

Re: Notice of Code Changes Impacting Pools, Tubs and Spa Installations

Did You Know?

As part of the 29th edition of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) that went into effect on May 1, there are now more specific requirements regarding equipotential bonding for pool and spa/hot tub installations.

Background:

Most of the changes in Section 68 of the 2024 OESC (namely, Rule 68-058) aim to enhance the bonding continuity for pools and hot tubs. **Highlights include:**

- Requirement for the **pool water** to be bonded via a corrosion-resistant conductive surface.
- Depending on the type of pool and deck construction, a **copper grid** may be required to be constructed below grade with a minimum of No. 6 AWG bare conductor that extends outside of the pool shell.
- **Spa/hot tubs** may be required to be bonded to a copper ring of No. 6 AWG bare conductor embedded in conductive surfaces (e.g., concrete slabs). This aligns with the requirements of the equipment standards and their installation instructions.

For more information on pool and spa/hot tub installations, read our bulletins: ESAsafe.com/bulletins

Important Reminder: File the Correct Permits (Building and Electrical)

Pool and spa/hot tub installations usually need both a building and an electrical permit. The electrical permit (notification of work) with ESA is often overlooked, putting the installer, electrician, and property owner at risk.

Update: Enforcement Date Change for Pools, Tubs and Spa Installations

ESA encourages all pool, hot tub/spa installations to meet the new requirements for enhanced equipotential pool bonding.

However, based on industry request to provide more time to adjust, ESA will accept the previous code, OESC 2021 (Rule 68-058), for pool bonding requirements until October 1, 2025.

Any notification of work filed on or after October 1, 2025, shall meet the revised Rule 68-058 of the OESC 2024. If ESA receives a complaint related to stray voltage involving pools or hot tubs installed during this transition period, it is expected that installers will cooperate fully by providing information on the installation and working collaboratively with ESA and local utilities to help resolve the issue promptly.

Resources & Training: Order Free Brochures for Your Clients

Our homeowner brochure explains ESA permitting, inspections, and Licensed Electrical Contractors (LECs) in greater detail. FREE copies are available at ESAsafe.com/PoolsandSpas.