to be located within a basement a remote antenna (outside of the building) may be required for communication. During negotiation of supply the customer will need to consult with Distribution Businesses for the installation of conduit and antenna cabling.

There have been recent samples of the external antenna requirements and a substantial increase of unsuitable underground carpark "metering bunkers".

United Energy technicians have been investigating the rectification work required, with the only remedy available to enable the meters to communicate is the installation of external antennas, micro access points and tactical relays to resolve these communications issue that in many cases could have been avoided.

In addition, these sites often do not have site access (Locked Roller Security Doors etc.) and don't have 3G/4G mobile coverage and in some situations, can be 3 stories below ground. Meter enclosures shall be installed in a position where convenient and unhindered access is readily available for the Distributor to safely operate and work on the metering equipment at all times.

Further information regarding Clause 8.12.2.1 (Location) in the 'Metering Communication Equipment' section from the Victorian Service & Installation Rules can be provided by the Responsible Officer (United Energy AMI Meter Communications, Network Operations & Control) who can be contacted on email **aminoc@ue.com.au**.





