ETSA Meter Box Lock DIY Installation Instructions

Whilst we still refer to our electricity meter boxes as ETSA Meter boxes, officially ETSA Utilities changed its name to SA Power Networks in 2012. Whilst essentially nothing has changed relative to the Meter Box Locks, it is best that you are aware of the ‘other’ name your Meter Box might be referred to.

Most South Australians will have a similar Electricity Meter Box and locks for these boxes are referred to as ‘CAM LOCKS’. There are various different makers of this Electricity Meter Box but we have found the Cam Lock works with 95% of them. In some cases an optional accessory is required but we will cover this later.

The Meter Box Enclosure:

Typically the enclosure will be made from galvanised steel with measurements of 600mm H x 470mm W x 265mm D. The pictures shown here are from my 30 year old painted galvanised box. In my case there is a red label on the door to the Meter Box advising that Solar Panels feed into the grid. The brand used in this situation is B&R Products but you may have a similar box built by another company which is fine. Importantly you will see that my Meter Box already has an ‘ES’ Cam Lock fitted.

Take note of the position it is in relative to the box’s normally opening mechanism shown by the yellow arrow. The hole which the lock is in is normally only semi visible before it is knocked out to expose the pre-cut hole. This ‘punching out’ is easy to do with a screwdriver and a hammer. **Be sure to punch the outlined pre-cut hole outwards and not in towards the electrical box components!**

Note the original mechanism position below the hole.

This is a picture of the inside door panel looking out after the pre-cut hole has been punched out.

This is a picture of the outside door panel after the pre-cut hole has been punched out.
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THE ES CAM LOCK:

When you receive your ETSA Meter Lock it will look something like this. We usually attach the nut to the barrel so that it does not roll away.

1. To install the lock, remove the nut from the lock’s body. (image A)
2. Feed the bottom of the lock into the outside door hole and pull it through. (image B) Note that the lock cylinder has two flat surfaces as does the punched out hole. Adjusting the cylinder to matchup with the flat surfaces of the hole will make the insertion easier. (image C)
3. Attach to nut to the lock cylinder by placing it over the lock’s bar and coaching it on to the cylinder. Be sure that it winds on level so as to not strip the threads. (image D & E)
4. Hand tighten the nut (image F) until it is tight then use a set of plyers to gently but firmly tighten it on a little more securely. (image G)
YOU ARE NOW DONE (almost)

You now have secured your ES Cam lock to your ETSA Electricity Meter Box and it should look a little like this:

The lock and key are above the old locking mechanism (some locking mechanisms vary in design).

By closing the Meter Box door as you used to do, once the door is closed you should be able to turn your key ‘anti clockwise’ and feel the lock’s bar position itself behind the ip of the Meter Box enclosure. With the lock turned anti clockwise completely you should be able to remove the key. With the key removed, when you attempt to open the box the way you used to do, you should now find that the door stays shut. If this is the case you have successfully installed the lock!

TROUBLE SHOOTING:

1. If the **cylinder bar closes in the wrong direction**, you will need to unscrew the bar’s fastener, remove the bar and then replace it in a 90 degree different position. Then reattach the bar and screw the fastener back.

2. If the **bar falls short** of reaching the enclosures side by about 3mm then you need an accessory to adjust the depth of the bar.

   This is an offset bar (CAM 55 OFFSET STRAIGHT 31mm BENT 6.3mm) that makes the Meter Box and the lock match up. The majority of Meter Boxes are ETSA design compliant and will not require this item which cost about $7 including postage.

3. If the **bar falls too deep** behind the enclosure which makes the locking of the door loose, then you will also need an offset bar as in point 2, however in this case the stepped bar would be used in reverse. This will make the distance from the bar to the enclosure 3mm shorter.

Most meter boxes are visible and accessible from the street so securing your power with an authorised ETSA lock is a must. Your new keys will exclusively work just your lock and the meter readers master key will work as well. So there is no need to send off a key or leave one out, just notify your power provider once it has been fitted. If you feel you are not up for the DIY way, contact your local locksmith.