

Electrical Distribution Safety

DISTRIBUTION COMPANY AWARENESS:

Ontario Regulation 438/07 Product Safety, is a new regulation to improve the safety of electrical products and equipment sold and used in Ontario, made under the Electricity Act, 1998, and will come into force beginning October 1, 2007. This Regulation applies to electrical products and devices governed by the Electrical Safety Code (ESC).

ONTARIO REGULATION 438/07 PRODUCT SAFETY:

The Regulation will establish enhanced powers for ESA when dealing with unsafe electrical products in the Ontario marketplace and will among other things:

- (a) improve the processes and requirements for the approval and revocation of approval of electrical products and equipment;
- (b) address the sale and use of products that are not approved for the Ontario marketplace;
- (c) expand the mandatory reporting requirements for electrical incidents and accidents; and
- (d) establish a process for notifying consumers of electrical product incidents or hazards.

Although the Regulation includes some new requirements, the product approval process remains the same as was defined under the ESC.

For an electronic version of Ontario Regulation 438/07 Product Safety, please see www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070438_e.htm.

ONTARIO REGULATION 22/04 ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SAFETY:

There should be no impact on Regulation 22/04. Section 6 (Approval of Electrical Equipment) remains unchanged. Section 6 requires that Local Distribution Companies:

- 1) Use equipment on their electrical distribution systems that is approved according to Rule 2-024 of the (ESC); or
- 2) Under a rule of the distributor as set out in Regulation 22/04.

Therefore, Regulation 438/07 does not apply to equipment approved under a rule of the distributor. However approving equipment under Rule 2-024 of the ESC must now comply with the requirements of the new Product Safety Regulation.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY CODE:

The ESC Rule 2-024 will continue to be referenced as the process for Approval of Electrical Equipment, however, the ESC will be amended to refer to Regulation 438/07 rather than define the process as it does currently. There will be other consequential amendments to the ESC to align it with the new Regulation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

If you can provide additional information on this Bulletin or any other Utility issue, please contact ESA to share your experiences. Additional information requests, and follow-up information, may be directed to ESA. Please be prepared to quote Bulletin "DIB-03/07".