

FLASH

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Unapproved electrical animal stunners

Background

A fatality occurred in Ontario due to the use of an unapproved electrical animal stunner. Electrical animal stunners use bare metal parts, energized at voltages of up to 600 V. These devices are used in the meat packing industry to stun animals before they are slaughtered. Most potential users of these devices are unaware of the electrical hazards.

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is concerned that unapproved or altered electrical animal stunners may be in use in Ontario. Any electrical equipment approved for use in Ontario shall bear a recognized approval mark of a certification agency or field evaluation agency.

Direction

The ESA advises the industry that ESA SPEC-002 “Animal Stunner Guidelines” that was published in 2007 is obsolete and no longer valid.

It is forecasted that in the fall of 2020 the standard IEC 60335-2-87 Particular requirements for electrical animal stunning equipment will be adopted in Canada as a new national standard. Before it is officially published as a Canadian standard, the ESA will be accepting animal stunning equipment to be approved using the standard IEC 60335-2-87 in conjunction with CSA Model Code SPE-1000.

Do not use an electrical animal stunner unless it bears one of the approval labels. ESA’s website has resources on Electrical Product Safety (<https://www.esasafe.com/electricalproducts/>) and a complete list of Recognized Certification Marks (<https://www.esasafe.com/electricalproducts/marks>).

It is an offence under the Electricity Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations and the Ontario Electrical Safety Code to use unapproved equipment or modify approved equipment. Use of unapproved or modified stunners or improper use of any electrical animal stunner can result in serious injury or death.

ESA will prosecute anyone found in possession of an unapproved or modified electrical animal stunner. For further information contact ESA at www.esasafe.com or 1-877-372-7233.