

Over the past year, ESA inspectors have issued over 27,000 defects related to Rule 2-004 and the inspection process. Rule 2-004 includes several sub-rules and items that prescribe the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) requirements for the inspection process. The following items have been identified as reasons for the majority of these defects:

1. Areas are not safely secured or readily accessible for inspection

Often inspectors arrive on site to perform an inspection and find the inspection area is either locked, requires a ladder to access, is located in a basement with no stairs installed, or other reasons that deem the area “inaccessible.” This represents more than 50 per cent of the defects issued related to Rule 2-004.



2. Applicant failed to call for rough-in inspection at the proper stage

The OESC requires that an electrical installation cannot be concealed or rendered inaccessible until it complies with the OESC. Any concealment or inaccessibility must have been authorized by an Inspector. Often installers proceed further than the rough-in stage by installing drywall or backfilling a trench without calling for inspection. This type of defect can be costly to resolve and it accounts for approximately 25 per cent of defects issued related to Rule 2-004. It is always recommended to contact the Inspector to ensure inspection arrangements have been mutually agreed upon.

3. Administrative Issues

Other violations of Rule 2-004 include not filing an application for inspection within 48 hours of starting the work, not including complete address information, and failing to provide an itemized list of the work that is to be inspected.

All requirements for an inspection must be met prior to arranging for an inspection to avoid defects, additional costs and project delays.