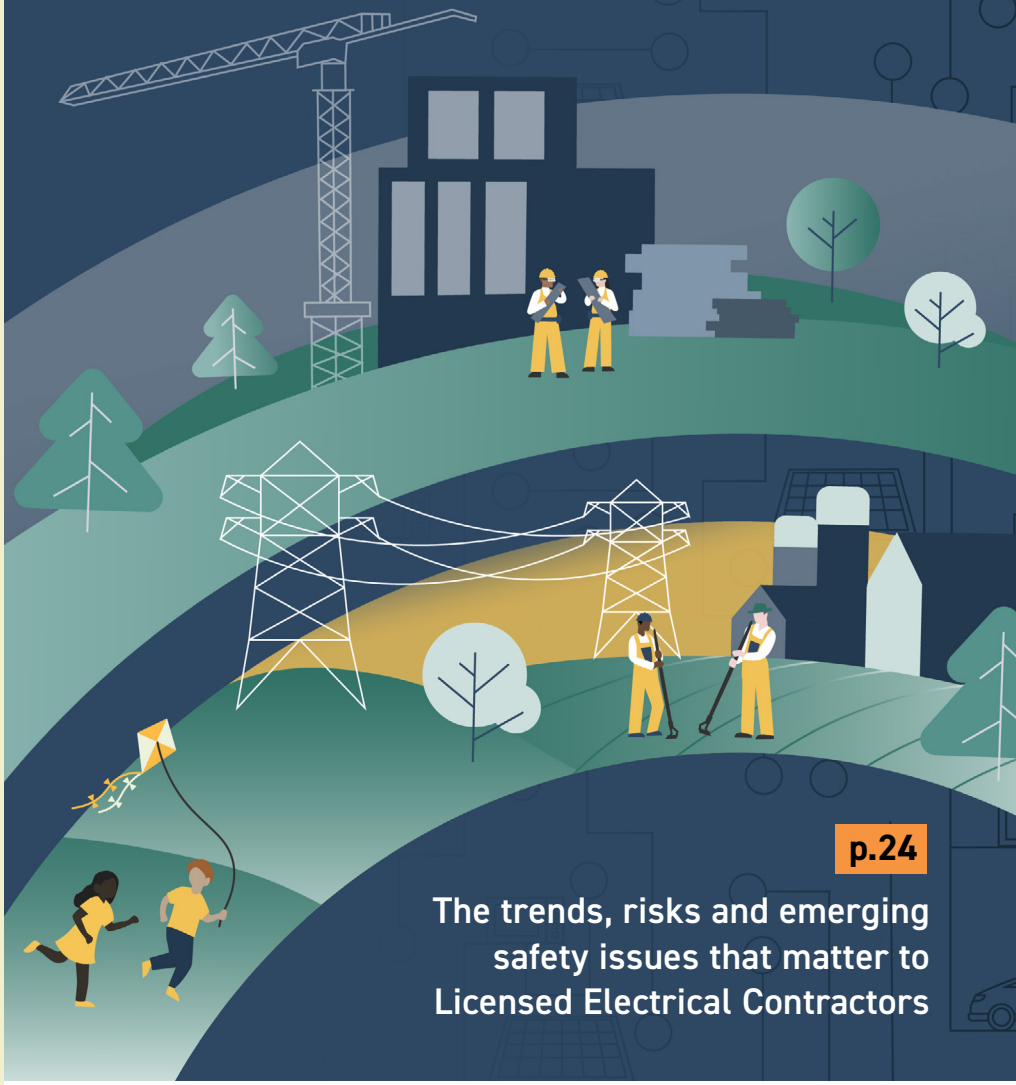
News, Views and Updates from the Electrical Safety Authority

PLUGGED IN

FALL 2026

25 YEARS OF THE Ontario Electrical Safety Report



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The trends, risks and emerging safety issues that matter to Licensed Electrical Contractors

Electrical Safety Authority

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Convictions (March 1 – September 30, 2026)

The following are convictions under the *Electricity Act, 1998* for violations of the legislation or the Ontario Electrical Safety Code and have been prosecuted through the *Provincial Offences Act*.

Licensed

Aya Electric Inc. and Razi Khan
Locations: Clarington, Brantford, Milton, Markham, Bradford

Aya Electric Inc. obtained Notifications of Work for seven residential properties and represented that it would be performing the electrical work. The electrical work was subsequently performed by unlicensed electrical contractors.

The corporation was convicted on eight counts related to permitting unlicensed electrical contracting activities and four counts of knowingly holding out as genuine Notifications of Work. Aya Electric Inc. was fined $92,000.

In addition, Razi Ahmed Khan, the sole officer, director and Designated Master Electrician of Aya Electric Inc., was convicted on six counts arising from the same conduct. Khan was fined $30,000 and received a two-year suspended sentence on the remaining counts.

Unlicensed

Christopher Pollock o/a Dunright Electrical Contracting
Location: Hamilton

Electrical work was performed at a residential property by Christopher Pollock while operating an electrical contracting business, Dunright Electrical Contracting, without authorization.

Following completion of the work, Pollock provided documentation purporting to show that the electrical installation had been inspected and approved by the ESA. The documentation was not genuine.

Pollock was convicted after providing a falsified ESA document that falsely represented electrical work had been inspected and approved by the ESA. Pollock was fined $3,000 on the authorization offence and $15,000 on the falsified document offence, for a total fine of $18,000.

SUSPECT SOMEONE IS OFFERING ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING SERVICES WITHOUT A LICENCE?

Let ESA know through our anonymous reporting tool.

Former Electrical Contractor Principal Arrested Following ESA Referral

Police investigation follows licence revocation and $70,000 in previous fines

Peel Regional Police have arrested Rahyl Hassan, principal of former Licensed Electrical Contractor, Strak Holdings Inc., following an investigation that began with a referral from ESA. The September 23 arrest follows a series of regulatory enforcement actions involving Hassan and his businesses.

Police investigation follows ESA referral

In its October 2 announcement, Peel Regional Police outlined Project Circuit Breaker, an investigation into alleged electrical contracting fraud involving Strak Holdings Inc. and Raytar Holdings Inc.

Police allege that Hassan misrepresented himself as a Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC) and arranged for electrical work by individuals who were not properly certified. Customers were also allegedly promised government rebates that did not exist.

Hassan faces five criminal charges, including defrauding the public, forging documents and mischief endangering life. Police have identified 12 known victims and believe there may be others. The criminal charges have not been proven in court.

ESA referred concerns about potential criminal activity to police after they arose during an ESA investigation and continued to cooperate throughout the police investigation.

ESA has since laid additional charges under the *Electricity Act, 1998* and its regulations against Hassan, Strak Holdings Inc., Raytar Holdings Inc. and Saima Hassan following an ESA investigation into alleged electrical safety and licensing violations. Those charges have not been proven and remain before the courts.

Previous ESA enforcement actions

ESA revoked Strak Holding Inc.'s EC licence in 2024 following multiple instances of non-compliance. In May 2025, Strak Holdings Inc. and Hassan were convicted in Caledon on multiple offences under the *Electricity Act, 1998*, its regulations, and the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, and ordered to pay a combined $70,000 in fines. The convictions related to operating without a Designated Master Electrician and failing to file the required notification with ESA for electrical work.

> "ESA is committed to helping individuals and businesses understand their responsibilities and comply with Ontario's electrical safety laws," said Emily Larose, Vice President, Regulatory and General Counsel at the Electrical Safety Authority. "But when parties are unwilling to work within the system, we will act. We have a range of enforcement tools available to protect Ontarians from electrical harm, including licensing action and prosecution. Where concerns about potential criminal activity arise, we can also refer those matters to police."

Learn more

Click here to read the decision of the Review Panel in the Strak Holdings Inc. case

Your Licence Isn't for Sale:

Licensed Electrical Contractor Convicted After Filing Multiple Notifications of Work for Unlicensed Contractor

Aya Electric Inc. and owner and Designated Master Electrician Razi Khan were fined a combined $122,000 after Khan collected payments for permits at six properties

When a Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC) files a Notification of Work with ESA ("permit"), that business is accountable for the electrical work associated with that permit. **Aya Electric Inc. obtained electrical permits for six residential installations it neither performed nor supervised as part of a paid arrangement with an unlicensed contractor.** ESA's investigation also uncovered electrical work at a seventh location for which no Notification of Work had been obtained.



What ESA's investigation found

The six homes were in communities stretching from Clarington to Brantford, and most of the jobs involved installing pot lights. The contractor who did the work was not an Aya Electric employee, nor a LEC. The unlicensed individual had no electrical qualifications, was not registered with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) or properly insured and worked without supervision from Aya Electric or its owner and Designated Master Electrician (DME), Razi Khan. ESA investigators also observed Khan installing exterior pot lights at a seventh home in Brantford alongside two unlicensed contractors. No Notification of Work had been obtained for that job.

Fines and sentencing

In September 2026, Aya Electric and Khan pleaded guilty to offences under the *Electricity Act, 1998*. The company was fined $92,000 and Khan was fined $30,000 and placed on probation. ESA is currently reviewing the matter and considering whether further administrative action is warranted. Khan was the company's sole officer and director, as well as its DME. In that role, he was responsible for planning and supervising electrical work carried out on Aya Electric's behalf.

Your Licence Isn't for Sale:

Licensed Electrical Contractor Convicted After Filing Multiple Notifications of Work for Unlicensed Contractor (Continued)

In its sentencing reasons, the Ontario Court of Justice noted than Khan charged more than twice the cost of an ESA permit. It described his conduct as "borderline fraud" and a "pattern of deception" and considered his licensing status an aggravating factor because Khan knew how ESA's permitting process worked and used it for profit.

Public safety weighed heavily in the sentence. The court warned that the offences "could have had serious catastrophic results," including fire and loss of life. It also emphasized the need for fines that deter others from circumventing licensing requirements.

> "A Licensed Electrical Contractor's licence is not something that can be rented, loaned or used to legitimize unlicensed electrical work. Obtaining permits for work that is being performed by an unlicensed contractor represents a deliberate disregard for Ontario's licensing framework and the accountability that comes with holding a licence. We help licence holders meet their obligations, but we will take action when those obligations are deliberately ignored and put public safety at risk."
>
> —Sarah Kempel, Director of Licensing

REMINDER FOR LICENCE HOLDERS

Licensed Electrical Contractors may only subcontract electrical work to another appropriately licensed electrical contracting business (another LEC). They must not obtain Notifications of Work on behalf of unlicensed individuals or businesses or allow unlicensed and/or unqualified contractors to operate under their licence.

Under subsection 113.2(1) of the *Electricity Act*, and section 3 of O. Reg 570/05, anyone operating an electrical contracting business must hold an electrical contractor licence. This includes subcontractors hired to perform electrical work, unless their work is specifically exempted under section 2 of the Regulation.

Powering Up Safely:

Residential Battery Rules Get a Vital Update (Bulletin 64-8-4)

As battery energy storage systems (ESS) move rapidly from the utility sector into Canadian homes, the rules governing their installation are evolving just as quickly. ESA has updated its guidance with Bulletin 64-8-4, issued in October 2026, replacing the May 2025 edition. Built around Rules 64-924 and 64-1100 of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC), the updated bulletin clarifies requirements for residential ESS installations, including mixed-use buildings, battery capacity, spacing, product certification and the challenges posed by newer battery technologies.

A Clearer Line for Mixed-Use Buildings

One of the bulletin's important clarifications concerns mixed-use buildings. Rule 64-1100 now clearly applies to buildings that include both residential and commercial occupancies, such as retail space at street level with residential units above. The presence of a commercial component does not automatically exempt the building from the applicable ESS safety requirements.

Closing the Capacity Loophole

The updated guidance also addresses questions surrounding aggregate ESS capacity within a dwelling unit. Although Rule 64-1100 establishes different capacity limits depending on where ESS equipment is installed, such as an attached garage, exterior location or dedicated rooms, these limits cannot simply be combined to create a larger total installation.

For example, installing 40 kWh in a utility room and 80 kWh in a garage does not permit a total capacity of120 kWh. The 80 kWh aggregate limit per dwelling unit still applies unless the installation is certified and unit level tested to ANSI/CAN/UL 9540/9540A for increased capacity, with the applicable reports referenced in a manufacturer's installation manual.



Powering Up Safely:

Residential Battery Rules Get a Vital Update (Bulletin 64-8-4) (Continued)

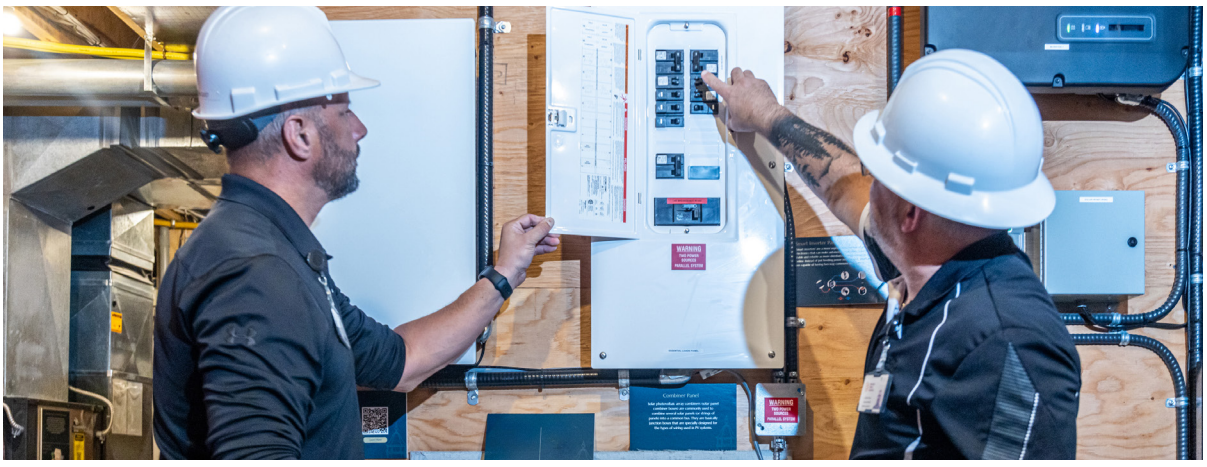
When 20 kWh Is No Longer the Ceiling

As manufacturers introduce larger residential battery systems, the Bulletin establishes a defined pathway for individual battery stacks exceeding 20 kWh. The higher capacity must be specifically certified and unit level tested to ANSI/CAN/UL 9540 / 9540A and referenced by the manufacturer in the installation manual and installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.
The equipment must also carry a permanent field label identifying the applicable ANSI/CAN/UL 9540A test report and maximum permitted battery capacity, with testing demonstrating the required unit-level fire-safety performance.
For systems certified to earlier editions of ANSI/CAN/UL 9540, installers may also need to provide the applicable ANSI/CAN/UL 9540A test report to demonstrate compliance.

The One-Metre Rule — and When It Can Change

Spacing remains another key safety consideration. The standard requirement is generally 1 m separation between ESS units and from specified openings, such as windows and non-vehicular doors. Reduced separation is possible only when supported by the applicable equipment certification and manufacturer documentation.

For systems certified to the 3rd edition of ANSI/CAN/UL 9540, reduced spacing may be permitted when the installation manual references qualifying unit-level ANSI/CAN/UL 9540A testing. Systems certified to the 2nd edition require additional documentation, including a copy of the ANSI/CAN/UL 9540 certification and installation instructions detailing spacing configuration. Systems certified to the 1st edition systems do not qualify for reduced separation and must maintain the 1 m minimum.



Powering Up Safely:

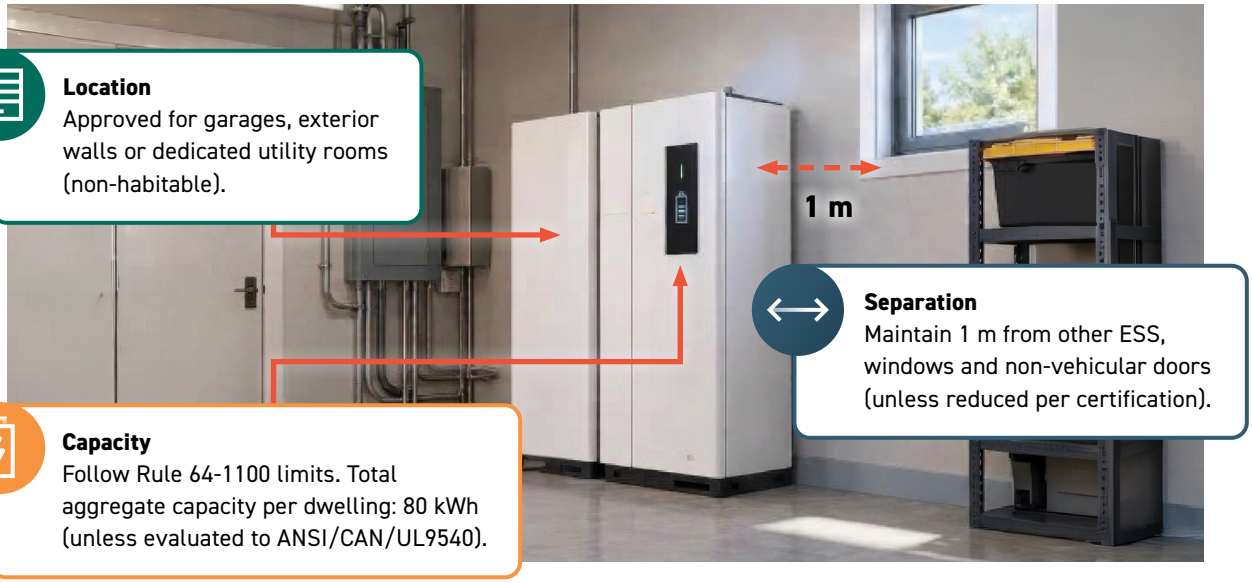
Residential Battery Rules Get a Vital Update (Bulletin 64-8-4) (Continued)

Habitable or Non-Habitable? The Label Matters

The Bulletin also draws an important distinction between habitable and non-habitable locations. Equipment specifically marked for residential non-habitable locations is limited to permitted areas such as garages, exterior locations or dedicated utility spaces. Installation in other habitable locations requires the appropriate product markings and supporting ANSI/CAN/UL 9540A cell-level performance criteria. **ESA is currently not aware of any systems meeting these cell-level performance criteria**. This creates a critical checkpoint for installers: the physical location alone does not determine compliance. The equipment's certification, markings, testing and installation instructions must all support the proposed location.

A More Defined Path Forward

The updated Bulletin provides a clearer framework for applying residential ESS requirements as battery technology and system configurations continue to evolve. Manufacturers must specifically support the proposed configuration through appropriate certification, testing and documentation. The Bulletin also distinguishes between equipment certified to different editions of ANSI/CAN/UL 9540, recognizing the additional testing and documentation required with newer editions. For installers, designers, inspectors and homeowners, understanding these requirements is essential to safely and compliantly bringing the next generation of energy storage into Canadian homes.



Powering Up Safely:

Residential Battery Rules Get a Vital Update (Bulletin 64-8-4) (Continued)

The table below summarizes the key ESS installation and compliance differences between the 1st, 2nd and 3rd editions of ANSI/CAN/UL 9540. It highlights the documentation required to verify compliance, including installation manuals and ANSI/CAN/UL 9540A test reports supporting reduced separation, alternative locations and increased capacity.

Requirement	UL 9540 3rd Ed.	UL 9540 2nd Ed.	UL 9540 1st Ed.
Installation Manual	Reference to UL 9540A report number and model specific manufacturer capacity/separation/ location conditions.	Manufacturer approved detailed capacity/separation/ location conditions.	Manufacturer approved capacity/ location conditions.
Label / Docs	Permanent label showing max capacity + UL 9540A report number	Report + certification + manual + label	Report + label
UL 9540A Criteria	Unit / module / cell depending on location and capacity	Unit / module / cell depending on location and capacity	Unit / module / cell depending on location and capacity
<1 m Separation	**Yes**, if unit level tested & manufacturer-approved	**Yes**, if certified & manufacturer-approved	**No — 1 m minimum**
Alt. Location	Required habitable-space marking & cell-level testing	Residential dwelling marking & cell-level testing	Residential dwelling marking & cell-level testing
>20 kWh Stack	**Yes**, if manufacturer-approved + meet unit-level testing criteria	**Yes**, if manufacturer-approved + meet unit level testing criteria	**Yes**, if manufacturer-approved + meet unit level testing criteria

Director's Corner
Message from the Director of Licensing



SARAH KEMPEL
Director of Licensing

Partners in Safety

Electrical safety depends on a shared commitment between ESA and Ontario's licensed electrical community. Each of us has a distinct role in protecting the public and maintaining confidence in the work our sector delivers.

Clear responsibilities underpin safe work

ESA is responsible for administering, overseeing and enforcing Ontario's electrical safety requirements. Licensed Electrical Contractors (LECs) and Master Electricians (MEs) are responsible for putting those requirements into practice in their daily work.

LECs must ensure that work carried out on their behalf complies with applicable laws, including the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC), health and safety requirements and consumer protection obligations. Designated Master Electricians are responsible for planning and supervising electrical work and ensuring it is completed in accordance with applicable law.

Fulfilling these responsibilities also requires ongoing dialogue between ESA and the people delivering electrical work to consumers.

Through advisory councils, surveys and direct industry feedback, we hear about the challenges licence holders face and where clearer guidance or support may be needed.

Continuing the conversation

This year's Licence Holder Meeting theme, *Partners in Safety*, reflects that connection. Electrical safety is strongest when regulators, LECs, MEs, workers and industry stakeholders are aligned around a common goal. The meeting provides an opportunity to discuss emerging issues and share perspectives from the industry, helping strengthen the partnerships that support safe, compliant electrical work.

I encourage you to join us and learn more about this year's event in the Licence Holder Meeting feature article.

Director's Corner
Message from the Director of Licensing (Continued)

Resources to support your work

Partnership also means providing licence holders with useful tools and information to help meet their responsibilities. Whether you're looking to stay current on Code requirements, support your team's development or build your own knowledge and leadership skills, ESA offers a range of resources developed specifically for licence holders to draw on.

RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- Grounded in Ontario podcast: Discussions on industry trends, Code requirements and electrical safety issues.
- OESC Bulletins: Clarification and guidance on Code requirements.
- ME Resource Library: Learning and development resources, helping licence holders strengthen their technical knowledge, professional practice and leadership capabilities.
- Toolbox Talks: ESA's monthly one-page resource covering safety tips, seasonal reminders, Code updates and more for you and your team.
- Standards of Conduct & Duties and Guidelines for Licence Holders: Information on the standards, responsibilities, and practical guidance needed to conduct electrical contracting work legally, safely, ethically, and in compliance with Ontario's licensing requirements.

I encourage you to explore more resources through ESA's comprehensive resource hub and continue sharing your experiences with us and your industry peers.

Thank you for the care and professionalism you bring to your work. Our continued partnership helps protect the public and maintain the trust Ontarians place in our sector.

Sarah Kempel
Director of Licensing

Regulatory Requirement:

Keep Your Licence Information Up to Date

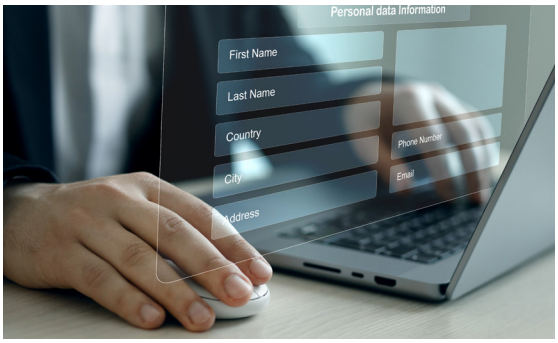
Licence information changed? Certain changes must be reported to ESA. Learn what needs to be updated, and how to make those changes through the self-serve Licensing Platform.

Keeping your licence information current is a regulatory requirement. Licence holders must notify ESA within **five business days** of any change to the information originally provided in their licence application or renewal. Keeping your information current helps maintain licensing integrity and effective regulatory oversight, while reducing the risk of disruptions to your business.

Examples of Common Changes that Need to be Reported

For **Licensed Electrical Contractors (LECs)**, reportable changes include:

- Address or telephone number
- Business name or structure
- Company owners or principal officers
- Insurance coverage or WSIB account number
- The holder of the primary electrical trade Certificate of Qualification (CofQ)
- Your Designated Master Electrician



For **Master Electricians (MEs)**, reportable changes include:

- Address or telephone number
- Your Certificate of Qualification (CofQ)
- Your Designated Master Electrician assignment

Note: Per ss. 22 and 28 of *O. Reg. 570/05: Licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians*, licence holders must notify ESA within five business days of **any change** to the information provided in their licence application or renewal application.

Start with the Right Profile on ESA's Licensing Platform

All licence updates must be submitted through ESA's self-serve Licensing Platform.

Depending on the type of change, you may be able to update the information directly in your online profile or you may need to submit a **Notice of Change** form for ESA review.

If you hold both an LEC and ME licence, review each profile separately. Updating one profile does not automatically update the other.

Regulatory Requirement:

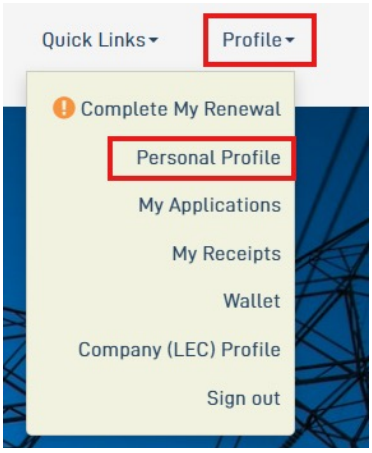
Keep Your Licence Information Up to Date (Continued)

Updating your Master Electrician Licence

Remember that an ME licence is a personal licence and must be maintained by the individual licence holder. **You cannot have a coworker, spouse or partner process these changes on your behalf.**

To review or update your personal information:

1. Sign in to the Licensing Platform
2. Select **Profile**
3. Select **Personal Profile**
4. Review and update your address, telephone number and email address as needed



If you need to make another type of change:

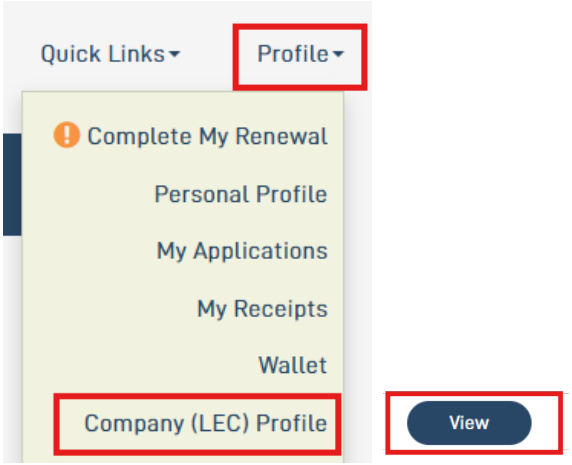
1. Select **Licence & Exam Applications**
2. Click **Select** under the Master Electrician section
3. Choose the necessary Notice of Change application
4. Follow the prompts to submit the required information

Updating Your Electrical Contractor Licence

Before making a change, make sure you are accessing the profile associated with the correct Electrical Contractor licence.

To review or update your company contact information:

1. Select **Profile**
2. Select **Company (LEC) Profile**
3. Select **View** beside the appropriate company
4. Review and update your company address, telephone number and email address



If you need to make another type of change:

1. Select **Licence & Exam Applications**
2. Click **Select** under the Electrical Contractor section
3. Choose the necessary Notice of Change application
4. Follow the prompts to submit the required information

Regulatory Requirement:

Keep Your Licence Information Up to Date (Continued)

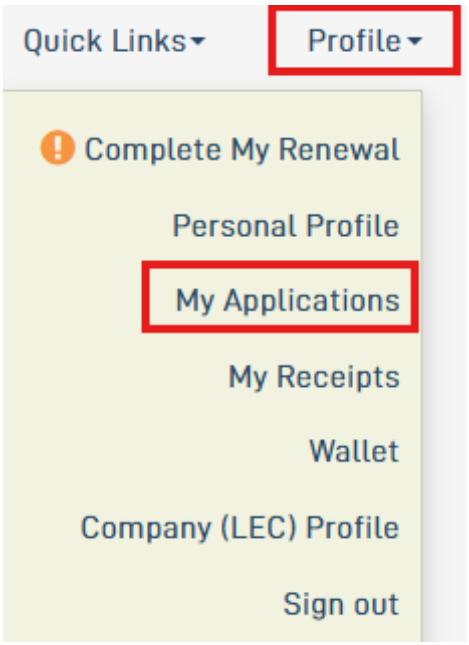
Returning to an Application

If you start an application and need time to gather additional information or documentation, your progress will be saved.

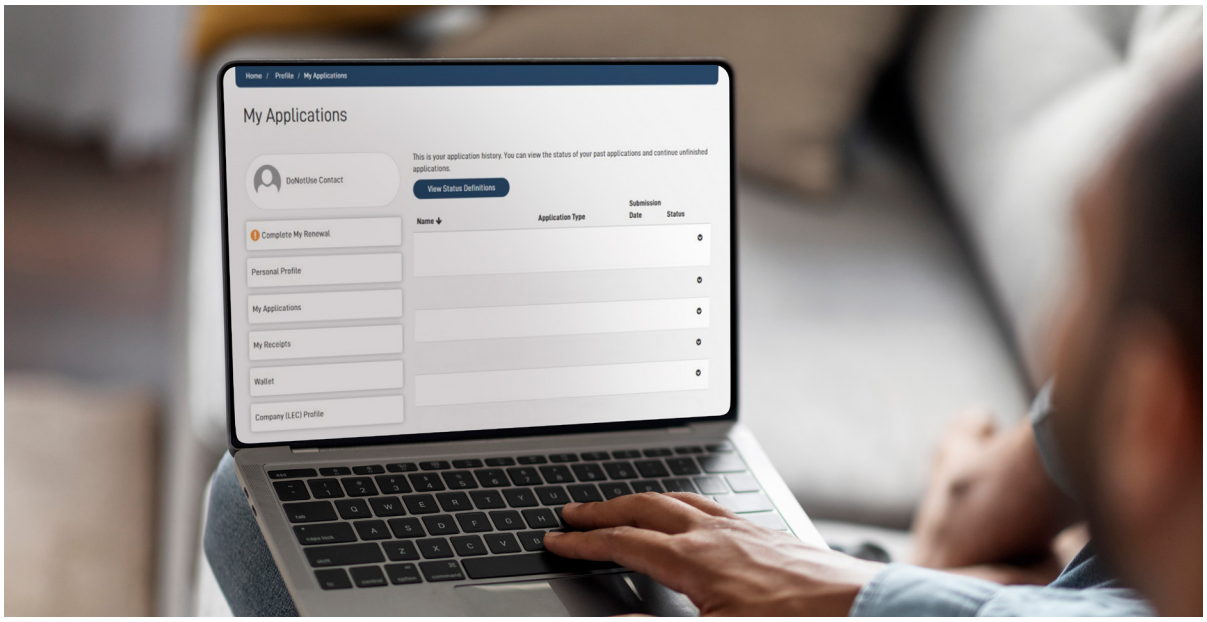
To return to it:

1. Sign in to the Licensing Platform
2. Select **Profile**
3. Select **My Applications**
4. Open the draft application and continue where you left off

Draft applications are held in your profile for **60 days**.



> **A final reminder:** You can use **My Applications** to monitor the status of your submission while it is under review by ESA. If anything further is required, a Licensing representative will contact you with what's needed to complete the change.



One Year In:

How the Licensing Platform is Evolving

Since launching last fall, ESA has introduced several enhancements to the self-serve Licensing Platform, informed by feedback from licence holders and internal users.

It has been just over a year since ESA launched the self-serve Licensing Platform, giving Licensed Electrical Contractors (LECs), Master Electricians (MEs) and ME exam applicants a more efficient way to apply for, renew and manage their licences online.

Since then, ESA has continued to enhance the platform based on how it is being used and feedback from the licence holder community. To-date, dozens of enhancements have been introduced, with more planned. ESA continues to monitor the platform, respond to feedback and address issues to help ensure the system operates effectively for licence holders.

WHAT'S CHANGED?

Updates over the past year include:

- **A more streamlined renewal experience**, featuring clearer guidance, banners and in-platform prompts to help LECs and MEs complete the renewal process more efficiently.
- **Improved support for labour mobility**, making it easier for qualified MEs from Alberta and British Columbia to navigate Ontario's application process and understand the requirements.
- **Better visibility of ME exam dates**, allowing applicants to more easily view available exam dates and select an option that meets their needs.
- **Clearer application pathways for new ME and LEC licences**, providing applicants with more detailed guidance on eligibility, application steps and supporting document requirements.
- **Enhanced communication tools**, supporting clearer and more timely interactions between licence holders and ESA's Compliance team, including information about required actions and next steps.
- **Improvements to digital certificates for MEs and LECs**, making licence information clearer and certificates easier to access.

One Year In:

How the Licensing Platform is Evolving (Continued)

SHAPED BY YOUR FEEDBACK

Licence-holder feedback has been an important part of identifying where the platform can be clearer and easier to use.

> "Transitioning to a new digital system has involved a learning curve, and we're grateful for the patience and feedback of our licence holder community. Your input has helped us identify improvements, shape enhancements and better understand what matters most to you as we continue to evolve the platform."
>
> – **Sarah Kempel**, Director of Licensing

What's next?

Work on the platform continues. ESA will keep reviewing feedback and how licence holders are using the system to identify further improvements.

Have feedback to share?
Email ESA's Licensing's Team

Ready to log in?
Visit ESA's Licensing Platform



Register Now for ESA's 2026 Annual Licence Holder Meeting

Partners in Electrical Safety:

Working Together for a Safer Ontario

Join us for the 2026 Licence Holder Meeting as we explore the theme **Partners in Safety** and the important role each of us plays in preventing electrical injuries and fatalities.

DATE & TIME: NOVEMBER 19, 2026 | 2:30 – 4:00 P.M. | VIRTUAL

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Insights from Patience Cathcart, ESA's Public Safety Officer, on the past year's key electrical safety successes and learnings.

DIRECTOR OF LICENSING UPDATE:
Hear about key Licensing initiatives from the past year and efforts to strengthen connections with licence holders to support compliance and electrical safety.

***NEW* PANEL SESSION:**
Led by Patience Cathcart, Electrical Contractors answer in-depth questions about practical approaches to strengthening safety culture.

UNDERGROUND ECONOMY UPDATE:
A look at actions taken over the past year against unlicensed electrical contractors to address the increased risks associated with unsafe electrical work.

COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGNS:
See how ESA is helping consumers understand the importance of hiring licensed professionals.

Q & A WITH A TECHNICAL ADVISOR:
Hear directly from our technical experts about electrical safety, compliance and best practices.

Register Now to secure your spot and receive your Zoom link.

After registering, you'll get a confirmation email with details on how to join.

Toronto Building Permit Blitz Sheds New Light on Who's Behind Unpermitted Electrical Work

Finding electrical work taking place without the required ESA notification can be challenging. Pinpointing who is behind it can be even harder.

In ESA's latest Toronto Building Permit blitz, a new approach provided greater insight into who was responsible for that work — giving ESA better information to help target compliance and enforcement efforts.

ESA uses municipal building permit data to proactively identify properties where electrical work may be taking place without the required electrical notification. During the Toronto blitz, ESA reviewed **723 building permits**, including 640 where electrical was suspected. ESA inspectors confirmed electrical work at **104 locations**.

A clearer picture of who is doing the work

What was different about this blitz was ESA's ability to identify who was responsible for the electrical work in nearly all locations.

Of the 104 locations with confirmed electrical work:

- **43** involved homeowners
- **21** involved unlicensed electrical contractors
- **21** involved Licensed Electrical Contractors (LECs)
- **19** could not be attributed to a responsible party



ESA also introduced new educational materials to help property owners understand when an ESA notification is required, why it matters and who they can legally hire. The materials reinforce an important message: only LECs can be hired to perform electrical work in Ontario.

> Combined with ESA inspectors' investigations and follow-ups, this approach resulted in **89 of the 104 locations — 86% — obtaining the required ESA notification**.

The findings give ESA better intelligence to identify and address unpermitted and unlicensed electrical work and help focus future compliance and enforcement efforts.

Safer, More Inclusive Jobsites

Free webinars offer practical strategies for supporting trans and nonbinary workers in the energy sector

ESA is sharing upcoming learning opportunities developed specifically for the energy sector that may be of interest to Licensed Electrical Contractors and their teams.



Offered by Pride at Work in Canada through its **Empowering 2SLGBTQIA+ Workers in Energy** project, these free webinars focus on practical ways to strengthen physical and psychological safety on the jobsite.

Trans and Nonbinary Inclusion and Safety in the Energy Sector

Explore how workplace practices and culture can affect safety and inclusion, and learn practical strategies for addressing barriers such as harassment, inadequate facilities and ill-fitting PPE. The session also looks at how supervisors, leaders and coworkers can help strengthen safety, respect and belonging on the jobsite.



November 19, 2026
1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

Register now

December 8, 2026
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ET

Register now

ESA ON Mobile Upgrade Delivers a Simpler Field Experience

Updated features are helping contractors manage inspections and submit evidence more efficiently in the field

Contractors who use the ESA ON Mobile app to manage inspections and interact with ESA in the field should find it offers a more streamlined and intuitive experience after an update this fall.

The update includes changes to how inspection evidence is captured and submitted, simplifying the process while maintaining flexibility for contractors working in areas with limited internet connectivity. Previously submitted records were not affected by the transition.

Ahead of the launch, ESA provided contractors with guidance on managing evidence submissions and preparing for updated connectivity requirements associated with certain app features. Updated support materials and resources helped ensure a smooth transition to the new version.

The ESA ON Mobile enhancement is part of ESA's broader commitment to modernizing digital services and improving the contractor experience. By making it easier to complete tasks in the field, the upgraded platform supports greater efficiency and convenience for users across Ontario.



Building a Brand Ontarians Know and Trust

Greater awareness of ESA can help our safety messages go further



For years, ESA's public campaigns have rightly put electrical safety first. But research points to another important opportunity: building stronger awareness of ESA itself.

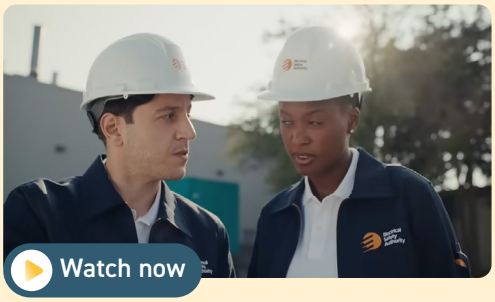
Today, awareness of who is responsible for electrical safety in Ontario remains relatively low. ESA has set an ambitious goal to increase unaided brand awareness by 10% over five years.

> **Why does that matter? Because when people know who ESA is and understand our role, they're more likely to pay attention to our safety messages.**

Research into the impact of our powerline safety messaging, for example, found a 9% difference in message recall between people who knew what ESA does and those who didn't.

ESA's new brand campaign is an investment in making ESA more recognizable to Ontarians and strengthening the connection between our name and electrical safety. By building greater awareness and understanding of ESA, we can help our safety messages reach further and have greater impact.

WATCH OUR CAMPAIGN VIDEO



BY THE NUMBERS

+10% ESA's five-year goal for increasing unaided brand awareness

9% Difference in powerline safety message recall between those who know ESA and those who don't

Reaching the Right People, at the Right Time

ESA's *Hire an LEC* campaign is getting smarter and more targeted, helping Ontarians see the value of hiring a Licensed Electrical Contractor

Last year's *Hire an LEC* campaign reached more Ontarians than ever and helped reinforce why hiring a Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC) matters. One in three Ontarians saw the campaign, up from one in four the previous year, while 62% of those who saw it recognized the importance of hiring an LEC.

Now, ESA is building on that momentum by finding new ways to reach people when electrical work is already on their minds.

This year, insights from online conversations and platforms such as Reddit will help identify where discussions about renovations, DIY projects and related topics are happening. That means ESA can reach relevant audiences with LEC messaging at moments when they may be considering doing electrical work.

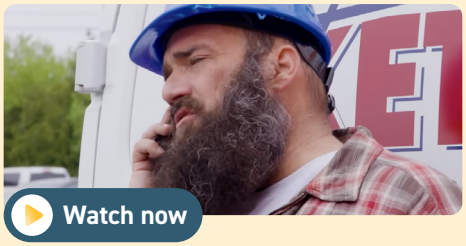
The campaign will reach Ontarians across the province, with more targeted outreach in areas where ESA data shows higher levels of non-compliance.

This allows ESA to focus additional campaign efforts where greater awareness and education can have the most impact.

There will be a particular focus on millennials, DIYers and new Canadians, helping strengthen understanding of the importance of hiring an LEC and the risks of hiring unlicensed individuals to perform electrical work.

And *Super Sketchy Electrical* is back, with more videos and a dedicated Instagram presence giving audiences another engaging reminder that when it comes to electrical work, it pays to hire an LEC.

WATCH OUR CAMPAIGN VIDEO



BY THE NUMBERS

1 in 3 Ontarians saw last year's campaign

62% Of those who saw the campaign recognized the importance of hiring an LEC, a 7% increase

68 M Paid media views

35% Of millennials identified ESA as responsible for electrical safety in Ontario, up from 17%

2025 Ontario Electrical Safety Report Now Available

Celebrating 25 Years of Data-Driven Electrical Safety

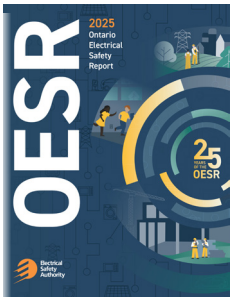
Since 2000, the *Ontario Electrical Safety Report* (OESR) has provided a comprehensive look at electrical fatalities, injuries and incidents across Ontario. Now in its 25th edition, the report continues to identify emerging risks, track progress and guide prevention efforts.

Developed through collaboration with safety partners from across Ontario, the OESR remains an essential resource for understanding Ontario's electrical safety landscape.

Key Takeaways from the OESR

- Two electrical-related fatalities occurred in 2025, the lowest annual total since 2012
- Workplace electrical fatality rates declined 38% from 2016-2020 to 2021-2025
- Powerline contact accounted for 41% of workplace electrical-related fatalities from 2016-2025
- Outside the workplace, electrical fatality rates increased 29%, while powerline-contact fatalities rose 67% between the former and latter five-year periods.
- Non-occupational electrical-related emergency department visits increased 23% from 2015-2024, with severe injuries being the most common.

Explore the 2025 OESR



Visit ESAsafe.com/OESR to explore 25 years of trends and insights that can help inform safety conversations with employees, customers and communities.

A 25-YEAR MILESTONE

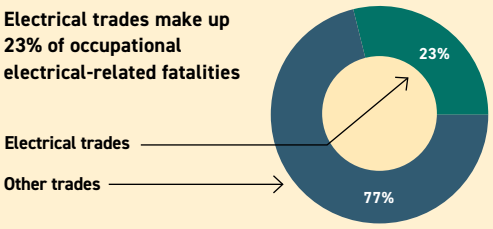
Historically low fatalities demonstrate progress, but emerging risks reinforce the need for continued collaboration, education and prevention.

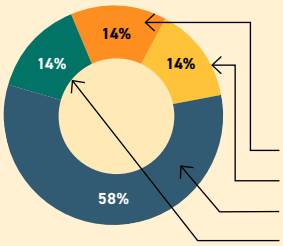


There were two occupational fatalities in Ontario in 2025.

NUMBER OF OCCUPATIONAL ELECTRICAL-RELATED FATALITIES BY OCCUPATION IN ONTARIO, 2016-2025

Electrical trades make up 23% of occupational electrical-related fatalities





Electrician fatalities account for the majority of fatalities among electrical tradespersons

- Apprentice electrician
- Power linesperson
- Electrician
- Linesperson apprentice

Thanks to our partners from the Office of the Chief Coroner, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Office of the Fire Marshal, the Canadian Institute of Health Information and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board for their continued collaboration on this important safety resource.

Essential Bulletins Update: Fall 2026

Stay current on what's new at ESA! We're breaking down three important bulletins into bite-sized highlights, giving you key updates to be enforced for any Notification of Work filed from October 1st, 2026, onwards.

Installation of fire pumps: Bulletin 32-5-8

This Bulletin has been revised to clarify when Section 32 requirements apply to fire pump installations. Additional guidance has been added for conductor sizing, overcurrent protection sizing, bond conductor sizing and the application of approved fire pump service assemblies. The Bulletin also provides direction on sizing transformers that supply fire pumps and the associated overcurrent protection requirements. The Bulletin also addresses replacement projects where existing fire pump installations may not meet current Code requirements.

Interconnection of electric power production sources: Bulletin 84-1-20

Location for Supply Authority's disconnecting means in Bulletin 84-1-20 now states "the location of the supply authority disconnecting means is to meet the requirements of the supply authority" replacing the previous direction that it be installed outdoors next to the meter for single dwellings. As a result, installers and designers will need to consult with the local supply authority in advance, as some may accept the main service box as a means of isolation in accordance with their Conditions of Service.

Updated PV Guidance: Bulletin 64-5-5 – (ESS) at residential occupancies

Solar installations are evolving, and so is the guidance for their safe installation and maintenance. **Bulletin 64-5-5** brings greater clarity to PV system marking, interconnection, retrofits and ongoing maintenance. Updated inverter marking requirements now align with latest **CSA C22.2 No. 107.1**, while new direction under **OESC Rule 64-074** addresses PV systems using AC modules when interconnected with other sources. The Bulletin also clarifies when central-to-string inverter retrofits become new installations. Importantly, it also addresses repairs and temporary PV removal for roof work, explaining when systems must be brought into compliance with current Code requirements and when notification is required.



Essential Bulletins Update: Fall 2026 (Continued)

New Bulletin	Replaces Bulletin	Title	Change
64-8-4	64-8-3	Battery based energy storage systems (ESS) at residential occupancies Rules 64-1100 and 64-924	This update to bulletin clarifies ESS installation, capacity and separation requirements, including Rule 64-1100 for mixed-use buildings, permitted residential ESS locations, aggregate capacity for systems without UL 9540A unit-level testing, and increased capacity provisions. It also distinguishes capacity and battery-stack separation requirements for ESS certified to the 3rd edition of ANSI/CAN/UL 9540 versus earlier editions.
2-5-10	2-5-9	Caution marking for maximum continuous load allowed Rule 2-100 and 8-104	Clarified marking and continuous-duty requirements for equipment certified to CSA C22.2 Nos. 4, 5, 268 and 305. Confirmed that No. 5 marking requirements do not apply to No. 268 power circuit breakers. Clarified that continuous-load limitations for power circuit breakers in No. 31 switchgear are identified by the certified assembly markings. Aligned wording with Code terminology and corrected Rule 2-100 reference from Subrule 4) to 5).
26-23-8	26-23-7	Receptacle requirements in kitchens of dwelling units Rule 26-722 d)	Clarified Q&A 7 to confirm that no minimum wall height is required. Wall spaces capable of accommodating an outlet box and cover are included in the wall-line measurement; otherwise, the receptacle may be relocated or omitted as permitted. Added Rationale 7 to support consistent application of the counter receptacle rule. Clarified Rationale 11 to confirm that butler's pantries are subject to kitchen receptacle requirements.
26-29-7	26-29-6	Electrical replacement and/or alterations in dwelling units Rules 26-656, 26-658, 26-704, 26-706, and 26-708	Flash Notice change to correct reference and added wording to align with Code language.
10-22-7	10-22-6	Requirements for converting a delta service to a grounded wye service	Added requirements prior to conversion where indicating lights have not been. General revision

Essential Bulletins Update: Fall 2026 (Continued)

New Bulletin	Replaces Bulletin	Title	Change
30-13-5	30-13-4	Roadway lighting systems	Clarified direction to rebuild the roadway lighting system does not include replacement of a single roadway light pole due to a motor vehicle accident.
68-8-5	68-8-4	Bonding of swimming pool, hot tub, and spa	Included direction for approval requirements for manufactured or prefabricated grids and pool water bonding clarification.
84-1-20	84-1-19	Interconnection of electrical power production sources	Revised direction to the location of the utility's disconnecting means and general revisions to the document.
64-2-5	64-2-4	Grounding and bonding of solar photovoltaic systems	Error in Diagram B1 corrected: Grounding conductor moved from bonding bar to neutral bar as required by Rule 10-210.
64-5-5	64-5-4	Installation of solar photovoltaic systems	This update provides guidance on PV system marking, interconnection, retrofits, and maintenance, including revised interactive inverter markings under CSA C22.2 No. 107.1 and rated voltage/current markings under OESC Rule 64-074 for AC-module systems. It also clarifies central-to-string inverter retrofits, and when PV maintenance, equipment repairs, or temporary removal for roof repairs require code updates and notification.
2-11-29	2-11-28	Plans and specifications	This update reflects the Director's Order that came into effect July 6 2026, which increased the Plan Review submission threshold as specified in 2-010 1) e) from 10 kW to 12 kW, as well as clarity for plan submissions for OH systems that are outside the scope of Section 75.
32-5-8	32-5-7	Installation of fire pumps	Further clarity provided on fire pump definition, conductor and bonding conductor sizing, overcurrent protection, transformer sizing and OCPD, and replacement of existing fire pumps.

Discover Our New and Improved Online Learning Platform

Whether you're brushing up on safety fundamentals or diving into more technical training, we've got you covered and now it's easier than ever to find, register for and manage the courses you need.

Our new and improved self-serve online learning platform brings everything into one place. Browse our full public course calendar, register and pay online, and manage your profile and training history, all without the back-and-forth of emails or phone calls. From electrical safety to the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) requirements and beyond, our course catalogue is designed to support learners at every level, whether you're just getting started or looking to deepen your expertise.

The new platform also means real efficiencies for learners and organizations alike. Registration takes minutes, confirmations and materials are delivered promptly and your training records are stored and accessible whenever you need them.

Ready to see it for yourself?
Explore our public calendar, register for your next course and get started today.



Discover Our New and Improved Online Learning Platform (Continued)



Refresh Your Team's High-Voltage Safety Knowledge This Fall

As the season shifts, it's a great time to make sure you're prepared for the months ahead. Our newly updated Safety in High-Voltage Environment course offers a practical refresher on the hazards, requirements and safe work practices unique to high-voltage systems.

This half-day course covers key areas of the OESC, including Section 36, grounding and bonding, hazard identification, clearance requirements, worker competency and compliance strategies. Available in-person, it's a valuable opportunity for electricians, maintenance teams, supervisors and other personnel to sharpen their skills and build a stronger foundation for safe work.

Is your team's high-voltage safety knowledge up to date? Explore the newly updated course today.

DON'T MISS AN UPDATE!

Be the first to hear about new training opportunities, industry updates and important safety and technical course information.

Subscribe to ESA Training Solutions emails and follow us on LinkedIn to stay informed.

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Training is a non-regulatory service offered by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA). Electrical safety and technical courses may be offered by other providers. View more information about ESA's non-regulatory activities here.

Conestogo Electric Wins 2026 Licensed Electrical Contractor Recognition Award

Conestogo Electric was honoured at the 2026 Ontario Electrical Safety Awards in September

The Licensed Electrical Contractor Recognition Award (LECRA) was established by ESA in 2020 and recognizes contractors who demonstrate exceptional leadership in electrical safety while consistently delivering high-quality service.

For more than 50 years, Conestogo Electric has built a reputation for quality workmanship, exceptional customer service and community leadership.

Conestogo Electric has actively supported skilled trades education through curriculum development, mentorship programs and partnerships with educational institutions, helping prepare the next generation of electricians for successful careers. The company has also opened its job sites to researchers conducting applied studies aimed at improving injury prevention and workplace safety for electrical workers across Ontario.



Robb Brohman from Conestogo Electric receiving the LECRA award from ESA President and CEO Josie Erzetic and Board Chair Arjan Arenja at the Ontario Electrical Safety Awards

Want to learn more about this year's Ontario Electrical Safety Award winners?
Visit ESAsafe.com/SafetyAwards.

Reminder:

ESA Transitioning Away from Cheque Payments

If you currently pay ESA by cheque, now is a good time to start preparing for the switch to digital payments.

> Beginning **September 1, 2027**, ESA will no longer accept cheque payments.

Licence holders who currently pay by cheque are encouraged to transition to one of ESA's digital payment options well ahead of the deadline.

ESA accepts:

- Credit card payments
- Telephone or online banking payments
- EFT/wire transfer payments

Moving to digital payments can help:

- Improve payment processing times
- Reduce the risk of lost or delayed payments
- Provide a more secure payment experience
- Simplify payment tracking and reconciliation

Start planning your transition

Making the switch now gives you time to choose the payment method that works best for your business and become familiar with the process before cheque payments end.

Have questions?
Review ESA's Cheque Payment FAQ for payment instructions, important timelines and information to help you make the switch.



How well do you know the Ontario Electrical Safety Code? Take our quiz and test your technical knowledge.



Q1

When is disconnecting means required for the installation of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) while supplied by 240V?

a. More than 30 A

b. Less than 60 A

c. More than 45 A

d. More than 60 A

Q2

What minimum size grounding conductor is required to ground all metal bases of gang operated switches with a system voltage of 44kV?

a. No. 6 AWG Copper

b. No. 1/0 AWG Aluminum

c. No. 2/0 AWG copper

d. No. 4 Copper

Q3

Where a luminaire weight does not exceed the following, it shall be permitted to be supported by a wall outlet box mounted to a joist or by a bar hangar?

a. 2.7 kg

b. 23 kg

c. 7 kg

d. 13 kg

Answers

Question 1:
d. More than 60A
Ref. 86-304 1)

Question 2:
c. No. 2/0 AWG copper
Ref. 36-308 2) b) ii)

Question 3:
d. 13 kg
Ref. 30-302 3)

Learning from What We're Seeing

Understanding the Code reference behind a defect can help with immediate correction and future work

When an ESA Inspector identifies an installation that does not comply with the **Ontario Electrical Safety Code** (OESC), a defect(s) is issued which includes a reference to the specific Code rule or rules that apply.

For licence holders, that reference is an important part of the defect. It identifies the requirement that needs to be addressed and can provide useful context when reviewing the rest of the installation or planning similar work in the future.

What does that look like in practice?

Take **Rule 10-210**, ***Ground at consumer's service only***, as an example. In a recent one-year period, defects related to this rule were issued **3,306 times**.

One requirement within that rule is:

> **OESC 2024 Rule 10-210 d):**
> *The neutral shall have no other connection to the non-current-carrying conductive parts of electrical equipment on the supply side or the load side of the grounding connection.*

If a defect cites this requirement, the Code reference helps pinpoint what needs to be addressed. Where more than one location is identified where the neutral is connected to non-current-carrying parts other than at the consumer's service, isolating those additional connection points will achieve compliance.

The same information can also be useful beyond the immediate correction. Reviewing the cited rule against the rest of the installation can help identify similar conditions and reduce the likelihood of the same issue recurring.

Diagram B3 – Legacy grounding at a single meter base or service box (previously accepted for notifications filed prior October 1, 2025)

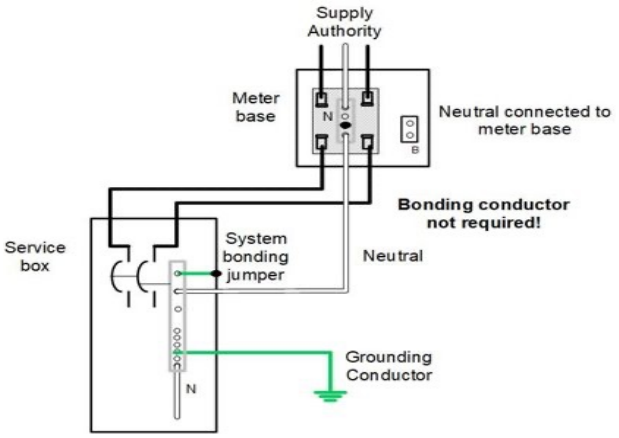
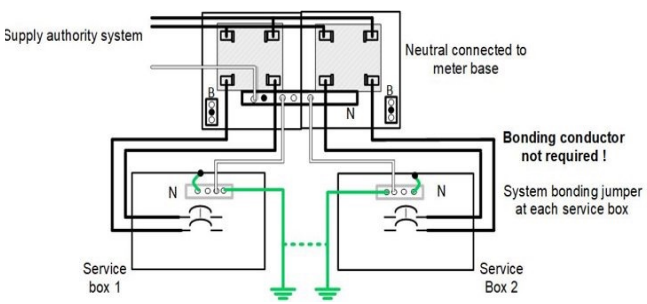


Diagram B4 – Legacy grounding at a multi-gang meter base or service box (previously accepted for notifications filed prior to October 1, 2025)



Learning from What We're Seeing (Continued)

From correction to prevention

Correcting an identified defect is a legal requirement to bring the installation into compliance with the OESC. ESA's Licensing Compliance team has also identified failure to correct known defects among the professional-conduct issues it sees through complaints.

But the opportunity is to look ahead as well. ESA reviews defect information to identify areas where additional clarification or resources may be helpful to licence holders.

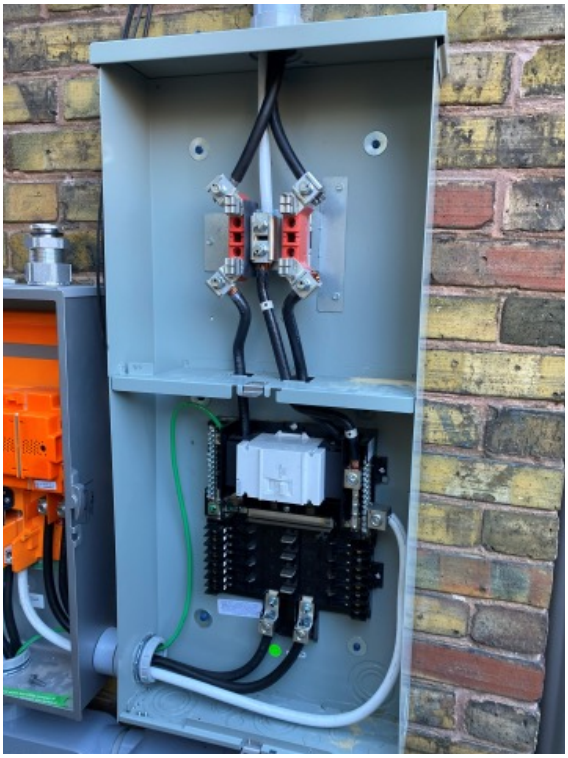
OESC bulletins are one source of additional information on Code requirements.

Anyone who has purchased the OESC can access bulletins through CSA OnDemand.

For projects requiring plan review, ESA's Plan Review team provides Code compliance feedback before work reaches the field or equipment is ordered. Identifying code compliance issues during the early phases of a project can save considerable time, effort and cost.

Look beyond the individual defect

A defect addresses a specific instance of non-compliance, but the information behind it has a broader value. When a Code requirement is being cited frequently — as is the case for Rule 10-210 — it can be a useful prompt to consider where the same issue could arise in other installations or upcoming work.



Compliant service entrance panel and meter base

Have questions?
For questions about how a Code requirement applies to a specific installation, connect with your local ESA Inspector. **Looking at what's behind commonly cited defects can help identify recurring issues and prevent them from arising again.**