



## Media Release

### **ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY TAKE NOTE: 2015 ONTARIO ELECTRICAL SAFETY CODE NOW AVAILABLE; COMES INTO EFFECT MAY, 2016**

*The newest edition – an essential tool for any electrical work –  
includes important updates*

MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO (Nov. 30, 2015) – The 2015 edition of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (Code) has been finalized and is now available for purchase. The Code comes into effect as regulation on May 5, 2016. Members of the electrical industry are encouraged to begin familiarizing themselves with the new Code. Electrical work conducted after the effective date needs to meet its requirements.

The 2015 edition of the Code includes the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I plus several Ontario-specific amendments. This new edition includes changes designed to enhance electrical safety and protect workers and the public including:

- expanding requirements for the use of Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) in homes to help reduce wiring-related fires;
- changes for renewable energy installations including specific changes for solar;
- new guidelines for the safe clearances needed between light fixtures – such as pot lights – and combustible material to help minimize potential fire hazards;
- wiring at non-commercial docks (such as cottages);
- new requirements for the installation of light emitting diode (LED) luminaires in residential buildings; and
- specifics on the location of electrical hook-ups for recreational vehicle (RV) parking, to harmonize with the United States' National Electrical Code.

In addition, the Code book and all ESA bulletins – which provide important updates and interpretations – will now be sold together for one price and at a significantly reduced rate from prior years. It will be available in print for \$219 or a searchable, digital format for \$195 – accessible on smart phones, tablets and desktops and compatible with Windows and iOS.

“Public safety is of paramount importance to our government, and the regular updating of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code through collaboration with industry ensures that safety considerations and protections for consumers are keeping pace with new technology and building needs,” says David Oraziotti, Minister of Government and Consumer Services.

“Revisions to the Code are made through a broad consultative process at both the provincial and national level, and through the collaboration of ESA and its safety partners based on insights from technical reviews, incident data, and feedback from stakeholders,” says Nansy Hanna, Director of Engineering and Program Development, Regulatory and Safety Programs, Electrical Safety Authority. “To help ensure safe electrical installation in Ontario, it is essential for Licensed Electrical Contractors – and anyone doing electrical work falling

within the scope of the Code – to understand the requirements of the 2015 edition before it comes into effect.”

The 2015 edition of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code is distributed by CSA Group. Print and digital copies are currently available for pre-order – scheduled to arrive in January 2016 – and the PDF version is available now. To purchase the Code, visit [www.csagroup.org/oesc](http://www.csagroup.org/oesc) or call 800-463-6727.

For more information on the new Code, contact ESA’s Customer Service Centre at 1-877-372-7233 or visit [www.esasafe.com](http://www.esasafe.com).

### **About the Electrical Safety Authority**

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is an 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.

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### **For further information:**

Electrical Safety Authority Media Relations  
905-712-7819 or [Media.ESA@electricalsafety.on.ca](mailto:Media.ESA@electricalsafety.on.ca)