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News, Views and Updates from the Electrical Safety Authority

Summer 2014



Contractors convicted and fined for illegal electrical work in Ontario schools p.7



Electrical Safety Authority

1-877-ESA-SAFE

ESASAFE.COM

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Our Mission:

To improve electrical safety for the well-being of the people of Ontario.

Our Vision:

An Ontario free of electrical fatalities and serious injury, damage or loss.

1-877-ESA-SAFE ESASAFE.COM



Attention All Master Electricians!

Don't forget, you are permitted to use 'ME' or 'Master Electrician' at the end of your name. For example – John Doe, ME. We encourage you to use either of these designations on business cards, resumes and other business communication. You've achieved years of education, experience, and training, and now you have gone the extra step to become a Master Electrician. Be proud and display your accomplishment!

Licensing Convictions for Jan.1, 2014 – Mar. 31, 2014:

Miranda Electric, Toronto

- Residential renovation
- \$2,000 fine, plus victim surcharge – no EC licence

Van Vuong Tran, Hamilton

- Repairs after fire
- \$750 fine, plus \$125 victim surcharge – no EC licence

Rocky Renzella, operating as Able Body's Renovation, Grimsby

- Kitchen renovation
- \$800 fine, plus victim surcharge – failure to apply for inspection
- Suspended sentence – no EC licence

Richard Henderson, operating as Henderson Electric, Midland

- House rewire
- \$650 fine, plus victim surcharge – no EC licence

Alex Kuizon, Brampton

- Installed potlights
- \$350 fine, plus victim surcharge – no EC licence

If you are aware of anyone doing electrical work in violation of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code or electrical contractor licensing regulations, report it to ESA at 1-877-372-7233 or at esasafe.com. ESA looks into every such report we receive.



ESA Introduces Lighting Retrofit Program for Approval of Luminaires and Illuminated Sign Conversions

Energy efficiency awareness and legislation are responsible for a significant increase in the number of lighting retrofits and field conversions to more energy efficient lighting. Your customers may be focused on the energy efficiency benefits of these new lighting solutions, and it's important not to lose sight of electrical safety in the process. Contractors need to be aware that when any approved electrical product (including luminaires roadway lighting) is modified by replacing various internal components, that product is no longer approved under the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC).

When is a product approved?

Approval of electrical equipment is a safety requirement mandated by the OESC to ensure that the equipment is safe for use. In addition to the standard approval process by an accredited certification or a field evaluation agency, an electrical product is deemed to be approved in Ontario when ESA determines that the product presents no undue hazards to person or property and the installation passes the inspection.

New program for retrofits

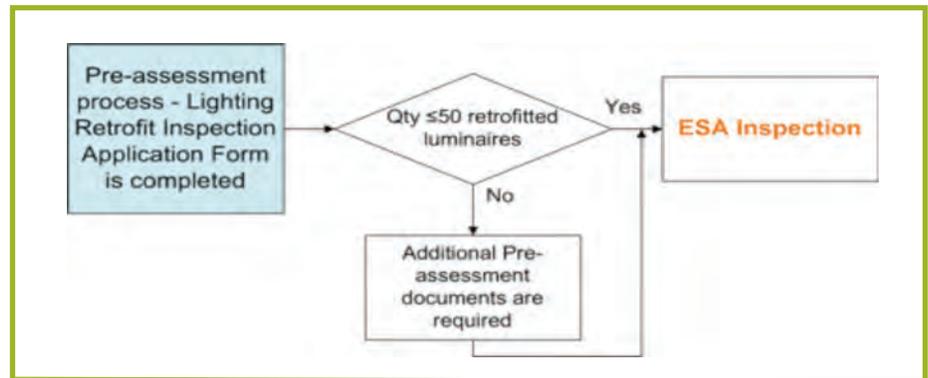
Based on the requirements of Rule 02-024, Approval of electrical equipment, and Ontario Regulation 438/07 Product Safety, ESA has developed a program for accepting

retrofitted luminaires that will take effect **September 2014**. LECs will be required to follow one of two processes, depending on the nature of the retrofit project. The new program, outlined below, will be based on accepting retrofitted luminaires as part of an ESA inspection if:

- a certified retrofit kit is used; and
- a pre-assessment process is completed.

the size of the job and if you participate in the Authorized Contractor Program. If an approved retrofit kit is not used, the retrofitted luminaire is required to be approved by a field evaluation or certification agency. The installation must be inspected by ESA.

An ESA inspection will verify that the retrofit kit used has been approved, is suitable for the existing luminaire, the installation



The pre-assessment process includes completing a Lighting Retrofit Inspection Application Form. The Application Form will help installers determine if the selected retrofit kit is suitable for the retrofitted luminaire and provide assistance to ESA in reviewing the retrofit project. For retrofit projects with more than 50 luminaires per site, in addition to the Lighting Retrofit Inspection Application Form, ESA will require additional documentation from the LEC for review, for which an additional fee may be incurred, depending on

instructions for installing the kit were followed, and new labels are affixed to indicate the type of replacement lamps that can be used.

More information and details of the program, price structure, and the application form will be posted on www.esasafe.com in the Contractor section in September. If you have any questions, please submit them to stakeholder.esa@electricalsafety.on.ca.

2014 Spring Awareness Campaigns a Success

This past spring, ESA launched two very successful awareness campaigns. The Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC) campaign stressed that electrical work is inherently risky and that it's important to hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor to do the work. And the Powerline Safety campaign targeted consumers and workers with a message to "Look Up! Look Out!" to promote awareness of the risks that powerlines pose at work, at home and in the community. This year's campaign featured the addition of an innovative, interactive game to help consumers learn more about powerline safety risks.



Plug in Safely – Hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor

ESA's *Plug in Safely – Hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor* spring awareness campaign ran from February 25 to April 13. The goal was to raise awareness of the hazards involved in faulty or improper electrical work and encourage those contemplating doing electrical work to hire an LEC. The campaign included radio spots, online advertising and social media components that encouraged consumers to visit the pluginsafely.ca website to find an LEC.

The campaign once again proved to be successful. The online ads had 39.2 million impressions (the number of times the ad was seen) and they were clicked 21,000 times, bringing people to the ESA website. This was more than three times higher than the average for this type of campaign. Once at the website, consumers continued to seek information, and 3,511 people clicked on links, such as 'Find an Electrical Contractor' in your area.

Traditional media, such as newspaper ads and radio spots, received about six million impressions. Social media messaging was also successful: Facebook ads achieved 571,460 impressions, resulting in 4,653 new fans for the ESA Facebook page, which will allow us to continue to reach this new, large audience with Hire an LEC and other safety messages; Twitter garnered more than 825,000 impressions and 340 retweets or mentions by followers who thought the information was important enough to share with their friends.

The contest had a significant impact: the website had **65,152** visits and **6,827** contest entries.

Powerline Safety – Look Up! Look Out!

New for this year's Powerline Safety Week: The Deadly Dozen!

ESA introduced a new and exciting powerline consumer engagement contest this year. The interactive online game invited Ontarians to solve powerline contact case files and catch a serial killer – code name Deadly Dozen – lurking in their yards and communities. Correctly solving a case earned an entry into the contest. The program launched on May 12 with promotional ads and sponsored posts on Twitter and Facebook. Weekly prizes of \$100 Canadian Tire gift cards and a grand prize of a \$1,000 gift card were available to be won. The contest ended June 22, but you can still check out the case files at www.deadlydozen.ca.

The contest had significant impact: 65,152 website visits and 6,827 contest entries. Participants readily shared the contest information, and the case files also encouraged open discussion on social media sites.

With the contest being such a hit for powerline safety awareness, we are exploring something similar for our next LEC awareness campaign. Watch for more details on this in the Fall.





Managing wiring services

Call centre calls answered	490,799
Inspections	427,046
Defects recorded	217,174
General Inspections	9,295
ACP Contractors	2,404

Wiring compliance and enforcement

Hazard Investigation Requests	12,475
Notices of Violation	479

Preventing hazards and harms

CSS customers [26,733 sites]	4,047
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Product safety

Reported Electrical Product Safety Incidents	267
Recalled Product Notifications (Triaged by Health Canada)*	96
Recalled Product Notifications	21

Licensing management

Licensed Electrical Contractors	7,388
Master Electricians	11,968
Complaints received	1,655
Complaints resolved	1,426

Safety materials distributed

Powerline and Worker Safety, LEC Campaign	19,300
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Electrical distribution management

Distribution-related Incidents	182
Compliance audits	77

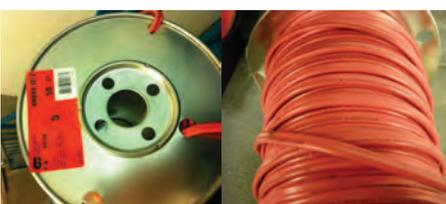
**In 2011, the federal Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA) administered by Health Canada came into effect, outlining the responsibilities of industry across Canada for consumer product safety, including mandatory incident reporting and document retention.*

As a result, on April 15, 2013, Health Canada fully took over all responsibility for assessment and investigation of incoming consumer electrical product reports. In this case, consumer product safety reports are triaged through Health Canada's process. This does not include reports received concerning industrial electrical products and unapproved or counterfeit electrical products.

safety alerts + recalls

RCL13-15 Nexans Canada Inc. Recalls 14/2 NMD90 Heatex® Cable Due to Mislabelling on Spool

Product is correctly manufactured and printed as 14/2 NMD90 Heatex® and is safe to use as such. However, product label on spool incorrectly describes product as 12/2 NMD90 Heatex®. Product should not be used in an installation requiring 12/2 NMD90 Heatex®. Potential exists for installing product in an improper application.



RCL13-16 Hubbell Canada LP Voluntarily Recalls 30 Amp Dryer & 50 Amp Stove (Range) Power Receptacles Due to Shock Hazard

Due to an assembly anomaly, the receptacle ground contact may be oversized creating the risk of shock under certain conditions with different manufacturers' appliance plugs



RCL13-17 RONA Inc. Recalls Uberhaus Fan Heaters Due to Fire Hazard

The fan heater may be affected by a manufacturing defect and can overheat during use, posing a fire hazard.



To learn more about recent product recalls and safety alerts please click on the link on the front page of the ESA website.

Triple Threat Eliminated

Three Contractors Receive Convictions and Fines Totalling \$85,000 for Conducting Illegal Electrical Work in Eastern Ontario Schools

Crime really doesn't pay! An investigation by ESA's licensing enforcement group into illegal electrical work has resulted in three people being convicted and fined on a number of charges, including performing illegal electrical work, illegally obtaining electrical permits for an unlicensed individual and leaving an unsafe condition. These activities took place in a number of schools in the Ottawa area and left behind significant hazards and risks to the people in the schools – including the children.

The tangled tale was as follows: Construction "G", a general contracting company owned by Mario Giroux, hired unlicensed worker, Martin Laprade, to do electrical work on its behalf in the schools. Nick Medewar, of NM Electric, a Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC), illegally took out permits on Laprade's behalf for the work at several schools and for at least one residential site. All three were convicted and fined for multiple violations of the licensing regulation.



On April 3, 2014, Mario Giroux operating as Construction 'G', pleaded guilty to 13 counts of performing electrical work without an electrical contractor's licence, eight counts of failing to apply for inspection and one count of leaving an unsafe condition. He was fined \$58,750.



On April 24, 2014, LEC Nick Medewar of NM Electric was convicted of six counts of illegally taking out electrical permits on behalf of an unlicensed contractor working for Construction "G". He was fined \$7,500.



On June 9, 2014, Martin Laprade pleaded guilty to two counts of performing electrical work without an electrical contractor's licence, and one count of leaving an unsafe condition. He was fined \$18,750.

"The activities posed a triple threat to public safety – specifically children – through multiple illegal actions," said Normand Breton, ESA's General Manager, Harm Mitigation, who oversees ESA's electrical contractor licensing system.

All fines include a 25 per cent victim fine surcharge as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

"Through the course of our investigation, significant electrical hazards were discovered at one school that could have seriously injured or killed someone, or caused a fire."

Common Errors Related to New Voltage Drop Requirements Identified in Recent Inspections

Since the Director's Order on Voltage Drop came into effect in February 2014, ESA has been working with Licensed Electrical Contractors to ensure that work is compliant with the new requirements.

ESA Inspectors have noted two common errors LECs should be aware of:

1. Failure to measure the actual length of a branch circuit run to ensure it does not exceed the allowable length under the OESC. For example, a recent inspection revealed that a contractor had run 65 metres of #14AWG copper branch circuit. The allowable length under the Code is less than 38 metres.

2. Measures put in place to address voltage drop in excess of the requirement haven't

been sufficient to ensure the installation is compliant.

An inspection of a 9,000 square foot bungalow with a full basement revealed that the contractor had used #12AWG for most branch circuits, and had added a sub-panel to feed some branch circuits. The Inspector identified circuit runs of 86 metres, which exceed the maximum length of 60 metres allowed for #12AWG on a 15A breaker under the Code. Using #12AWG and adding a sub-panel without accurately estimating the required circuit runs resulted in a non-compliant installation.

Accurately estimating the branch circuit runs, especially when daisy chaining outlets, reduces the need for costly voltage drop mitigation measures. This means cost savings for you and your customer, and a smooth and efficient inspection.

Director's Order Recap

- Director's Order on Rule 8-102, Voltage Drop
- Effective and enforceable under the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) as of February 3, 2014.
- Changes Code requirement regarding voltage drop for lighting and general use branch circuits in residential (new construction) single dwelling units.
- Reference ESA bulletin 8-6-* for further information including suggested wiring methods to comply.

In Memoriam

On July 19, 2014 John Salmon passed away. John was chair of the ESA ECRA Advisory Council and a member of the Contractor Advisory Council. He gave significantly of his time and energy to ESA, to the cause of electrical safety, and to the advancement of the electrical trade. We will miss him and his contributions greatly.

What's Happening! Important dates:

ESA Annual General Meeting and 2014 Ontario Electrical Safety Awards

Sept. 30, 2014 –

Living Arts Centre in Mississauga

For more information visit

www.esasafe.com

ECRA/ESA Licence Holder Meetings

Sept. 24, 2014 – Thunder Bay

Nov. 4, 2014 – Mississauga

ESA will be closed on:

Aug. 4, 2014 – Civic Day Holiday

Sept. 1, 2014 – Labour Day

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We'd like your input



Please send your comments or story ideas to plugged.in@electricalsafety.on.ca.

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