

Design Information

Distribution Design

Meter Height

Following Superstorm Sandy, an increased number of electrical contractors and local building departments had questions regarding height requirements for placement of electric meters.

In many coastal areas, Superstorm Sandy caused flooding that submerged electrical distribution equipment, including meters, necessitating replacement. To avoid this in the future, many customers and municipalities have sought to have electrical distribution equipment installed above the designated FEMA flood levels; even as high as two feet above FEMA flood levels.

Such an installation would place the electric meter at a height that is greater than our height requirements. Under normal circumstances meter heights are between 3 and 6 feet (to the top of meter glass) for self contained meters and 4 to 6 feet for transformer rated (Trans S) meters above grade. In many of the flood areas, the flood levels are well above these heights. In order to achieve the required FEMA flood heights some metering equipment may need to be placed up to 15 feet above grade.

PSEG Long Island does allow for installations 6 feet or higher above grade as long as we can access the meter. We require a level area of 4 feet in front of the meter and at least 1 foot to either side of the meter pan (See Red Book Sections 8 & 11). If the meter is higher than 6 feet above grade then the customer must provide accommodations for PSEG Long Island to reach the meter, such as a platform or deck with stairs leading up to the meter. As a general guideline the deck/platform needs to be at least 4 feet 6 inches wide (this accounts for the height of the meter pan & meter plus the 4 foot clearance in front) and 4 feet long (this accounts for the width of the meter pan plus 1 foot to either side of the meter pan). Any type of platform/deck that is installed must meet all required building codes for that area. This includes railings around the deck and along the stairs to prevent a person from accidentally falling off the deck. Prior to installing any structure the customer/contractor should contact the local building department to see if there are any special rules such as setbacks from property lines.

Whenever you become involved with one of these situations the best thing to do is contact PSEG Long Island to discuss the specifics for the location. Every location is different and should be approached on a case by case basis.

We hope this clears up any questions that you may have regarding meter heights in flood areas.

If you have any other questions please feel free to approach any of the PSEG Long Island representatives at the monthly general membership meetings or contact Rich Inserra at Richard.Inserra@PSEG.COM