

Director's Order on OESC Rule 2-010 - FAQ

Q: What is changing?

A: ESA has increased the threshold requirement for a Plan Review submission for installations from 10 kW to 12 kW.

Q: Why is this change happening now?

A: Standard equipment sizes of inverters are increasing for Distributed Energy Resources (DER) installations, commonly reaching values greater than 10 kW. Following this trend, the ESA is seeking to strike the right level of proportional regulatory oversight while reducing burden where possible. In addition, this aligns ESA with the Ontario Energy Board implementing an increase to the maximum nameplate capacity for DER installations from 10 kW to 12 kW. The aim is to streamline connection of these installations to the grid and reduce the overall administrative burden on installers. This initiative strikes a balance between the need to ensure safety while supporting modernization and eliminating unnecessary burden on the industry. Recognizing that the electrification transition continues across the province, this change will maintain alignment and consistency within the industry.

Q: Who are the stakeholders for this change?

A: Licensed Electrical Contractors, installing DERs, and the public at large.

Q: When will change this be in effect?

A: The Director's Order will come into force on July 6th, 2026.

Q: Can stakeholders still access Plan Review services for systems under 12 kW?

A: Yes, stakeholders have continued to see the value in the Plan Review process to ensure that installations are meeting the safety requirements for their customers. They can continue to request a Plan Review or schedule consultations for installations below the amended threshold.

Q: Plan Review requirements have changed, but the inspection fees have not... why?

A: Through a review of data and the prior Director's Order consultation, ESA determined there was no change in the general electrical safety concern for these installations between the 10 kW to 12 kW ratings. Due to advancements in technology ESA recognizes that the equipment and installation configurations at both ratings are typically the same, supporting the Plan Review requirement threshold to increase to 12 kW. Despite the decision that a Plan Review is no longer required, the complexities of these installations remain and will be addressed by the inspector on site. Our inspection fees will continue to support the inspector's time and efforts involved in inspecting wiring work and additional safety initiatives.

Q: How are ongoing projects going to be handled during the transition?

A: Notifications or Plan Review submissions made before July 6, 2026, must comply with the 10 kW Plan Review threshold. Notifications or Plan Review submissions made after July 6, 2026, will comply with the increased threshold of 12kW.

Q: For future changes, where can I direct my feedback?

A: ESA continues to host public consultations on several different proposed amendments. Feedback is encouraged and relied upon to understand stakeholder perspectives. For more information, please visit ESA's [public consultation webpage](#).

Q: Where will stakeholders be able to find more information on this change?

A: More information will be available [on ESA's website](#) including the Director's Order and background.

Q: How would the following two scenarios be handled:

Scenario #1: If an existing DER installation has a 12 kW nameplate rating and was derated to 9.6 kW, but the inspection, supporting infrastructure, and labelling were based on the full 12 kW rating, would increasing the output to 12 kW require a new Notification of Work and new Connection Authorization?

Scenario #2: If an existing DER installation has a 12 kW nameplate rating and was derated to 9.6 kW, but the inspection, supporting infrastructure, and labelling were based on the derated value of 9.6 kW, would increasing the output to 12 kW require a new Notification of Work and new Connection Authorization?

A: Yes. In both scenarios above, increasing the output to 12 kW would require a new Notification of Work and a new Connection Authorization, regardless of whether the system was inspected and built for the derated value or not.



The customer must verify that the system can support the increased output.

A Plan Review is not required in either scenario above, as the nameplate rating does not exceed 12 kW. However, any rating that exceeds 12 kW will require a Plan Review submission.

Note the derated limit being referenced, is defined as the equipment maximum continuous output that is derated to a value that is never exceeded, regardless of the mode of operation, and regardless of the end user (e.g. utility or customer). This is the limit that determines the outcome of the above direction. This is different than the export limit which limits the value exported to the utility.