

## 2018 Ontario Electrical Safety Code – 27<sup>th</sup> Edition

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. What is the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (Code)?

The Code is an Ontario regulation that establishes safety standards for the installation and maintenance of electrical equipment. It is primarily a technical document, prescriptive in approach.

Revisions to the Code are made through a broad consultative process at both the provincial and national level, and through the collaboration of the Electrical Safety Authority and its safety partners.

#### 2. Why is there a new Code?

The Ontario Electrical Safety Code includes changes to the Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) and Ontario-specific amendments. Major changes made to the 2015 CEC warranted an update of the Ontario Code.

ESA collaborated with its safety partners to produce this new edition of the Code to reflect changes in technology and the marketplace, feedback from stakeholders, technical reviews and new safety insights.

#### 3. When does the 2018 Code become effective?

The 2018 Code comes into effect on May 16, 2019.

#### 4. If I have a Notification or Plan Review submission prior to May 16, 2019, do I need to follow the new 2018 Code?

No, if your Notification or Plan Review submission is made **prior to May 16, 2019**, you do not need to comply with the 2018 Code. The electrical installation must meet the Code rules in effect at the time that the notification was filed or the plans were submitted to ESA. This means that when applying for a new Notification after May 16, 2019 and plans were not submitted prior to May 16, 2019, the electrical installation shall comply with the 2018 Code.

**NOTE:** If a contractor elects to comply with any part of the 2018 Code after May 16, 2019 even though the Notification or Plan Review submission was made prior to May 16, 2019, then the entire installation must comply with the 2018 Code.

**5. Does a Notification or Plan Review submission expire? How does this impact which Code I need to follow?**

Yes, as outlined below, a notification or a plan review may expire resulting in the need to re-apply and follow the 2018 Code.

*Expiration rules for Residential Notifications*

The Fee Guide requires a minimum of one inspection (rough-in, service, trench, etc.) for any Residential Notification *within 12 months*, or the Notification will expire. When *re-applying* for a new Notification after May 16, 2019, the electrical installation shall comply with the 2018 Code, even where plans were submitted prior to May 16, 2019.

*Expiration rules for Plan Review Submissions*

A Plan Review does not expire as long as your Plan Review submittal was reviewed to the current or last edition of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, with no major changes.

**6. I have already purchased the CEC; do I still need a 2018 Code?**

The law requires that all electrical installations in Ontario meet the requirements of the Code. It is recommended that anyone permitted to perform electrical work in Ontario should have a current copy of the 2018 Code. The 2018 Code contains the complete version of the CEC and the Ontario-specific amendments.

**7. What is the difference between the CEC and the Ontario Electrical Safety Code?**

In addition to very specific Ontario administrative requirements, there are also technical differences from the CEC.

**8. How can I tell the difference between the Ontario amendments of the new Code and the CEC rules?**

The Ontario amendments are identified by a Black Trillium symbol (below) and the Ontario text is in italics. A list of the Ontario amendments is also provided in the Code section of the [ESA website](#).



**9. What is the price of the 2018 Code?**

ESA is partnering with the CSA Group to offer the Code book and all ESA bulletins – which provide important updates and interpretations – together for one price.

The Code will be available in print for \$219 or a searchable, digital format for \$195 – accessible on smart phones, tablets and desktops and compatible with Windows and iOS.

NOTE: bulletins are available electronically. After purchasing the Code book, register at [CSA Communities](#) to access the bulletins online.

**10. When will the 2018 Code be available for purchase?**

As of December 17, 2018, the Code can be purchased online at [www.csagroup.org/oesc](http://www.csagroup.org/oesc) or by calling 800-463-6727. The new Code is being distributed through CSA Group. The PDF version is available for purchase now. For the hard copy and digital versions there is “Sign up” option to be notified when available to purchase and are expected to be delivered in January 2019.

**11. Why is the 2018 Code not available to the public free of charge?**

The Code is a combination of the CEC and Ontario-specific amendments. The CEC is a national standard published by the CSA Group and is copyright protected. The CSA Group charges ESA a licensing fee for the right to use the intellectual property.

The Ontario amendments are available free of charge on the [ESA website](#).

**12. Is the 2018 Code available in French?**

Ontario-specific amendments, based on the 2018 Code, will be available in French on ESA’s website. The national version of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1, is available in French and English, and can be purchased through CSA Group. There will be a PDF bundle of the French CEC and the French Ontario-specific amendments available for purchase through CSA.

**13. What is the size of the printed version of the Code book?**

The Code book is 8 1/2 x 11 inches, glue-bound. The Pocket Reference guide is 4 x 6 1/4 inches.

**14. What is the process to have a defective Code book replaced (i.e. page missing, etc)?**

In the case of a defective Code book, contact the CSA Group at 800-463-6727 and arrange for a replacement. CSA Group will ship the replacement book at no charge to the customer.