

PLUGGED IN

WINTER 2020



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A bonding connection to be made at every non-metallic outlet box for any device that requires connection to a bonding conductor.



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Program Update



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ESA Launching Refreshed
Website in March 2020 to
Improve Customer Experience

Risk-Based Oversight Coming May 2020





ELECTRICAL SAFETY ENFORCEMENT

Year-To-Date Convictions

Apr. 1, 2019 – Aug. 31, 2019

UNLICENSED ▼

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

Basement wiring and smoke/co 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

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, and Klaudia Wysocka (Director), 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



ELECTRICAL SAFETY ENFORCEMENT

Year-To-Date Convictions (Continued)

Apr. 1, 2019 – Aug. 31, 2019

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
- Failure to apply suspended

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



General Use Snap Light Switch Bonding

Questions have been asked if a general-purpose snap switch that includes a bonding terminal is permitted to be bonded to an outlet box without a bonding conductor.



Rule 10-612 3) requires a bonding connection to be made at every non-metallic outlet box for any device that requires connection to a bonding conductor. For any device, that has a bonding terminal, and installed on a metallic outlet box, Rule 10-612 5) requires a bonding conductor to be installed to bond the device to the enclosure. Sub-rule 5) is a change in OESC 2018 with the re-write of Section 10.

Based on these changes, during 2018 Code training it was communicated that if a device has a bonding terminal or lead, then it is a device that requires a bonding connection with a conductor to the outlet box. Since the previous 2015 Code had specific requirements for bonding jumper for receptacles only, these change raised some questions.

A recent approved amendment to Rule 10-612 for the upcoming 2021 CE Code will clarify that some devices, such as a general use snap switches, will not require a bonding conductor to the outlet box. Manufacturers confirmed that a general use snap switch, certified to CSA C22. 2 No. 111, can be bonded to a metallic or non-metallic outlet box via the mounting screw. Based on the standard's testing, metallic and non-metallic outlet boxes are required to provide a bonding connection at the mounting screw point.



TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

General Use Snap Light Switch Bonding (Continued)

A new Appendix B Note to Rule 10-612 3) has been approved, and will appear in CE Code 2021 (typically published by CSA on Jan 2021 and effective in Ontario by 2022) as follows:

“CSA C22.2 No. 42 General use receptacles, attachment plugs and similar wiring devices, requires that receptacles be connected directly to a bonding conductor. For some other devices, such as switches, the bonding connection is permitted to be made via the mounting screws to the device enclosure. CSA C22.2 No. 18.2 Non-metallic Outlet Boxes requires that the mounting screw termination point of a device enclosure be electrically connected to a bonding means within the non-metallic device enclosure. Installers should consult the manufacturer instructions for proper installation of wiring devices.”

Direction Effective Immediately

For general use snap switches that include a bonding terminal, a bonding conductor is not required as a bonding connection to the outlet box to satisfy Rule 10-612. The screws mounting the switch to the enclosure also meets requirements of Rule 10-612 based on certification requirements.

ESA's Tool For Reporting Unlicensed Electrical Work Anonymously

ESA's online form makes it easier for you to report unlicensed individuals performing electrical work.

All information submitted will be reviewed, regardless of whether or not personal information is provided. However, while you can remain anonymous, the more information you provide such as address and details on the work being done, the more likely we will be able to follow-up on your report.

Together, we can improve electrical safety in Ontario and help ensure a level playing field for the more than 8,500 licensed electrical contractors like you who operate within the provincial licensing system for electrical work.

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

- 1 Visit esasafe.com.
- 2 Click on “Report Unlicensed Activity” to fill out the fields and submit a report.
- 3 When making a report, you can choose to remain anonymous.

REPORT UNLICENSED ACTIVITY





Using an Electrical Subcontractor? Please Ensure They Have a Valid EC Licence.

SCENARIO:

You are a Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC). You follow the requirements of the Electricity Act, Licensing Regulation (O. Reg. 570/05) and Ontario Electrical Safety Code. You enjoy a reputation of being a reliable, compliant and skilled professional.

You've been hired to do an electrical job but soon realize the scope is bigger than you originally thought. You need to hire another electrical professional so that the work is done on time. You know someone you worked with before who is available to help you out.



PLEASE NOTE:

Do they have an EC Licence? If not, you will need to put them on your payroll. Otherwise, you are subcontracting the job to an **unlicensed** electrical contractor, which is against the law.



LEC CHECKLIST FOR USING A SUBCONTRACTOR:

- 1 LECs cannot hire or allow others to work under their licence unless they are an employee of the company, or an LEC.
- 2 The LEC who holds the electrical notification for a jobsite is responsible for the electrical work being carried out under that notification. This includes the electrical work being performed by a subcontractor.
- 3 Licensed subcontractors may take out their own notification for the portion of electrical work for which they are responsible.



Using an Electrical Subcontractor? Please Ensure They Have a Valid EC Licence.

(Continued)

REMEMBER:

Work by unlicensed contractors carries potential risk to public and worker safety. It also undermines the professionalism of the industry and can harm the trust held by members of the public toward the profession. ESA wishes to continue partnership and cooperation with LECs, Master Electricians (ME) and Designated Master Electricians (DME) in advancing a culture of electrical safety, where everybody plays an active role.

RECENT CASE:

An LEC was hired to do a job and needed the help of an electrical subcontractor. The subcontractor, “XYZ Electric (name of LEC has been changed) represented himself to be an LEC. XYZ Electric had documentation to show their company name and indicated he had been in business for over 30 years. What the LEC failed to do was ask for XYZ’s Electric’s EC licence number.

XYZ Electric performed unsafe electrical work as he removed the meter base in order to change the panel. The meter base was reinstalled and the panel was energized without inspection and/or authorization. Due to the high risk of the work, not only was the subcontractor convicted of the offence of “no electrical contractor’s licence”, but also of “an unauthorized connection”. Total fine amount was \$6,000 plus \$1,500 victim surcharge fee.



This conviction, along with others can be found under the [Convictions](#) section of the ESA website.



If you need the help of a subcontractor, check to ensure they have a valid EC licence number. You can verify this by accessing ESA’s contractor locate tool [here](#) or by calling the Customer Service Centre at 1-877-372-7233.

Renovation Inspection Program Update

In past issues of Plugged In, we informed you about ESA's Renovation Inspection Program – a program that started in 2017 and continues to focus on those performing electrical work without filing notifications and operating outside the licensing requirements. The program rotates throughout Ontario and seeks to increase safety by ensuring electrical work is done in safe and compliant manner.

From April to December 2019, ESA conducted inspections in the Brampton, Hamilton, Niagara, Sudbury and Timmins areas.



Results April 1 - December 31, 2019:

611 inspections were completed

- **145** sites were found to have **NO NOTIFICATIONS** as required.
- Of these sites:
 - 11** - related to unlicensed contractors
 - 102** - related to property owners or companies who performed work without notifications but did not require an electrical contractor's licence
 - 32** - involved LECs who did not obtain notifications.

Additionally, four investigations were initiated based on the program findings, and charges have been laid against a contractor who was operating without a valid EC licence.

When performing electrical work, please continue to notify the ESA Customer Service Centre of the full scope of electrical work and request notifications prior to or no later than within 48 hours of the commencement of the work.



2019 Licence Holder Meetings Summary

On October 22 and November 19, nearly 150 LECs and MEs attended the annual Licence Holder Meetings in St. Catharines and Mississauga.

During the meeting some of the topics covered included an overview of Contractor Licensing activities over the last year, ESA's Corporate Strategy Update and an update on the 'Hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor' campaign to promote the role of the LEC.

Attendees to the meetings received updates on the Master Electrician Exam and learned about the Licensing Strategy and heard a captivating overview of the previous year's discipline and enforcement activities including a highlight of recent convictions.

The meeting also included an update on the upcoming Risk-Based Oversight. At the Mississauga location, the licence holders visited with Electrical Industry Partners such as Infrastructure Health and Safety Association, Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals, Workplace Safety and Prevention Services, the Ontario Electrical League, the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario, as well as ESA Training Services and Continuous Safety Services. Lastly, there was an engaging technical question and answer session with an ESA Technical Advisor. Thanks to everyone who made the meetings such a great success.

For the first time ever, individual presentations from the annual Licence Holder Meeting are available for viewing online.



► Licensing Administration Update



► Compliance Update

These short presentations allow the nearly 8,800 LECs and almost 14,500 MEs across the province easy and convenient access to information shared during the Licence Holder Meeting held on November 19, 2019.



If you want to learn about ESA topics such as enforcement of unlicensed contractors, RBO, the Power Your Life campaign and more, [click here](#) to view the presentations.



Undue Hardship Clause in Licensing Regulation – Effective Jan. 1, 2020

As of Jan. 1, 2020, MEs who have experienced undue hardship, causing them to miss the ME licence renewal deadline, have the option to apply for renewal with an undue hardship consideration.



This amendment came into effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

In June, the Provincial Government announced that its proposal to include an undue hardship clause under ESA's Licensing Regulation was officially adopted into law.

This clause was introduced because, from time to time, the ESA receives requests to make exceptions to its licence renewal and expiry requirements from licensees who are unable to meet

the requirements due to serious hardship. ESA was previously unable to accommodate those requests due to the language of O.Reg. 570/05 Licensing of Electrical Contractor and Master Electricians.

ESA's website has been updated to include an overview of the undue hardship clause and the process for how an individual may apply for consideration under the clause.



For more, please visit the [Undue Hardship](#) webpage.

ESA Launching Refreshed Website in March 2020 to Improve Customer Experience

NEW

ESA is proud to launch a fresh look to the esasafe.com website by the end of March 2020.

With improved functionality, a clean and uncluttered design, updated content and enhanced imagery, we hope that visitors will be able to quickly find information they need and easily navigate the site.

The refreshed website will include:

- A dedicated section for ESA Fees & Forms
- Improved search functionality
- “I want to” button with easy access to key pages
- A news section which includes convictions, press releases and a blog that includes articles on the importance of hiring an LEC

2020 Wiring Fees Update Notice

In 2020, ESA is not increasing existing fees as published in its current fee guide.

2020
WIRING FEES UPDATE

**No Increase
in Fees**

The 2020 Wiring Fee Guide can be found on ESA's website. Refer to esasafe.com/esa-fees for more details.

When RBO goes live in May 2020, all LECs in the province will operate under RBO, this means ACP fees and discounts will be discontinued, while fees in the guide will remain the same or in some cases, see reductions. This decision comes after consultations that included contractor town halls throughout 2018 and an online fee consultation in 2019.



For more information go to www.esasafe.com/rbo

ESA is Excited to Announce the Launch Date for Risk-based Oversight (RBO)

ESA is launching RBO on May 4, 2020 and will use a risk-based approach for wiring inspections that will focus more effort on high-risk work and less on lower-risk work.

Oversight of electrical installations is based on an assessment of the safety risk of the installation using criteria such as:

- 1 **WHO** does the installation work
- 2 **WHAT** the installation is
- 3 **WHERE** the installation is

Under RBO, all Contractors will be eligible for the same benefits (if you meet eligibility requirements) and pay the same notification fees.

For more information about RBO

In early February, ESA issued the Risk-based Oversight Guidebook (May 2020) to Contractors. [The Guidebook is here.](#)



What changes can Contractors expect?

LECs will receive new Login IDs and passwords to access the online application system. More details and instructions will be issued in April.

Online notification screens changed to accommodate RBO. Webinars will be available to assist online users to navigate through the “look” and “feel” of the new system.

Authorized Contractor Program (ACP)

The Authorized Contractor Program will end when RBO comes into effect on May 4, 2020.

ACP eligible notifications, created before the launch of RBO, will be treated under ACP rules until the notification is closed.

The end of ACP includes the end of the annual membership fee and ACP fee-related discounts. More details can be found in the ACP Newsletter.

What stays the same?

The information required from customers on ESA notification forms will not change.

Overall, there is no increase to fees in the updated ESA Wiring Fee Guide. The 2020 Fee Guide is now on ESA's website. Refer to esasafe.com/esa-fees for more details.



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.



26-656 Arc Fault Protection of Branch Circuits for Dwelling Units

Over the past year, ESA inspectors have identified more than 5,456 defects related to the requirement for arc fault protection of receptacles in dwelling units.



Arc faults are a leading cause of fires in homes. In fact, reports estimate that 50 to 75 per cent of all electrical house fires in the United States are caused by arc fault conditions.*^{1,2} Arcing can occur in milliseconds or over decades prior to a fire developing, due to factors such as current level or duration.

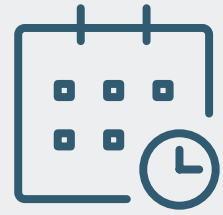
Arc fault protection is a means of recognizing characteristics unique to both series and parallel arc-faults and de-energizing the circuit when arc-fault is detected.

This protection is achieved through a combination type arc-fault circuit interrupters, which are breakers that provides both series and parallel arc-fault protection to the entire branch circuit wiring.

AFCIs are required to be marked “ARC FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTER” or “AFCI”; and type of AFCI, whether combination type AFCI (which shall be marked, “Combination”) or outlet branch-circuit-type AFCIs (which shall be marked “OBC” or “Outlet Branch-Circuit”).

1. On the Safety Circuit: A Fact Sheet on Home Electrical Fire Prevention United States Fire Administration (2006).
2. Oct.1, 2002 CPSC–NFPA Technical Committee Document Proposal Form.

2020 Ontario Electrical Safety Awards Call for Nominations Now Open!



[Click here for more information](#)

Risk-based Oversight Coming May 4, 2020

[Click here to download RBO Guidebook](#)



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