

Present:

Contractors	ESA	MPBSD	Regrets
Chris Ruber (Chair) Dave Ackison Ryan Delisle Rick Leduc Doug McGinley Colin Mercier Scott Yemen	Declan Doyle Sylvia Gaidauskas Eric Kingston Alicia Smith Presenters: N/A	Esther Turner	Mat Scratch Brendon Fenton Joe Kurpe Deva Sarathchandran

ITEM	SUBJECT
1.	Welcome and Preliminaries Chair welcome new members Rick Leduc and Colin Mercier. Each CoAC member introduced themselves followed by introductions of the ESA attendees. No conflicts of interest were declared. Motion: <i>Approval of the agenda for March 21, 2025</i> <i>Moved by: Doug McGinley</i> <i>Seconded: Dave Ackison</i> <i>Carried</i> Motion: <i>Approval of the Minutes of Meeting for January 9, 2025</i> <i>Moved by: Scott Yemen</i> <i>Seconded: Doug McGinley</i> <i>Carried</i>
2.	Review of Action Items from Last Meeting 1. Open positions on the Council have been filled. 2. Date of September meeting has been changed. 3. ONMobile app topics will be moved to June meeting. 4. Code of Conduct forms: Reminder that there are still a few members who have not reviewed and signed the form. 5. Release of bulletins will be moved to June meeting.

6. License Holder Meeting feedback shared with the Licensing Department. Sarah Kempel has been appointed to the role of Director of Licensing, effective April 1, 2025.
7. Consumer Protection Act information was circulated by e-mail after the last meeting.
8. Inspector Training update: Initiatives around inspector consistency will be added to June meeting.
9. Risk Based Oversight is a stand-alone item on the agenda.
10. Service fees for meter pulls was communicated to Utilities Advisory Council (UAC).

3. **Risk-Based Oversight (RBO)**

A few points were submitted ahead of the meeting and included:

- Categorization of defects “Siloing” according to type of work e.g. installation of hot tub, generators, service work, etc. should be done.
- Review the number of required inspections for a certain class of work that may affect pre-authorized connections. Higher impact on rural contractors / regions.
- Increase use of historical data or extend the 12-month rolling window especially where minimum number of inspections is not reached in a specific work class.

Eric Kingston provided some introductory remarks that the timing for feedback is very good since an audit, performed by a third-party, was recently completed. Currently ESA is reviewing the results to draft requirements to improve and evolve the risk-based oversight model. It was stressed that RBO is an oversight model so balancing the assessment of compliant contractors versus non-compliant contractors can be challenging. Contractors and ESA both recognize that if the program makes it difficult for contractors to perform their work effectively then it may drive some to the underground economy.

The following comments were captured during the meeting and were recorded by ESA to consider when preparing follow-up presentation in June in-person meeting and as feedback with respect to improvement of RBO (**Action #1**):

- The concept of “siloing” defects as well as accessibility of visits in rural areas. The impact of defects in areas of work that don’t meet the minimum inspections can be long-lasting on the main area of business. A suggestion was made that the defect could be ratioed against the number of inspections conducted. No analysis has been done to date by the ESA but this recommendation has been recorded.

- Consideration should be given to defect ratios where one large job may receive multiple defects versus the effect of one defect on a series of smaller jobs.
- Licensed Electrical Contractors (LECs) should be included in any working groups moving forward to provide input into system design.
- It would be beneficial for ESA to share some statistics such as average defect ratio for the province and site visits versus permits pulled. **(Action #2)**
- Often trusted LECs are granted “pass with no visit” but this can be punitive in terms of meeting the minimum number of visits. It was discussed that remote inspection counts as a visit in defect ratio calculation but does not qualify against the bucket criteria.
- Inspector consistency on applying defects is raised as a concern with an example of receiving a defect on labels. Some updates on an initiative being undertaken by the ESA can be shared at the June meeting.
- ESA is open to receiving more input on RBO from members via e-mail. A suggestion will be made to Chair that a working group is formed to form a consolidated response rather than multiple, individual e-mails. **(Action #3)**

4. **Other Business**

The list of topics for future discussion (2025 Workplan) was reviewed to prioritize items of interest for upcoming CoAC meetings. Priorities for June meeting include (1) Further updates on RBO (as per previous agenda item) (2) Initiatives around inspector consistency, and (3) On Mobile App updates. **(Action #4)**

Also of interest to members is the installation of heat pumps by HVAC contractors. This falls under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Labour but members are interested in understanding what actions ESA is taking to advocate on behalf of LECs.

A question was raised about notification validations on Plan Reviews. [Post-meeting note – Plan Review process was reviewed on February 29, 2024].

5. **New Business**

- Nomination period for 2025 Safety Awards is open until June 2, 2025. Members are asked to share the information within their networks, and nominate deserving candidates. [Ontario Electrical Safety Awards 2025: Nomination Window is Now Open - ESA](#)
- The topic of Aging Infrastructure in Multi-Story Buildings was raised to get some feedback from members on how to address the issue of 85% of purpose-built rentals in Ontario are more than 35 years old.

- Issues impacting electrical systems may not come only from the system itself but from many sources, such as structural issues (leaking roof). Contractor associations might be good contact to address non-electrical issues.
 - Landlord Tenant Board (LTB) could also be a good resource to increase awareness and enforce actions on property owners.
 - Insurance industry, through loss prevention officers, has made some changes in the industrial sector requiring more maintenance. Could be a stakeholder for residential concerns as well.
 - Initiatives are already underway with regional community housing organizations as well as cooperation with regulators such as TSSA.
- As part of Roundtable discussion,
 - Eric Kingston confirmed that more regular updates are being done on OnMobile app in response to cell phone updates and also commercially available apps that introduce interference with the OnMobile app functionality.
 - Since last summer, it has been mandatory for photos to be attached to a notification. A member raised concerns about sending photos directly to inspectors, including potential service feeds if inspectors are required to upload photos for LECs. ESA clarified that no formal direction has been given to inspectors on this. LECs are encouraged to use the mobile app to upload their own photos. This ensures faster inspections and improves efficiency for both LECs and inspectors.

6. **Meeting Adjournment**

Motion:

Adjourn Meeting at 11:30

Moved by: Scott Yemen

Seconded: Doug McGinley

Carried

Having completed the agenda, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.
Next meeting is in-person and is scheduled for Thursday, June 12th.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Add Risk-Based Oversight (RBO) to the agenda of June in-person meeting. ESA to prepare a presentation to provide an overview of the RBO internal audit and proposed path forward. Include ESA initiatives to address inspector consistency.

	2. ESA to provide an overview of data/statistics as part of RBO program in conjunction with #1. 3. CoAC members to prepare additional questions / comments regarding RBO either through a Chair-led working group or individually through e-mail. Responses to be submitted to ESA by May 9, 2025. 4. Incorporate priority topics into June agenda planning.
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