

25 March 2019

**Ir. Liaw Sung Guan**  
Unit Head  
Electrical Inspectorate Unit  
Ministry of Utilities Sarawak  
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Dear Ir. Liaw,

**Guidelines for New Shop Houses Meter Location Supplied via Main Wiring**

Thank you for inviting SHEDA to attend your briefing on the subject matter on 14 February 2019.

SHEDA's comments are as follows:

**1. Meter Casing's Size**

- SHEDA is of the opinion that one standard size doesn't fit all. There should be a few configurations depending on single phase or three phases, strata or non-strata, number of storey and others.
- Developers should have the option to get their own casing provided the specification and sizes are in compliance with SESCO's requirement.
- This is an additional compliance cost which shall increase selling price of shop house accordingly.

**2. Meter located at the Shop Front.**

- Shop front is the most important part of any commercial premises. It may be very convenience for SESCO new requirement to locate the meter there but that is the most valuable space of the shop house.
- An additional wall-up area of at least 2 feet wide is required at the shop front to cater for the installation of metal casing. It reduces the frontage by at least 2 feet on top of staircase width requirement.
- Moreover, alternative design to get the full effect of having full glass panels at the shop front will be compromised by a reduction of about 2 feet for certain type of business such as banks, clinics, café, offices and others.
- In view of the above, SHEDA is against meter at shop front.

**3. Meter located at the front columns.**

- The developers will require to construct bulky columns at the front of the shop house for the installation of the meters with meter casing. This is not only unsightly but also blocking the shop frontage.
- SHEDA is not in favour of locating the meter at the front columns of the shop house.

**4. Meter located at side of front staircase.**

- It is a norm that the meters are located at the side of ground floor front staircase of the shop house. The new requirement would however require additional recess to the wall for installation of metal casing.
- SHEDA's would like to have the flexibility of putting the meter at either to the ground front staircase or the rear staircase depending on the design of the shop house.

**5. Meter located at the rear staircase.**

- SHEDA's preference is to locate the meter on the ground floor of the rear staircase for the following reasons:
  - a) Incoming exposed main wiring at the rear is preferable because aesthetic frontage is more important than the rear view of the shop house.
  - b) The rear staircase has less traffic and thus exposure of meters here is less conspicuous.
  - c) Metal casing recess can be incorporated to less critical space of toilets area or other area of the rear staircase.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration. We look forward to receive the amended draft Guidelines soon.

Yours sincerely,  
*for Sarawak Housing and Real Estate Developers' Association*

  
**Dr. Christopher Ngui**  
President

  
**Dr. Richard Tan Yoke Seng**  
Secretary-General / Chairman, Technical Committee

cc Mr. Bobby Ting, Chairman, Utilities Committee