

1. What is the OESC?

The OESC 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 OESC 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 OESC?

The OESC includes changes to the Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) and Ontario-specific amendments. Major changes made to the 2021 CEC warranted an update of the 2021 Ontario OESC.

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

3. When does the 2021 OESC become effective?

The 2021 OESC comes into effect on May 5, 2022.

4. If I submit a Notification or Plan Review prior to May 5, 2022, do I need to follow the new 2021 OESC?

No, if you submit your Notification or Plan Review **prior to May 5, 2022**, you do not need to comply with the 2021 OESC. The electrical installation must meet the OESC rules in effect when you file the notification or submit the plans to ESA. This means that when you apply for a new Notification after **May 5, 2022** and do not submit plans prior to **May 5, 2022**, the electrical installation shall comply with the 2021 OESC.

NOTE: If a contractor elects to comply with any part of the 2021 OESC after **May 5, 2022** even though they submitted the Notification or Plan Review prior to **May 5, 2022**, then the entire installation must comply with the 2021 OESC.

5. Does a Notification or Plan Review submission expire and how does it affect which OESC 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 2021 OESC.

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 5, 2022, the electrical installation shall comply with the 2021 Code, even with plans submitted prior to May 5, 2022.

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 2021 OESC?

The law requires that all electrical installations in Ontario meet the requirements of the OESC. We recommend anyone licensed to perform electrical work in Ontario should have a current copy of the 2021 OESC. The 2021 OESC contains the complete version of the CEC and the Ontario-specific amendments.

7. What is the difference between the CEC and the OESC?

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 OESC 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 OESC section of the [ESA website](#).

9. What is the price of the 2021 OESC?

ESA has partnered with the CSA Group to offer the 2021 OESC book and all ESA Bulletins – which provide important updates and interpretations – together for one price.

The Code will be available in print for \$223 or a searchable, digital format for \$199 – 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 2021 OESC be available for purchase?

You can purchase the OESC online through CSA Group www.csa.org/oesc or call 800-463-6727. The hardcopy of the OESC book is \$223, and a PDF-version is available for \$199.

These prices will include free access to the Bulletins on CSA Community of Interest website over the whole period of the OESC cycle. Once purchased, you can access the PDF-version immediately, while the hardcopy versions will be available for delivery in late January 2022.

ESA has partnered with the CSA Group to offer the OESC book and all ESA bulletins – which provide important updates and interpretations – together for one price in a searchable, digital format for \$199 – accessible on smart phones, tablets and desktops and compatible with Windows and iOS. This version will be available in summer 2022.

11. Why is the 2021 OESC not available to the public free of charge?

The OESC 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 2021 OESC available in French?

Ontario-specific amendments, based on the 2021 OESC, 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 purchased through the 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 2021 OESC book?

The OESC book is 8 ½ x 11 inches, glue-bound. The Pocket Reference guide is 4 x 6 ¼ inches.

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

In the case of a defective OESC 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.