

Re: What to Do When Equipment Isn't Approved

Before supplying power to electrical equipment, Licensed Electrical Contractors (LECs) must first locate the nameplate and understand the information and markings it provides. This step is essential; the OESC (Rules 2-022 and 2-024) requires equipment to be approved to a recognized Canadian standard before it can be used or energized. **Follow the steps below when reviewing nameplate information.**

Step 1: Verify Approval

Along with electrical rating details, the equipment nameplate **must display a recognized Canadian certification mark**. In the field, equipment is often referred to as “CSA-approved,” but there are actually more than 25 recognized approval agencies in Ontario. Pay attention to:

- A “c” on the bottom left of the approval mark, often indicating **Canadian approval**
- Markings that specify the product is approved **only as part of a larger system**
- Common **non-approval marks** such as *CE* or *FCC* — these may appear similar **but are not recognized for electrical safety**.

Tip: Confirm markings using ESA’s list of recognized certification marks at: [ESAsafe.com/approvalmarks](https://esasafe.com/approvalmarks).

Step 2: Address Unapproved Equipment

If you determine equipment **does not bear a certification mark** or the mark isn’t recognized, stop work immediately. The LEC or equipment owner may contact a **certified field-evaluation agency** to test and/or approve the electrical equipment. Once verified, the agency will affix a field-approval label confirming it meets safety requirements.

Important Note: This approval applies **only to that specific piece of equipment in that specific location**. Identical items in other locations need their own field approval. Approved agencies include all those recognized by ESA, including ESA’s non-regulatory business unit, eSAFE.¹

Step 3: Review Additional Requirements

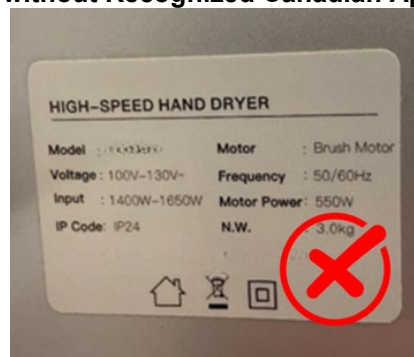
Before completing the job, **review the installation instructions listed on the nameplate** — for example, “*protect with GFCI*” or “*copper conductors only*”. All electrical equipment requires approval, including plug-in devices such as appliances, LED drivers and holiday lighting.

Field Examples:

Recognized Canadian Approval Mark



Nameplate without Recognized Canadian Approval Mark



¹eSAFE is a non-regulatory business unit of the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA), operating independently of the regulatory function. eSAFE is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada as an Inspection and Certification Body and offers field evaluations of electrical equipment. Other providers may also offer these services. View more information about ESA’s non-regulatory activities at: <https://esasafe.com/non-regulatory-business/>.