

NOTICE/ARTICLE
From the ELECTRICAL SAFETY AUTHORITY

**Electrical Inspection of Street Lighting and other Roadway Electrical
Systems**

October 2001

Municipalities, Local Distribution Companies (utilities), contractors, consultants, and suppliers should be advised that changes are being introduced to the electrical inspection requirements associated with Roadway Electrical Systems, such as **Traffic Signals and Street Lighting.**

Historically, electrical inspections were required for all electrical installations up to the service entrances (power supply connection points) for roadway electrical systems. Since electrical municipal utilities traditionally installed and maintained these systems the utility exemption for electrical inspections applied to these installations. As a result of restructuring in the utility business this is changing. To respond to these changes a working committee, comprised of a cross section of industry representatives, was established to:

- Examine possible safety issues associated with these installations
- Develop installation and inspection guidelines for these systems

Roadway electrical systems, such as traffic signal systems and roadway lighting, have some unique elements and performance requirements that are not explicitly recognized in the current Ontario Electrical Safety Code. Thus, there was a need to develop guidelines to cover these systems. The primary objective of these standards is to ensure that roadway electrical systems are both electrically safe for workers and the public, and operationally safe for motorists and pedestrians.

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is a delegated administrative authority with the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services and is the standard bearer for electrical safety in Ontario. ESA is mandated by the provincial government to oversee wiring inspections, general inspections, Ontario Electrical Safety Code advice and information, and ensure equipment is approved.

New requirements will be implemented on January 02, 2002. ESA has agreed to an interim inspection practice, to continue to inspect up to the service entrance only. Following implementation, the new guidelines and requirements will apply to any new installations but will not be retroactive.

Bulletin 2-12-* (Traffic Signal Systems) and 30-9-* (Roadway Lighting System (Street lighting)), issued October 2001, details the guidelines and requirements for these systems that have been identified by the committees.

For further information and to view these bulletins, please visit our website at www.esainspection.net.