

2024 Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) – 28th Edition

Frequently Asked Questions

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 2024 CEC warranted an update of the 2024 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 2024 OESC become effective?

The 2024 OESC comes into effect on May 1, 2025.

4. If I have a Notification or Plan Review submission prior to May 1, 2025 do I need to follow the new 2024 OESC?

No, if your Notification or Plan Review submission is made **prior to May 1, 2025**, you do not need to comply with the 2024 OESC. The electrical installation must meet the OESC 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 1, 2025** and plans were not submitted prior to **May 1, 2025**, the electrical installation shall comply with the 2024 OESC.

NOTE: If a contractor elects to comply with any part of the 2024 OESC after **May 1, 2025** even though the Notification or Plan Review submission was made prior to **May 1, 2025**, then the entire installation must comply with the 2024 OESC.

5. Does a Notification or Plan Review submission expire? How does this impact 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 2024 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 1, 2025, the electrical installation shall comply with the 2024 Code, even where plans were submitted prior to May 1, 2025.

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 2024 OESC?

The law requires that all electrical installations in Ontario meet the requirements of the OESC. It is recommended that anyone permitted to perform electrical work in Ontario should have a current copy of the 2024 OESC. The 2024 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 few 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 2024 OESC?

ESA is partnering with the CSA Group to offer the 2024 OESC book and all ESA bulletins – which provide important updates and interpretations – together for one price.

The Code will be available in print for \$243 or a searchable, digital format for \$217 – 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 on Demand.

10. When will the 2024 OESC be available for purchase?

The OESC can be purchased online at www.csagroup.org/oesc or by calling 800-463-6727. The new OESC is being distributed through CSA Group. The new OESC will be available for PDF order on November 18, 2024 for \$217. The hardcopy of the OESC book will be available for \$243 in early January 2025.

These prices will include free access to the bulletins on CSA on Demand of Interest website over the whole period of the OESC cycle. Once purchased, the PDF-version can be accessed immediately, while the hardcopy versions will be available for delivery in January early 2025.

ESA is partnering 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 \$217 – accessible on smart phones, tablets and desktops and compatible with Windows and iOS. This version will be available in April 2025.

11. Why is the 2024 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](http://www.esa.ca).

12. Is the 2024 OESC available in French?

The 2024 OESC will not be available in French.

13. What is the size of the printed version of the 2024 OESC book?

The OESC book is 8 ½ x 11 inches, glue-bound.

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.