

PLUGGED IN

SUMMER 2020



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ESA Launches Electronic Plan Review Portal



Coming July 2020



**Electrical
Safety
Authority**



Year-To-Date Convictions

Sep. 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

UNLICENSED ▼

Marek Goals, operating as (o/a) Pristine Basements, Brampton

Basement wiring and smoke/carbon monoxide detectors

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no Electrical Contractor Licence (EC)

Mosabik Khalid, Brampton

Basement wiring

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

Paul Broomfield, Rexdale

Various electrical at two locations

- \$5,000 fine, plus \$1,250 victim surcharge – no EC licence (2 counts)
- 2 years probation to not conduct electrical work without an EC licence

Julian Solarte, o/a Mr. Fix Enterprise, Hamilton

Basement wiring

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

Mark Fortier, o/a Marc Fortier Construction, Hornepayne

Remodelled construction trailer

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

A+ Development and Management Corporation, Toronto

Renovated 94 units in an apartment building

- \$5,000 fine, plus \$1,250 victim surcharge – no EC licence
- \$5,000 fine, plus \$1,250 victim surcharge – failure to apply

Harun Demirel, Mississauga

Connected wire from dryer to panel and provided a note with a fraudulent LEC number on it

- \$1,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge – no EC licence
- \$2,250 fine, plus \$562.50 victim surcharge – knowingly hold out as genuine

Heberto Amaya, Kitchener

House wiring

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence
- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – unsafe electrical conditions
- \$1,000 fine, plus \$250 victim surcharge – failure to apply



Year-To-Date Convictions (Continued)

Sep. 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

UNLICENSED ▼

Christopher Chilvers, Little Britain

Former Master Electrician hired to connect the wiring from a panel to a hot tub

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

Jason Smith, Sherkston

Various electrical at three locations

- No EC licence, failure to apply and fail to procure authorization from ESA to conceal or render inaccessible suspended

Peter Egredzija, o/a Flash Electric, Oakville

Various electrical at four locations

- \$5,000 fine, plus \$1,250 – no EC licence
- 2 years probation to not conduct electrical work without an EC licence
- Mr. Egredzija volunteered to pay restitution to the homeowners

Jason Fletcher and Fletcher's Complete Carpentry, Inc., Pembroke

Renovated a bathroom at one location and installed plugs and lights at a second location

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence (location 1)
- No EC licence suspended (location 2)
- \$1,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge – failure to apply

Sadiq Hosain Ahmed, Hamilton

Was hired as a subcontractor (by an LEC) to work at two residential locations; various electrical.

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

John Horlock, Wellington

Was hired as a subcontractor (by an LEC) to work at a residence; panel change.

- \$4,000 fine, plus \$1,000 victim surcharge – no EC licence
- \$2,000 fine, plus \$5000 victim surcharge – unauthorized connection

Andrew Charles McKibbon, Peterborough

Installation of a generator

- \$5,000 fine, plus \$1,250 victim surcharge – no EC licence
- \$5,000 fine, plus \$1,250 victim surcharge – Insufficient guarding

Scott Gerald Marier, operating as SMC Contracting Limited, Lasalle

Basement and other miscellaneous wiring performed at two residences

- \$1,250 Fine, plus \$317.50 victim surcharge – no EC licence (2 counts)
- \$1,250 Fine, plus \$317.50 victim surcharge – failure to apply (2 counts)



Year-To-Date Convictions (Continued)

Sep. 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

UNLICENSED ▼

Daniel Smith, Brampton

House wiring

- \$4,000 fine, plus \$1,000 victim surcharge – no EC licence
- \$1,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge – failure to apply
- \$1,000 restitution

Carlton W. Brown, Brampton

Subcontracted by an LEC to do electrical at two residences

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge – no EC licence (2 counts)
- Failure to apply suspended (2 counts)

Green Lakes Greenhouses Inc., Leamington

Hired unlicensed contractor

- \$100,000 fine, plus \$25,000 victim surcharge

LICENSED ELECTRICAL ▼ CONTRACTORS

Annon's Total Renovations Inc., North York

Hired unlicensed contractor

- \$3,000 fine, plus \$750 victim surcharge ("Annon's")
- \$1,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge (Director)

Branch circuits for Spas or Hot Tubs

ESA has received questions regarding personal spas for residential occupancies.

Manufacturers are offering spas which can be field adjusted by the customer to customize features, which also dictate the spa loading on the electrical service of the building. These adjustments are based on the spa instruction manual, which is typically generic and may not align with the factory marking on the product. This issue created questions around the loading, applicable rules in the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) and if the reduced load is acceptable when adjusted in the field.



DIRECTION

Where a spa or hot tub has field selectable settings that will reduce the electrical requirements to a lower value than is marked on the product, the field setting can be used to determine the rating of the supply circuit provided that:

- the settings are behind a barrier, i.e. not easily accessible to the user; and
- permanent marking to indicate the selected setting is plainly visible after installation.

Non-metallic sheathed cable (NMSC) in residential installations

Contractors have been requesting to install 53mm (2") PVC conduit to residential panels to run NMSC in. The cables are not terminated at the panel with an approved connector. Questions have been asked whether NMSC can run in a raceway that terminates in an enclosure.



DIRECTION

Notwithstanding Rules 12-506, 12-906 and 12-3022 it shall be permitted to run NMSC in a raceway that terminates in an enclosure, provided that:

- the NMSC is secured 300 mm prior to entering the conduit;
- the jacket extends into enclosure by 25 mm;
- the conduit is sealed or installed in a manner that will prevent foreign objects from dropping into the enclosure (LB or similar fitting would meet the intent);
- when the cables are subject to abrasion such as entering metallic tubing, suitable protection (such as a connector) shall be installed; and
- length of the conduit is limited to 1.5 m.



Introducing ESA's New Director of Licensing, Soussanna Karas



Dear Licence Holder Community,

I wanted to use this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you. I have been with ESA for a little over two years but have been working in the regulated industry for the last 15 years. I am a lawyer and former prosecutor. I am passionate about public safety, fair and transparent rules and ensuring ESA, as a modern regulator, remains current and adds value to the community it regulates.

As we all find ourselves in these unprecedented times, I am reminded of the importance of communication, understanding and respect as we all are trying to do our part to flatten the curve. To quote a very wise person, "I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge". The Licensing Department team is hard at work renewing licenses, processing new applications, answering your calls and providing support and information. This is a challenging time for our communities and our industry. I am confident that our united actions will contribute to business and the economy rebounding and booming once again.

COMMITTED TO REDUCING RED TAPE

Looking ahead, as the Licensing Department Plan 2021-2025 is being finalized and approved, my vision is to make it easier to apply for and renew licences, and to comply with licensing requirements. To that end, my team and I are in the process of reviewing and revising our processes, letters and other forms of communication with you in order to simplify them, make them more effective, improve interaction and motivate compliance.

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

I would like to use this section of Plugged In to hear from you so that we can make it interactive and useful for you and your business. Do you have any topic, suggestion or comments in relation to licensing, regulation, regulatory requirements to the LEC and ME license that you'd like to see addressed? Please send me an email: LicensingMatters@electricalsafety.on.ca. We will select a topic from the responses we receive and feature it in the next issue of Plugged In.

Until next time,

Soussanna Karas

Director, Licensing

2020 Licence Holder Meetings

Every year, ESA holds two Licence Holder Meetings (LHM). The purpose of Licence Holder Meetings is to report to the contractor community on ESA's activities over the past year, provide technical and compliance updates and allow the licence holders to communicate with ESA in an open forum.

This year we had originally intended to hold one LHM in October in Sudbury and the other in November in the Mississauga/Toronto area. Due to the COVID-19 events and emergency orders issued by the Ontario Government and uncertainty about summer and fall months, ESA has decided to hold one virtual LHM on November 17. In the coming months, we will send you an invitation and more details on how to join the meeting.

We recognize your time is valuable. Whether you are a Licensed Electrical Contractor, Master Electrician, or both, we want to ensure the meeting adds value to your licence. We ask that you send us a quick email to share your thoughts on the format, topics, guest speakers, information shared and anything else you would like to see or hear at the next LHM. Your feedback is very important to us. The results will assist in making sure that future meetings meet your business needs.

Send your response to esa.lhm@electricalsafety.on.ca. Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback!

We Want Your Feedback



If you have comments, questions or even ideas for a story that you would like to see in Plugged In we want to hear from you. Please send your requests to the Plugged In email at:

Plugged.In@electricalsafety.on.ca

and you may see your story in the next issue.

Renovation Inspection Program Results (April 2019 – March 2020)


By matching building permit data with ESA records, for the last few years we have been taking a proactive approach to verifying compliance and the safety of electrical work performed in the commercial and residential renovation sector. The Renovation Inspection Program was initiated with a focus on individuals who are not taking out required electrical notifications for work as well as those working without a licence.

Below are the results of program over the 12-month period from April 1, 2019 until the end of March 2020:

- 1 The program was conducted in the Brampton, Niagara, Sudbury, Timmins, Ottawa, and Hamilton areas.
- 2 We conducted 843 inspections.
- 3 Of those inspections, we found 274 instances of work done without ESA notifications of work.
- 4 The inspections identified 20 unlicensed contractors, 176 property owners, and 78 LECs working without a notification.


WE CONDUCTED

843 Inspections



WE INSPECTED:


- Brampton
- Niagara
- Sudbury
- Timmins
- Ottawa
- Hamilton



WE FOUND:


274

cases of work without a notification




20

unlicensed contractors



176

property owners



78

LECs

WORKING WITHOUT A NOTIFICATION

Unlicensed electrical work and work without ESA notifications is unsafe and may put customers and the public at risk of fire, injury and/or financial loss. ESA is doing its part to promote electrical safety through its Renovation Inspection Program, which identifies, educates, motivates compliance and, where necessary, takes enforcement actions.

If you have any questions, suggestions or information, we would be happy to hear from you.

Licensing Enforcement at a Glance

April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

Unlicensed Contractor Activity		Licensing Contractor Activity	
Number of Licensing Notice of Violations	716	Current Number of LECs	8,973
Number of Investigations	85	Current Number of Licensed MEs	14,664
Number of Convictions	32	Number of Licenses Suspended	89
Total Fines	\$223,750	Licenses With Conditions Imposed as a Result of a Licensing Violation	34

Licensed Electrical Contractor Advertising Requirements

As a Licensed Electrical Contractor, you are required to clearly, and visibly, display your licence number on all your correspondence, including contracts, invoices, receipts, business cards, and on any advertisements, such as Kijiji.

At ESA, we advise customers to look for the ECRA/ESA number as a way to distinguish licensed from unlicensed electrical contractors. Let people know you have the expertise, training, and equipment to do the job safely by proudly displaying your licence number. You have worked hard to get your Electrical Contractor Licence, show it off!

For more information about these requirements and many other useful resources, check out our new and improved website at esasafe.com!

To download the ECRA/ESA logo, visit the “Resources & News” section of the Licensed Electrical Contractor page at esasafe.com.

Unlicensed Contractor Convicted for Fraudulently Using ECRA/ESA Licence Number

At ESA, we work hard to keep Ontarians safe from electrical harm, and that includes reminding everyone about unlicensed electrical contractors.

On February 4, 2020, Mr. Daniel Smith was convicted by the Ontario Court of Justice, for operating an electrical business without a licence and for failing to request an electrical inspection. Mr. Smith was sentenced to a total fine of \$6,875 including victim surcharge. Mr. Smith was also ordered to pay restitution to the homeowner in the amount of \$1,000.

This conviction is a result of Mr. Smith advertising electrical services as a Licensed Electrical Contractor on an online classified advertising services platform and fraudulently using the ECRA/ESA licence number that belonged to a Licensed Electrical Contractor. Through advertising, Mr. Smith was hired to perform electrical work at a residential address in Mississauga.

In March ESA issued a [media release](#) about the conviction to coincide with the start of Fraud Prevention Month, to remind Ontarians of the dangers that come with illegal electrical work along with tips on how to prevent fraud.

“ESA wants to advise homeowners to take the extra step and verify that the ECRA/ESA licence number that should be on your electrical contractor’s estimate and advertisements matches the licence number on ESA’s Contractor Look-Up Tool,” says Dr. Joel Moody, Chief Public Safety Officer, Electrical Safety Authority. “Your home should be a safe place where you don’t need to worry about faulty wiring or incorrectly installed pot lights.”

Licensed Electrical Contractors are the only businesses in Ontario legally authorized to do electrical work for hire. To prevent unlicensed electrical contractors from continuing to put Ontarians at risk, you can report unlicensed electrical contractors through ESA’s anonymous reporting tool at <https://esasafe.com/reportacontractor/>.



ESA Launches Electronic Plan Review Portal

ESA is excited to announce the official launch of our Plan Review Portal.

As part of ESA's expanding online services, the new portal will provide more options for our customers and eliminate the need for electronic plans to be printed and sent in as a paper submission. The new portal will help streamline our process, while reducing paper submissions.

The new portal will provide the means for uploading completed submission forms, drawings and all supporting documents to be sent to ESA electronically. It will also provide quick and direct access to the Plan Review notification number and have functionality for tracking your submittal to see its current status. You can share your submittal with other registered users in your organization who can also add documents, receive email notifications and view the status of your submission.



Plan Review Portal

WHAT IS NEW?

Starting in the fall, plan review documents can be filed electronically. Existing ESA customers can contact the Plan Review department who will issue a user name and password for the electronic portal which enable online submissions.

WHAT WILL BE THE SAME?

Submissions that are not submitted via the Portal will continue to be processed under the previous system. Although we encourage our customers to use the Portal, we will continue to accept email, fax and paper submittals until June 1, 2022.



Changes are Coming to ESA's Online Application System

On July 6 the new ESA Online Application System for wiring notifications goes live. Existing users will receive an email notice with instructions for accessing the new system. You will be granted a new username and a temporary password to logon, and then you will be prompted to update your password.

The main functions of the online system remain:

- 1 Submit and reschedule notifications
- 2 Check the status of notifications
- 3 View and re-print correspondence
- 4 Pay invoices and account balances.

New functions have been added to the system:

- 1 Receive a notification number immediately upon submitting the permit if it does not have to go to the ESA online pool for review
- 2 Streamlined searching to find notifications and pending notifications faster
- 3 View all your defects written in the previous 12-months in list format

For further details on the features of our new online system please view the webinar available on [esasafe.com](https://www.esasafe.com).



Risk-based Oversight (RBO) of Wiring Inspections Begins in July

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ESA reacted swiftly and connected with stakeholders regarding the proposed launch of RBO in May 2020. Based on the feedback provided, ESA determined it was best to delay the launch until July 6, 2020.

In July, ESA will start using a risk based oversight (RBO) approach for inspections of electrical wiring notifications. The launch of RBO is a major milestone in ESA's modernization and customer service journey.

Risk-based Oversight (RBO) for wiring work is a process where Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA) oversight of an electrical installation is based on an assessment of the safety risk. Safety risk means: the likelihood an event will occur, and if it does, how much harm it will cause. This approach allows ESA to focus on work that is higher risk. ESA can also spend more time on safety activities such as helping to make sure wiring work meets the requirements of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code and is done by people who are qualified. ESA's objective is to make it easier to comply with electrical safety regulations.



WHAT CHANGES CAN CONTRACTORS EXPECT?

ESA has updated our online system to improve the customer experience. The new online system will make it easier to open notifications, will be more user friendly and allow electrical work to be better described. The new system will also include Help Files to assist when filing an online notification.

When the new system launches, notification forms have been modified to gather RBO-related information, and the small jobs form will be eliminated.

Risk-based Oversight (RBO) of Wiring Inspections Begins in July (Continued)

AUTHORIZED CONTRACTOR PROGRAM (ACP)

All ACP notifications submitted before July 6, 2020 will stay open and will continue to receive ACP benefits until the notification is closed. Any fee additions to pre-existing ACP notifications will include ACP discounts.

After RBO goes live, the ACP program, ACP annual Membership fee, and the ACP Annual Renewal Form will be discontinued. Pro-rated amounts for the unused portion of paid ACP contracts will be refunded to the Contractor with a credit to the customer's account. Once this credit has been placed on the account, you must request it be applied to future Invoices.



For more information about RBO:

For additional information about RBO, and to ensure you are in touch with what is happening over the next few months, please refer to the [RBO Hub](#) on the ESA Website.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME?

After RBO launches, you will still be able to file a notification by phone, fax or online. Contractors can still provide 24 hours notice for medium and low-risk notifications and request a next day inspection.

Overall, there is no increase to fees in the updated ESA Wiring Fee Guide. Refer to esasafe.com/esa-fees for more details.

RBO WEBINARS

ESA has posted five short webinars on our website offering information for contractors, municipalities, Licensed Distribution Companies and the new ESA online system for submitting notifications. The webinars can be watched at any time and provide an overview of the new approach to wiring inspections.



ESA Adapts New Guidelines for Inspections and the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) During the COVID-19 Crisis

As the pandemic crisis has changed many aspects of our daily life, it has also required changes in how we work and conduct business.

ESA was declared an essential service and has adapted to the COVID-19 crisis by focusing on the highest safety and related priorities of the province, while protecting ESA staff and the public.

A summary of these changes include:

- 1 Use of alternative inspection methods including photos and videos
- 2 Physical site inspections are being completed on site-by-site basis
- 3 Respecting physical distancing and wearing Personal Protective Equipment
- 4 Limited visits to high-risk sites as deemed necessary.

ESA UPDATES INDUSTRY GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19

ESA has issued the updated '[Guidance Regarding Inspections During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)' providing guidance on submission of photos and videos to inspectors for wiring notifications during COVID-19. Please visit [esasafe.com](https://www.esasafe.com) for more information.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also created the need for deviations to the OESC to address the urgent need for Temporary Health Care Facilities and Temporary Residential Facilities during the crisis.

As we adapt to the new challenges that COVID-19 has presented ESA's top priority remains the safety of the public and of our employees.



Ed DeLeeuw, Electrical Inspector, Inspecting Joseph Brant Hospital Temporary Healthcare Facility

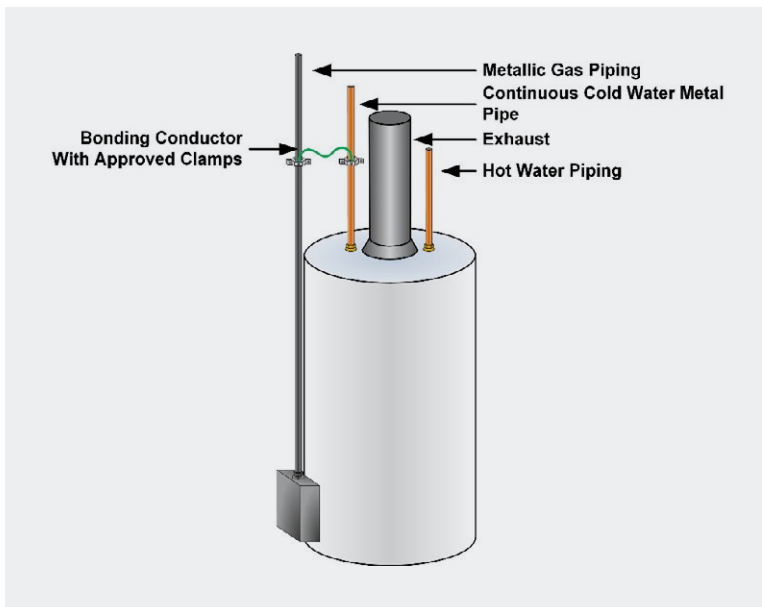


Joseph Brant Hospital – Temporary Healthcare Facility

Bonding of Gas Metal Piping Rule 10-700

Over the past year, ESA inspectors have issued almost 1,800 defects related to Rule 10-700 and the bonding of non electrical equipment. Most of these written defects related to bonding of metal gas piping.

Rule 10-700 requires the continuous metal gas piping system to be made equipotential with the non-current carrying conductive parts of electrical equipment, with approved clamps suitable for the conductor size and type.



The intent of equipotential bonding of metal gas piping systems (Rule 10-700 c) is to minimize hazards such as:

- incidental contacts between metal gas piping and energized electrical circuits,
- accumulation of static charges, and stray currents and potential differences between various sections of piping and electrical equipment.

Note: Bonding requirements of Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) for lightning protection shall be in accordance with TSSA requirements and manufacturer installation instructions. This requirement will also achieve equipotential bonding.

The location of bonding connections and connection method should be according to the manufactures directions and shall meet the requirement of the TSSA. Refer to Bulletin 10-14-* for more information.

Do You Have What it Takes to Tackle the Code Conundrum?

Plugged In has added new Code Conundrum content to this issue of Plugged In. It will appear in each issue and provide a chance for Ontario Electrical Safety Code users to test their knowledge against some selected questions.

1

QUESTION:

Which Appendix in the Code provides guidance on the creation of the Descriptive System Document?

- a. B
- b. F
- c. G
- d. H
- e. J

2

QUESTION:

Cables containing both Class 2 and power and lighting circuits must be:

- a. Marked as approved for the application
- b. Intended for the supply and/or control of remote devices associated with the non Class 2 conductors
- c. Insulated for the highest voltage
- d. All of the above
- e. b) and c)

3

QUESTION:

No point of an ungrounded systems is grounded; instead, the non-current-carrying conductive parts (equipment) of the ungrounded system are grounded.

- a. True
- b. False

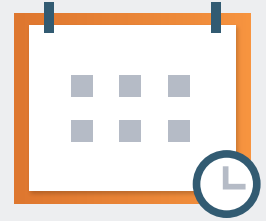
ANSWERS:

Question 1: b. F (Ref: Rule 18-002)

Question 2: d. All of the above (Ref: Rule 16-212 5)

Question 3: a. True (Ref: Rule 10-400)

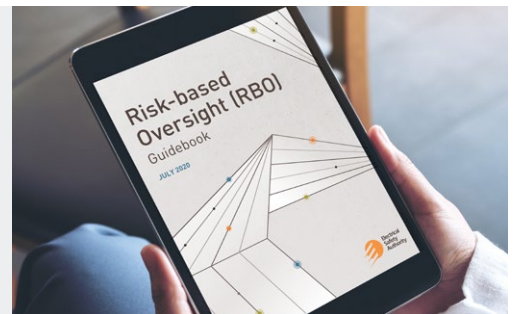
Call for Nominations for 2020 Ontario Electrical Safety Awards Extended to June 25







[Click here for more information](#)

Risk-based Oversight Coming July 6, 2020

[Click here to download RBO Guidebook](#)



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