

Glossary of Terms



clearance. A set distance between two objects.

common ground point. The conductor used to connect the grounding electrode to the equipment grounding conductor and/or to the grounded conductor of the circuit at the service.

conduit. A listed or approved pipe with a smooth interior surface to permit easy drawing-in of electrical conductors. A conduit may be metallic or nonmetallic, depending on its usage, in accordance with codes and standards.

corrosion inhibitor. Electrical joint compound used to retard oxidation of electrical connections.

direct burial. The installation of electrical conductors in a trench, without the use of conduit.

drip loop. A loop formed in overhead secondary conductors at the weatherhead, to prevent the entrance of water into the service entrance conduit and equipment.

ground. Connected to or in contact with earth or connected to some extended conductive body that serves instead of the earth.

guy. A cable or brace used to relieve the strain of overhead conductors on masts and poles.

keybox. A permanently installed, locked box with keys enclosed, mounted on the outside of a building, for accessing the customer's premises to read, install, service, or remove the utility's meters and/or electrical equipment during reasonable working hours.

listed. Equipment or material accepted by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, inspection agency, or other organization concerned with product evaluation.

manual circuit-closing block. A provision for paralleling the meter circuit, allowing the meter to be removed without interrupting service to the customer.

meter equipment. Any equipment associated with measuring electric energy.

meter jaw. A spring-loaded receptacle inside a meter socket which connects the terminals of a meter to the source or load conductors of the service.

meter socket. The mounting device for socket type meters, consisting of meter jaws, connectors, an enclosure and, in permanent installations, an integrated main circuit breaker is required.

mobile home. A house trailer serving as a permanent home.

modular home. Also referred to as a manufactured home. A home designed with standardized units or dimensions and manufactured in a factory type facility.

municipal, state inspector. The qualified representative of a city or the state, authorized to inspect electrical service installations on their behalf.

NEC. National Electrical Code. Safety provisions for the installation of electrical equipment and conductors in buildings and other structures, published by National Fire Protection Association.

NEMA. National Electrical Manufacturers Association. A trade association which publishes standards for manufacturers of electrical equipment, including enclosures and racks.

NESC. National Electrical Safety Code. Safety provisions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of electric supply and communication lines, published by Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

neutral. The grounded conductor in a single-phase, three-wire or three-phase, four-wire system. The service conductor at zero potential to ground.

point of attachment. On overhead services, the point at which the utility's service line is attached to the customer's structure.

point of delivery. The point where the utility's service line and the customer's system are interconnected.

seal. A locking device to secure a meter or service entrance equipment to assure safety and security.

select backfill. Native soil or soil brought in from another area, free from sharp objects, rocks, scrap building material and corrosive material.

self-contained. In reference to meter sockets, a device designed and rated to continuously carry the entire capacity of the service. The maximum self-contained meter socket current rating typically used is 400 amperes (also called a single-phase Class 320 A meter).

service line. Conductors from the utility's system to the customer's point of delivery. A service line can be overhead or underground.

service entrance conductors. On overhead services, conductors which extend between the customer's meter socket and the point of delivery.

service entrance equipment. Service conduit, conductors, weatherhead, meter base, enclosures, service disconnect, and service panel.

service mast. The conduit above the meter used to provide mechanical protection for the service conductors and to support the service drop from the utility.

temporary service. An electrical service installed by the utility to provide power to a customer on a temporary basis (less than one year).

UL. Underwriters' Laboratories. A recognized test laboratory which lists materials it has tested and accepted.

weatherhead. A simple underground-overhead fitting which provides a cap or a roof for the vertical conduit to prevent rain from entering it. Its use is restricted to connecting underground secondary cables to overhead secondary lines or service wires.