

Frequently Asked Questions – Amendments to EDSR 22/04

1. What updates have been made to the Electrical Distribution Safety Regulation 22/04?

The key changes are:

- Mandatory reporting requirements for Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) to include all serious electrical safety incidents involving **meters** except in cases of events of force majeure.
- The definition of “worker” in the regulation has been amended to align with the Occupational Health and Safety Act;
- A definition for force majeure has been added;
- A requirement for LDCs to assist ESA in investigations of serious electrical incidents of LDC-owned assets.
- Updated references to existing National Standards that LDCs are currently following

2. When do these amendments become effective?

October 1, 2017.

3. Will the reporting process for serious electrical incidents change?

No. ESA intends to use the existing reporting processes for the expanded definition of serious electrical incidents under O.Reg 22/04. The reporting form will be updated to include meters and the Guideline for serious electrical incidents will be updated to support LDCs in meeting their compliance.

4. When will the reporting form and guideline be available?

A draft guideline and the accompanying reporting form will be available by the second or third week of September, prior to the Regulation amendments are effective. A final version will be available in October.

5. Why are they not available now? When will LDCs receive the final resources?

The Guideline revisions will be reviewed by an LDC working group prior to being issued in a DRAFT format. The Utility Advisory Council will review the document in October. Then the industry will then be provided with an updated guideline and reporting form.

6. Do I have to report a serious electrical incident that occurred to customer-owned equipment?

LDCs are not required to report a serious electrical incident occurring to customer-owned equipment. The requirements that fall under O.Reg 22/04 pertain only to utility-owned assets.

7. What amendments have been made in relation to LDC assistance in investigations? How does this differ from the previous regulation?

ESA may contact the LDC to gather further information or clarification of information submitted regarding a serious electrical incident and LDCs are required to provide this information. While LDCs were not required by legislation to provide this assistance before the amendment, this change supports existing processes and working relationships ESA has with the LDC community.

8. Why does ESA need to receive meter-related incidence information?

ESA is always striving to improve data collection and analysis for a comprehensive assessment of electrically-related fires, fatalities and injuries. The previous regulations required reporting to ESA of serious safety incidents involving utilities' distribution equipment only when they occur on equipment at 750 volts or above. In 2015, following a Due Diligence Review, ESA determined that there was a lack of data on serious incidence relating to meters. In an effort to increase visibility to potential harms caused by meters, ESA proposed mandatory reporting of serious meter incidence. This additional data will allow ESA to better understand the level of risk posed by certain meters and address these risks effectively for Ontarians. As a result:

- more informed decisions to respond to serious electrical incidents involving utility assets can be achieved
- creating opportunities to develop prevention strategies and responses to enhance regulatory effectiveness

7. What will you do with the information collected?

One of the methods ESA uses to identify those areas that present the greatest risk to Ontarians is to utilize compliance information collected through reporting requirements in O.Reg 22/04 and other types of incident information to determine the state of electrical safety in Ontario.

ESA uses information collected to determine whether further safety actions should be undertaken to protect Ontarians. An example of the type of action ESA can undertake is the order issued to LDCs in January 2014 to remove from service all Sensus 3.2 with remote disconnects meters due to safety concerns.

8. Where can I find more information on the change to reporting serious electrical incidents?

Information on the consultation for amendments to Regulation 22/04 can be found here <https://www.esasafe.com/about-esa/stakeholder-engagement/consultations>

Information on Regulation 22/04 and reporting process can be found here <https://www.esasafe.com/utilities/guidelines/serious-incidents>

9. Who can I contact if I have more questions?

Please contact Utility.Regulations@electricalsafety.on.ca