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Electrical Safety Authority Warns of Fire and Shock Hazards Associated with Cheater Cords

The ESA and the Ontario Infrastructure Health and Safety Association are warning end users and contractors about potential fire and shock hazards associated with the use of so-called cheater cords.

Cheater cords are used by end users and contractors to provide temporary power to portable compressors and other electrical appliances and tools. This is typically done for work on rooftops and other locations where an approved supply source is not readily available.

The product shown in the picture below is an example of a cheater cord. This is not an approved product and cannot be approved to any known safety standard. It represents immediate fire and shock hazards by design, to users.

Requirements of the OESC and Ontario Regulation 438/07 Product Safety

Ontario Electrical Safety Code and Ontario Regulation 438/07 Product Safety require that all electrical products which are used, advertised, displayed or offered for sale or other disposal, are approved. Approved electrical equipment is labelled with one of the recognized certifications or field evaluation marks as shown in the link below:

<http://www.esasafe.com/electricalproducts/marks>

Sale and use of cheater cords is prohibited in Ontario.

Picture 1 – Example of cheater cords

