



Ottawa-area Contractor Fined \$8,000 For Illegal Electrical Work

Mississauga, ON /Dec. 18, 2013 - On Dec.12, 2013, an unlicensed electrical contractor was convicted in an Ottawa court and fined \$8,000 on charges related to performing electrical work illegally.

Oscar Lewis was found guilty on four counts of performing electrical work and failing to take out permits. The total fine was \$8,000 for the violations and a \$2,000 victim impact surcharge. Only Licensed Electrical Contractors are permitted to contract to perform electrical work in Ontario and they must adhere to electrical permit requirements.

Working under the company name of KMO Inc., Lewis completed electrical work at four separate commercial sites in Ottawa between April 1 and Oct. 23, 2013. One of the installations was in a restaurant and the unsafe electrical work could have resulted in an electrical fire or electrical shock. Lewis did not hold a valid electrical contractor licence when the work was completed and therefore not legally allowed to perform the electrical work or take out permits with ESA.

“In this case, Lewis was an unlicensed contractor and only Licensed Electrical Contractors who are offering to perform electrical contracting services are legally allowed to take out permits with ESA. As a result, there was no inspection of the sites to ensure the work was safe and met the provincial code standards,” said Normand Breton, ESA’s General Manager, who oversees ESA’s electrical contractor licensing system. “As part of our investigation, our inspectors found unsafe work at two of the sites.”

ESA reminds consumers and businesses considering hiring someone to do electrical work to follow ‘the three Cs’: **check** to ensure the contractor holds a valid electrical contractor licence (you can search the database at www.esasafe.com); **confirm** that they are arranging the appropriate inspections from ESA; and **call** ESA at 1-877-ESA-SAFE (1-877-372-7233) if you suspect someone is misrepresenting themselves.

This will ensure the Electrical Contractor you hired:

- is fully insured
- uses qualified electricians to perform the electrical work you require
- will arrange for permits with the ESA
- can deliver an ESA Certificate of Inspection
- can provide references
- will prepare a written cost estimate of the work

About the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)

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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