

Introduction to the OESC 28th Edition, Ontario Amendment Process

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is currently reviewing the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) requirements to ensure the regulatory framework provides the appropriate balance between the need to ensure safety while supporting modernization and reducing the burden on businesses.

ESA will hold public consultation from Monday March 15 to Thursday April 29, 2021 regarding amendments to the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) that is planned for enforcement in May 2022, pending government approval.

Public Consultation Instructions

ESA is seeking the views of contractors, consumers, businesses and other stakeholders on all proposed amendments to the Ontario Electrical Safety Code. **The consultation runs from Monday March 15 to Thursday April 29, 2021.**

The proposed amendments can be found on the ESA website at esasafe.com/2021oesc

To assist stakeholders, ESA has provided a form for comments. Stakeholders may answer any of the questions provided on the form and/or provide other comments/feedback. The form is available on the [ESA website](#).

Please provide comments or questions to ESA by **Thursday April 29, 2021** via e-mail to OESC2021.publicConsultation@electricalsafety.on.ca

Due to Covid-19, the ESA office is not open. We encourage feedback to be sent electronically as fax and mailed submissions will be significantly delayed.

Background on Electrical Safety Codes

ESA is designated the government of Ontario (Ontario Regulation 89/99) as the responsible authority for administering and enforcing Part VIII of the Electricity Act, 1998 and regulations associated with the Act. Included are: Ontario Regulation 164/99, which adopts, by reference, the Canadian Electrical Code (CE Code) together with specific Ontario amendments and is referred to as the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC). The Ontario-specific amendments, include a set of administrative rules, and in some cases go beyond those found in the CE Code, while in other cases the amendments deal with circumstances that are specific to Ontario.

The Canadian Electrical Code (CE Code) is developed by CSA Group on a three year cycle. The CE Code is a voluntary document, and its requirements only become mandatory when a government adopts it into legislation or regulation

ESA provides recommendations to the provincial government regarding potential changes to OESC for provincial government approval and maintains participation on a number of Canadian and national committees to identify electrical safety standards and requirements that should be incorporated into the OESC by using information gathered through its operations and inspections.

The OESC is law in Ontario, and as such defines the legal requirements for safe electrical installations and products/equipment.

ESA Consultation Principles

- ESA encourages all interested stakeholders to participate in our consultation to provide meaningful input to ESA's decision-making processes.
- ESA ensures that we are transparent and open about our decision making
- ESA endeavours to ensure that stakeholders have an understanding of the drivers and factors that lead to fee adjustments
- Comments from stakeholders, including industry stakeholder groups, will be solicited for a period of 45 days.

Stakeholder Consultation Process

ESA reaches out proactively to as many stakeholders as possible to make them aware of our consultation process. This includes via our standing Advisory Councils, industry and consumer associations, and through public posting on our website at www.esasafe.com.

Following the conclusion of the consultation process and review and assessment of the feedback, ESA will post the feedback received and our responses to it on our website.

Background on the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is administrative authority acting on behalf of the Government of Ontario with specific responsibilities under the Electricity Act and the Safety and Consumer Statutes Administration Act. As part of its mandate, ESA is responsible for administering regulation in four key areas: the Ontario Electrical Safety Code; licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians; electrical distribution safety; and electrical product safety.

ESA's activities include: identifying and targeting leading causes of electrical risk; promoting awareness, education and training on electrical safety; ensuring compliance with regulations; investigating fatalities, injuries and fire losses associated with electricity; and engaging with a broad range of stakeholders to improve safety.

Privacy and Personal Information

Any personal information you might provide in this consultation process is subject to ESA's Privacy Policy. The information will be used to assist us in conducting and evaluating the results of the consultation, which may involve disclosing your comments to other participants, institutions and interested parties during and after the consultation. Your name will not be disclosed without your consent.

If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of this information, please contact:

Josie Erzetic
Chief Regulatory Officer and General Counsel
155A Matheson Blvd. West
Mississauga, Ontario L5R 3L5
E-mail: chiefprivacyofficer@electricalsafety.on.ca