

DCUSA Issues Form (DIF)

This form should be used by parties to submit matters for consideration to DCUSA Standing Issues Group (SIG).

The completed form should be issued to DCUSA@electralink.co.uk

Document Control	
Date Submitted	22/10/13
Issue Title:	THE CASE FOR PROVIDING A MEANS TO ENSURE SAFE TEMPORARY ISOLATION IN DOMESTIC AND SIMILAR PREMISES
Issue Number*:	DIF 037
Meeting Ref*:	10/13
Attachments:	PDF brief outlining the issue in full.

**Assigned by DCUSA Secretariat*

Originator details	
Party Name	Daniel Walker-Nolan
Originator Name	The Electrical Safety Council
Party Category	Distributor / Supplier / IDNO / DG / OTSO / Other (please specify) Charity related to the electrical industry
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Nature of Issue

The Smart Meter programme presents a valuable opportunity to address a longstanding barrier-to-trade problem related to home electrical installations across Great Britain. This issue concerns the temporary de-energisation of electricity supplies to domestic and similar premises to enable electricians to carry out certain electrical installation work safely, including the replacement of consumer units (fuseboxes). It is estimated that over 400,000 temporary de-energisations need to be made each year for this purpose.

The Electrical Safety Council originally recommended that the safest and most convenient solution would be the inclusion of an isolating switch in the smart meter specification. However, with both the first and second iterations of that design now agreed, it is clear that another path must be used to resolve this long-standing issue, so we are advocating an alternative approach achievable by extending the provisions of Part P Competent Persons Schemes.

Please find attached a full briefing on this issue and the various options available.

Solution Overview – if known

Solution description:	We understand that an amendment to DCUSA would be required in order to give Part P-registered electricians the permission to undertake safe isolation procedures.
Lead time for Implementation:	We are unaware of how quickly this change might be implemented. However, we have been in contact with OFGEM and DECC for some time with the aim of finding a solution.