

PLUGGED TMin

News, Views and Updates from the Electrical Safety Authority

Fall 2019



CONVICTION

ILLEGAL
ELECTRICAL
WORK
PERFORMED
in 92-unit
apartment building

General Contractor
Convicted of Illegal
Electrical Work
p.4

Scheduling Site
Visits under RBO
p.7



**Electrical
Safety
Authority**

1-877-ESA-SAFE ESASAFE.COM

**What's
Inside**

2 Year-to-Date
Convictions

3 Technically
Speaking

7 Worth
Knowing

Year-To-Date Convictions Apr. 1, 2019 – Aug. 31, 2019

Unlicensed

Viktor Rogalski, Murillo

Installation of pot lights and pendant lights.

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence

Mervyn Guy, Cambridge

Advertising electrical contracting services

- \$1,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge

Strak Holdings Inc., Mississauga

Lighting retrofit

Now a Licensed Electrical Contractor

- \$8,000 fine, plus \$2,000 victim surcharge – no EC licence
- \$2,000 fine, plus \$500 victim surcharge – failure to apply
- \$8,000 fine, plus \$2,000 victim surcharge – unsafe electrical conditions

Alan Brown, Clarksburg

Panel change

Former Licensed Electrical Contractor

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence

Noor (Nathan) Yalda, Brampton

Pot lights and receptacles

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence

Stephen Busato, Stouffville

Various electrical work at two locations

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence 2 counts
- \$1,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge – failure to apply 2 counts

Ronald Roberts, Buckhorn

Wired detach garage

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence
- \$1,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge – propose to do electrical work

Lee Cartier, operating as Kat Construction, Ottawa

House rewire and panel change

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence
- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – unsafe electrical conditions
- \$1,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge – failure to apply

William Raymond, operating as Raymond Electric, Odessa

Heat trace and high bay fixtures

Third conviction; work was done while temporarily unlicensed.

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence
- \$1,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge – failure to apply

John Robertson, operating as Yardworkz, Chatham

Various electrical at two locations

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence 2 counts

Thomas Johnstone, operating as Johnstone Associate Plumbing and Heating

EV charger

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence
- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence



2020 WIRING FEES UPDATE – NO INCREASE IN FEES

In 2020, ESA is not increasing existing fees as published in its current fee guide. When RBO goes live in early 2020, all LECs in the province will operate under RBO, this means ACP fees and discounts will be discontinued, while fees in the fee guide will remain the same or in some cases, see reductions. This decision comes after consultation that included contractor town halls throughout 2018 and an online fee consultation in 2019. For more information go to esasafe.com/rbo

Energy Storage System Approval

Installation and approval of Energy Storage Systems

Energy Storage Systems (ESS) are defined in Section 64 of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) as equipment or systems that receive electrical energy and store that energy in some form for later use to supply electrical energy when needed.

An ESS can be self-contained, or comprised of individual devices assembled together to form a system. ESS can be complex in nature, comes in different configurations and include various types of electrical equipment.

All Energy Storage Systems (ESS) (self-contained and others) for use or sale in Ontario shall be approved as per OESC Rule 2-024 and Ontario Regulation 438/07.

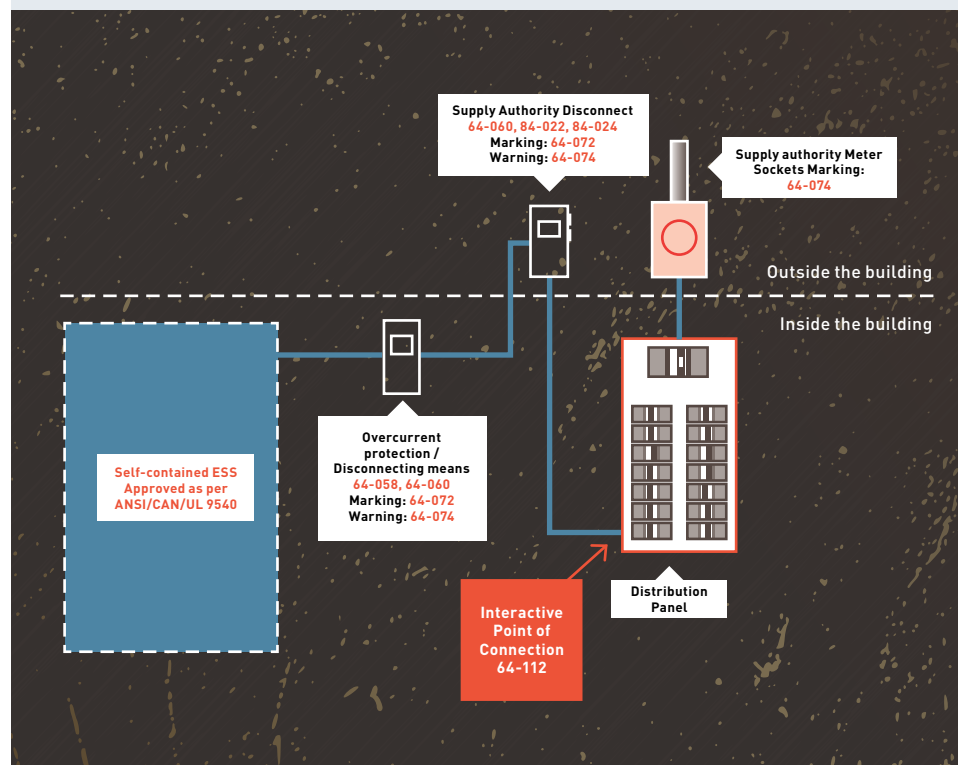
Rule 64-900 requires all the general rules of Section 64 to apply for energy storage system installations, such as overcurrent protection, disconnecting means, wiring methods, grounding and bonding, etc.

Diagram B1 below shows an example of electrical systems that include energy storage systems, and fed directly from Supply Authority. For more information about large ESS, refer to **Bulletin 64-7-0, Installation and approval of energy storage systems.**

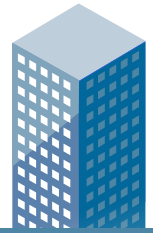
Interconnection of energy storage systems, whether self-contained or other, shall be in accordance with supply authority requirements as per Rule 84-002. Additionally, a connection authorization is required as per ESA processes. For more information, refer to **Bulletin 84-1-*, Interconnection of electric power production sources.**

Approval may be obtained by one of the following:

- 1 **Product certification** by an accredited certification body to the requirements of ANSI/CAN/UL 9540-16 Energy Storage System.
- 2 **Field Evaluation** by an accredited inspection body to the requirements of the SPE-1000 model code and applicable requirements of the ANSI/CAN/UL 9540-16 Energy Storage System. When separate equipment is combined to form an ESS, these are to be considered as complex installations and interconnected wiring attached to the building structure needs to be installed as per the OESC and the complex installation marking requirement as per the Field Evaluation guideline would apply.
- 3 **Acceptance by an inspector** during wiring inspection when **all of the following conditions are met:**
 - (a) (i) The system is utilizing lead acid type batteries; or
(ii) for other than lead acid batteries, the system is rated less than 1kWH;
 - (b) All separate equipment incorporated to form the ESS system are individually approved;
 - (c) All separate equipment incorporated to form the ESS are installed as per their corresponding manufacturer's instructions;
 - (d) Wiring as per the OESC; and
 - (e) Batteries are certified to the applicable standard, except for lead acid type.



General Contractor Guilty of Conducting Illegal Electrical Work; Putting Residents of 92 Apartment Units in Toronto at Risk



General contractors are required to hire Licensed Electrical Contractors (LEC) for any electrical work

On September 9, 2019 A+ Development and Management Corporation (A+ Development) and the director of A+ Development pleaded guilty and were convicted in Ontario Court of Justice, Toronto Region, for operating an electrical contracting business without a licence and failing to apply for electrical inspection.

A+ Development was sentenced to a total fine of \$10,000 plus a \$2,500 victim surcharge. The director was given a suspended sentence.

A+ Development, which operates as a general contractor, was hired to complete a full renovation of 92 units in a residential building. A+ Development failed to hire a LEC

for the electrical work performed as part of the renovation contract and did not apply for inspection of electrical work.

Following the ESA investigation and charges, A+ Development voluntarily hired an LEC to rectify all electrical defects and arranged for the ESA to conduct a follow-up electrical inspection of the 92 units which resulted in ESA Certificates of Inspection.

"Illegal electrical work does not save time or money, and it puts Ontarians' safety at risk," says Steve Smith, General Manager for Central Region, Electrical Safety Authority. "Electrical safety is everyone's responsibility, and general contractors and property owners alike should take great care in ensuring that renters in Toronto have a safe place to call home."

When providing electrical contracting work:

- ✓ **ENSURE** you have your ECRA/ESA licence number on display for customers to know that you are a LEC.
- ✓ **ENSURE** your customers receive a copy of the ESA Certificate of Inspection once the electrical work is complete.

To verify or find a Licensed Electrical Contractor, visit findacontractor.esasafe.com.

ESA Launches New Tool for Reporting Unlicensed Electrical Work Anonymously!

You told us that you need an easy way to let ESA know about unlicensed contracting activity. We listened and we are excited to announce a **NEW** online method to make it easier for Licensed Electrical Contractors, Master Electricians and property owners to report unlicensed individuals performing electrical work.

REPORT UNLICENSED ACTIVITY



What do you need to do? It's easy!

- 1 Visit esasafe.com
- 2 Click on the button "**Report Unlicensed Activity**" from the homepage.
- 3 Fill out the fields and submit a report.

You can choose to submit the report anonymously. All of the information will be reviewed, regardless of whether or not personal information is provided. However, the more information provided such as address and details on the work being done, the more likely we will be able to follow-up on the report.



ESA has launched a new fall LEC campaign featuring Michael Holmes Jr. Watch for the full page ad in House & Home magazine and check out this safety [video here](#)

ESA Introduces Revision to Rules of Procedure for Reviews and Appeals

ESA introduced revised Rules of Procedure for Reviews and Appeals on Aug. 1, 2019. The revised Rules apply immediately to all Director's Reviews, Director's Hearings and Appeals to the Review Panel, even if the case started before Aug.1, 2019. The Rules of Procedure set out what you need to know or do when you are disputing an ESA Order or Notice of Proposal.

The revised Rules of Procedure are part of the plan to reform the Review Panel Roster to have greater focus on experienced adjudicators to preside over appeals. The Rules support more early resolution of cases, and predictable processes that are fair, accessible and efficient.

The revised Rules of Procedure incorporate changes that align with best practices in adjudication, administrative law, and tribunal practices such as:

- ✓ combining two sets of Rules into one document, with one part for Rules that are common to all Director's Reviews, Director's Hearings and Review Panel Appeals
- ✓ more proactive management of scheduling and other pre-hearing processes,
- ✓ simplified disclosure requirements
- ✓ simpler language and organization, including an online Glossary
- ✓ more efficient hearings and options for presenting evidence, and
- ✓ availability in French.

For information on the revised Rules of Procedure, contact Shelley Valencia at shelley.valencia@electricalsafety.on.ca.



Updates to ESA's Licensing Regulation Effective Jan.1, 2020

Early in 2019, the Provincial Government led a consultation to gather feedback from stakeholders on the introduction of an undue hardship clause in Ontario Regulation 570/05 – Licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians. In June, the Provincial Government announced that the undue hardship clause was passed and officially adopted into law. These amendments will come into effect on **January 1, 2020**.

This amendment applies only to Master Electricians (ME) who wish to have their ME licence renewed but were unable to meet the 12 month expiry deadline due to undue hardship. The Licensing Regulation now provides the Director of Licensing with discretionary authority to renew an ME licence if the licence-holder can demonstrate that they experienced undue hardship as defined below:

An undue hardship is a circumstance or experience that creates an excessive or disproportionate burden or obstacle, usually beyond a person's control, that directly causes the person to be unable to complete the renewal application process in the specified one year timeframe.

In preparation for the January 2020 effective date, ESA is developing the process to support the implementation of the undue hardship clause. In the coming months, information on how individuals who have experienced undue hardship can include this consideration as part of their renewal will be provided on our website.



Scheduling Site Visits Under Risk-based Oversight (RBO) for Wiring Work

ESA to Communicate Scheduling via Text or Email in Early 2020

In early 2020, ESA will move to a risk-based approach called Risk-based Oversight (RBO) for electrical wiring. RBO allows ESA to shift efforts to higher risk installations and safety activities including compliance, enforcement and to address the underground economy.

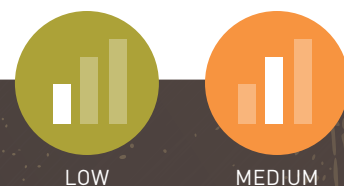
If eligible, you can receive selective inspection benefits and this will reduce the burden on your time. ESA will communicate its intent not to visit a worksite via text or email, allowing you to move on with your work.

How Scheduling Works for LECs Eligible for Selective Inspection

Notifications are sorted into like groupings for each LEC based on risk. The visit ratio within selective inspection is one of RBO's key benefits:



How ESA Will Schedule Site Visits for Low-risk and Medium-risk Notifications



Notifications ranked low and medium-risk can be scheduled based on your preference, and are not restricted to the Inspector's scheduling calendar.

If you provide ESA with an inspection request with 3 or more business days' notice, you will receive a text or email letting you know that the requested inspection has been passed without a visit.

This notice may be sent up to two business days before the scheduled site visit date.

If you provide ESA with an inspection request with less than 3 business days' notice, our notice to you will be less.

If you do not receive notice from ESA that the notification has been passed without a visit, you can

assume ESA will attend the site as scheduled and ensure that ESA has access to the site until 4:30 pm.



How ESA Will Schedule Site Visits for High-risk Notifications

Notifications ranked high-risk will be scheduled on a day the Inspector is in that particular area based on the Inspector's scheduling calendar.

How ESA Will Schedule New Residential Notifications

For New Residential notifications, an Inspector will make a minimum of one visit on every new home in the province. All requests for inspection (service, rough-in and final) are scheduled for the next business day or the day you request.

New residential notifications scheduled for final that have **not** received a visit at the rough-in or service stage of the project will be scheduled on a day the Inspector is in that particular area based on the scheduling calendar.

How Scheduling Will Work for Contractors Not Eligible for Selective Inspection

Some contractors will not be eligible for selective inspection for a number of different reasons, such as:

- ✗ New Account Contractor with fewer than 10 notifications visited in the past 12 months and/or defect ratio >4%
- ✗ Contractor with fewer than 10 notifications in the past 12 months
- ✗ RBO program benefits have been removed for high defect ratio.
- ✗ The contractor has been issued a Life and/or Property defect
- ✗ The contractor has been Working Without a Notification (WWON)
- ✗ The contractor has specifically requested a site visit; or
- ✗ ESA determines all the contractor's work must be visited

Regardless of the risk assigned, a notification flagged "100% Inspection response" will be scheduled on a day the Inspector is in that particular area based on the Inspector's scheduling calendar.



For more detailed information on RBO for wiring work, go to www.esasafe.com/rbo
Questions? Email rbo@electricalsafety.on.ca



Register today for a
Regional Contractor Meeting
Visit www.esasafe.com/rcm

Spotlight on Common Defects

Non-metallic Cable near Heat Ducts 12-506 4) a)

Over the past year, ESA inspectors have identified more than 2,000 defects related to the installation of non-metallic-sheathed cables (NMSC) near heating ducts.

The Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) contains installation requirements for NMSC as part of Section 12 of in the 500 series of rules. The practices prescribed for NMSC installation by the OESC are intended to prevent damage or injury to the cables during and after installation.

The following are a snap shot of OESC requirement to the installation of NMSC in proximity of heating ducts:

- Rule 12-506
 - Sets limits and required minimum clearance to NMSC installed in proximity to heating sources. These clearances intend to limit the transfer of heat by an air space of at least:
- 25 mm between the conductor and heating ducts;
- 50 mm between the conductor and masonry or concrete chimneys; or
- 150 mm between the conductor and chimney and flue cleanouts.



See Bulletin 12-19- * Non-Metallic-Sheathed Cables (NMSC) wiring methods for additional information regarding the installation of NMSC.

Failure to adhere to above OESC requirements may cause electrical shock and fire hazard.

PLUGGED IN GOES DIGITAL

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Beginning March 2020, the Plugged In newsletter will transition to a **digital-only format**.

Key Benefits to Digital Publication

- ✓ Enhanced customer experience and engagement through images, links and videos.
- ✓ Real-time information anytime
- ✓ Reduced costs
- ✓ Environmental benefits

Subscribe to the Plugged In newsletter in two ways:

1 Send an email to the Plugged In newsletter email at PluggedIn@electricalsafety.on.ca.

2 If you would like to receive all of your correspondence from ESA in digital format, please complete the **Notice of Change form** included with this issue and forward to the Customer Service Centre at esa.licensing@electricalsafety.on.ca.

Please note:

If you are an LEC and have a valid email on file with ESA's licensing department you can call the Customer Service Centre at 1-877-372-7233 and request to have your preferred method of communication changed to email. The current issue (fall 2019) will be the last version of the print newsletter published. There will be a pdf available on the website if a print copy is required here.

What's Happening

Register today for the 2019 Licence Holder Meeting!

GTA – Nov.19, 2019, Mississauga
Grand, 35 Brunel Road, Mississauga
To register visit: www.esasafe.com/licensing/lhm

New LEC summary Report Now Available to view [click here](#)

ESA's Fall Training Schedule is now available [click here](#) to view locations and courses



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We'd like your input

Please send your comments or story ideas to plugged.in@electricalsafety.on.ca.



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www.esasafe.com

IMPORTANT: Please PRINT or TYPE all information

Office Use
Received Date:
Processed By:

Notice of Change to Information

Select Change Type(s):

☐ Change Business Name ☐ Change Address/Phone/Fax/Email ☐ Change Directors/Partners ☐ Change OCOT/CofQ or WSIB

***I would like to receive my ESA correspondence by (select one):** ☐ Mail ☐ Fax ☐ Email

Requested Licence Changes Pertain to: (you must provide Licence and Account Information for changes below)

Electrical Contractor ☐ **Master Electrician** ☐ **Both** ☐

ECRA/ESA Electrical Contractor Licence Number:

Electrical Contractor Customer Account Number:

LEC Business Name:

ECRA/ESA Master Electrician Licence Number:

Master Electrician Customer Account Number:

ME Licence Holder Name:

Section A: Change of Business Name

Electrical Contractor Licensee Information; we are changing/adding to the company's name ☐ Yes ☐ No

Current Legal Company Name:

Current Operating Name:

Company Name is changing to:

Section B: Change of Address/Phone/Fax/Email

New

Address: _____ (Street Number, Street Name, Suite/Unit) _____ (City) _____ (Province) _____ (Postal Code)

If change is for

Electrical Contractor;

ON Service

_____ (Street Number, Street Name, Suite/Unit) _____ (City) _____ (Province) _____ (Postal Code)

New Phone Number: ()

New Fax Number: ()

New Email: _____

Is this the same Email used for Online Applications? ☐ Yes ☐ No

New Website: _____

Section C: Change of Principal Director(s), Officer(s), Owner(s), or Partner(s) Information

☐ New ☐ Terminating

Effective Date
of Change:

YYYY MM DD

First Name:

Middle Name:

Last Name:

Residence Address: (Street Number, Street Name, Suite/Unit, City, Province, Postal Code)

Residence Telephone: ()

Position held
in Company:

Date of Birth

YYYY MM DD

Section D: Change to Company OCOT/Certificate of Qualification Holder, or WSIB

Journeyman Electrician/
Powerline Technician Name:

WSIB Account Number:

Indicate Position held in
the Company:

☐ A Corporate Owner, Officer, or Director

☐ A Partner

☐ An Employee

Qualification Type:

☐ 309A,309D

☐ 309C,309E

☐ 434A

☐ 442A

☐ Other _____

Ontario College of Trades
Membership Number:

Expiry Date:

YYYY MM DD

Name of Authorized Signing Officer (please PRINT) or Master
Electrician if this is a change to the Master Electrician Licence
Information

Signature (I am signing this change form on behalf of the Electrical Contracting
business named above and am authorized by the business to do so)

Title:

Date:

Notice of Change to Information Checklist

(Please read the form carefully and complete all applicable sections as described below. Ensure you provide the applicable account number(s) and Licence numbers(s) you wish to make changes to.)

☐ **Section A:** If the legal company name or operating name is changing, we require business registration documents to be submitted that reflect the change. This could be demonstrated through a Master Business Licence or Articles of Incorporation or Amalgamation. An updated Certificate of Insurance is also required.

☐ **Section B:** Please make any changes to your contact information. If you are an Electrical Contractor requesting a change of address outside Ontario **OR** your mailing address is a PO Box, you must also provide an address for service in Ontario (for our records only).

☐ **Section C:** If you have a new/terminating director/officer/owner in the business, we require business registration documents that reflect the change. Please complete a Notice of Change form for each new or terminating director/officer/owner.

☐ **Section D:** Please be sure to include a copy of the Certificate of Qualification and/or Ontario College of Trades Membership card to make any changes. A valid WSIB Account Number is required to update/change the WSIB information on file for an Electrical Contractor.

☐ Please ensure the bottom of the form is completed with the name and signature of an Authorized Signing Officer. All changes made to a Master Electrician Licence must be authorized by the Licensee. Changes made to an Electrical Contractor Licence must be authorized by a registered company principal/officer/owner/partner.

Warning – It is an offence to knowingly provide false information on this application and any attachments