



CITY OF CHICAGO



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

ELECTRICAL BULLETIN

For Electrical Inspections

Date: September 10, 2024
To: Electrical Bureau
From: Keith Hall, Chief Electrical Inspector
Subject: LINE (SUPPLY) SIDE CONNECTIONS OF SERVICE CONDUCTORS

The use of connectors to splice or tap electrical conductors has always been a critical issue pertaining to safe electrical installations. This is certainly true as it relates to service-entrance conductors. Considering these safety concerns, some electric utility companies are now requiring that all (supply) line side tap connectors be service-rated and consistent with the 2023 National Electrical Code or NEC.

The NEC updated provisions for service conductors stating that pressure connectors and devices used for splices and taps installed on service conductors shall be listed and labeled "suitable for the use on the line side of the service equipment." While the 2018 Chicago Electrical Code is based primarily on the 2017 cycle of the NEC, this new code provision is consistent with our present 2018 code provisions as delineated in article 110.14(B) relating to electrical connections.

In Com-Ed's Metering Standards (C9111 1.3) it also states that taps may be done on the load side of a meter using a terminal or terminal adapter that has been LISTED and LABELED FOR THE PURPOSE by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

Effective October 10th, 2024, all pressure connector devices used to splice service-entrance conductors must be "service-rated." Pressure connector devices commonly referred to as "Shark Bites" or "Vampire Connectors" are prohibited because they are not "service-rated."

Splicing of service conductors must be in accordance with article 14E-2-230.46. Only equipment in article 14E-2-230.82 (1) thru (9) will be permitted to be connected to the supply side of a service disconnect.