

Meter Requirements

General

This Section provides requirements for the metering equipment that the member must provide. Follow these requirements to avoid a delay in hooking up your service. If there are additional questions about this information, please call the Cooperative's Engineering Department.

Service rating options

As stated on page 7, metering equipment requirements for stand alone structures (not apartments, condominiums or strip malls) are based upon the following single-phase service ratings:

Voltage	Ampere Rating	Typical Use
120/240	100 Amps	Small Home or Business
120/240	200 Amps	Medium Home or Business
120/240	400 Amps	Large Home or Business
120/240	Over 400 Amps	Very Large Home or Business

General requirements

The member is responsible for providing and installing all equipment other than:

- The meter, and
- The service conductors to the weatherhead for an overhead service.

Meter socket requirements

The meter socket is purchased and installed by the member and must meet the following general requirements. Additional requirements for 200 and 400 amp services are listed later in this Section. The meter socket must:

- Be NHEC approved for application.
- Be UL (Underwriters' Laboratory) approved for application.
- Be rated for exterior use, and be raintight according to NEMA-3R.
- Have all unused openings tightly sealed from the inside of the socket.
- Be plumb and securely fastened to the supporting structure.
- Be approved by New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (see approved listing at www.nhec.coop).

Grounding requirements

All meter sockets, enclosures, and conduit must be bonded and grounded in accordance with the NEC.

Clearance requirements

The member must provide and maintain the following clearances around all meter installations.

- The center of the meter must be between 5 and 5 1/2 feet above finished grade.
- A working space of 36 inches wide by 36 inches deep is required around the meter. See Figure 11. This working space is to be kept clear of any obstructions including landscaping.
- Metering equipment must remain accessible.
- Propane device or equipment must be 36 inches/3 feet minimum away from metering equipment.
- Must meet the National Electrical Code clearance requirements.

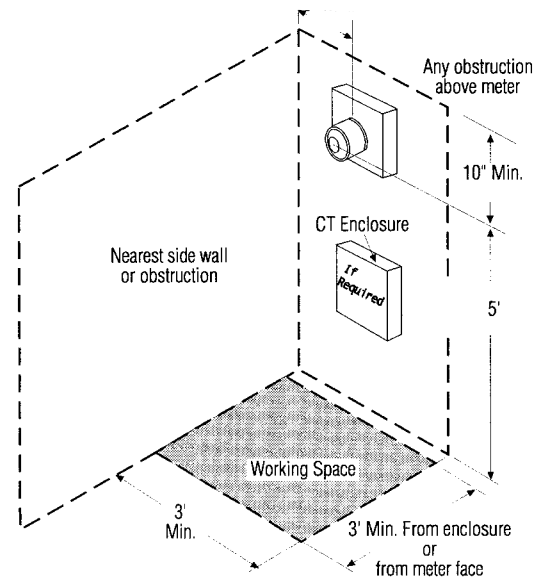


Figure 11 Meter socket minimum clearances

200 Amp Service

Basic single-phase service

The 120/240 volt, 200 ampere service is the most common service, and is typically installed on homes and some small businesses with a living space of less than 2,500 square feet. However, it is the member's responsibility to determine the electrical requirements and to notify the Cooperative of the size service needed.

Electrical generation

More and more people are considering an electrical generator for emergency use in their buildings. If a generator is being considered the NHEC Engineering Department must be made aware of this. Generators can be very helpful in an outage situation, but can also be lethal to the linemen that are trying to repair the line if that generator is not properly installed.

If a generator is to be part of your plans, a Double Pole, Double Throw Switch needs to be made part of the installation. In the specification section of this handbook, beginning on page 30, you will find a diagram (DPS-1) meant to illustrate a typical double pole, double throw switch installation for use with an emergency generator. Also included on page 29 is a "Back-up Generator Request Form" for you to fill out. If you have further questions, call 1-800-698-2007.

Realizing that most generators are not large enough to carry the load demanded by all of your building's requirements, it is suggested that only those circuits needed in an emergency be isolated in a separate fuse box or breaker panel. This would normally include your heating equipment and one lighting circuit. As indicated by the diagram, this fuse box or breaker panel could be fed from either your main switch or from a generator.

If you do have a generator large enough to carry the entire load of your building, the main switch may be connected to the load side of this double throw switch. The feed lines to this switch would then be from your generator or directly from the NHEC meter.

We urge you to contact an electrician to determine the best generator for your installation.

New Service Checklist

In order to serve you in the most efficient way possible, we ask that you review the information in this handbook thoroughly, including the service specifications.

Reviewing this important information before calling us for connection will avoid unnecessary delays and/or billing. An unsuccessful visit to connect service uses valuable time and resources. Please understand that you will be billed if, upon your request, the Cooperative makes a visit to the job site and is unable to make the connection.

Please review the following checklist and ensure you have completed all applicable steps before calling us for your service connection:

- Have you provided the Cooperative with all necessary documentation such as an easement and application?
- If you signed an easement, did you use black ink and have it notarized?
- Have you made all necessary up-front payments?
- Have you (or your electrician) set the service up as the applicable NHEC specification in this handbook shows?
- Is the service located as you and our Field Representative discussed?

If you have any questions concerning any of these items, please call the Cooperative at 1-800-698-2007 or the Field Representative for your area.