



2015 Ontario Electrical Safety Code – 26th Edition

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (Code)?

The Code is an Ontario regulation that establishes safety standards for the installation and maintenance of electrical equipment. It is primarily a technical document, prescriptive in approach.

Revisions to the Code are made through a broad consultative process at both the provincial and national level, and through the collaboration of the Electrical Safety Authority and its safety partners.

2. Why is there a new Code?

The Ontario Electrical Safety Code includes changes to the Canadian Electrical Code (CEC), Part 1, and Ontario-specific amendments. Major changes made to the 2015 CEC warranted an update of the Ontario Code.

ESA collaborated with its safety partners to produce this new edition of the Code to reflect changes in technology and the marketplace, feedback from stakeholders, technical reviews and new safety insights.

3. When does the 2015 Code become effective?

The 2015 Code comes into effect on May 5, 2016. Any electrical work conducted after this date must comply with its requirements.

4. If I have an Application for Inspection or Plan Review submission prior to May 5, 2016, do I need to follow the 2015 Code?

No, if your Application for Inspection or Plan Review submission is made prior to May 5, 2016, you do not need to comply with the 2015 Code. The electrical installation must meet the Code rules in effect at the time the Application for Inspection was filed or the plans were submitted to ESA. When applying for a new application after May 5, 2016, the electrical installation shall comply with the 2015 Code.

NOTE: The Fee Guide requires a minimum of one inspection (rough-in, service, trench, etc.) for any Residential Application for Inspection within 12 months, or the

application will expire. When re-applying for a new application after May 5, 2016, the electrical installation shall comply with the 2015 Code.

If a contractor elects to comply with any part of the 2015 Code after May 5, 2016 even though the Application for Inspection or Plan Review submission was made prior to May 5, 2016, then the entire installation must comply with the 2015 Code.

5. I have already purchased the CEC; do I still need a 2015 Code?

The law requires that all electrical installations in Ontario meet the requirements of the Code. It is recommended that anyone permitted to perform electrical work in Ontario have a current copy of the 2015 Code. The 2015 Code contains the complete version of the CEC and the Ontario-specific amendments.

6. What is the difference between the CEC and the Ontario Electrical Safety Code?

In addition to very specific Ontario administrative requirements, there are also technical differences from the CEC identified in the Code with the symbol below.



7. How can I tell the difference between the Ontario amendments of the new Code and the CEC rules?

The Ontario amendments are identified by a Black Trillium symbol (below) and the Ontario text is in italics. A list of the Ontario amendments is also provided in the Code section of the ESA website.



8. What is the price of the 2015 Code?

This year, ESA has partnered with CSA Group to offer the Code book and all ESA bulletins – which provide important updates and interpretations – together for one price and at a significantly reduced rate from prior years. Bulletins were previously offered separately.

It will be available in print for \$219 or a searchable, digital format for \$195 – accessible on smart phones, tablets and desktops and compatible with Windows and iOS.

9. When will the 2015 Code be available for purchase?

As of Nov. 23, 2015, the Code can be purchased online at www.csagroup.org/oesc or by calling 800-463-6727. The new Code is being distributed through CSA Group. The hard copy and digital versions are currently available for pre-order – arriving in January 2016 – and the PDF version is available now.

10. Why is the 2015 Code not available to the public free of charge?

The Code is a combination of the CEC and Ontario-specific amendments. The CEC is a national standard published by CSA Group and is copyright protected. CSA Group charges ESA a licensing fee for the right to use their intellectual property within the Code. The Ontario amendments are available free of charge on the ESA website.

11. Is the 2015 Code available in French?

Ontario-specific amendments, based on the 2015 Code, will be available in French on ESA's website. The national version of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1, is available in French and English, and can be purchased through CSA Group.

12. What is the size of the printed version of the Code book?

The Code book is 8 1/2 x 11 inches, spiral-bound, same as in 2012. The Pocket Reference guide is 4 x 6 1/4 inches.

13. What is the process to have a defective Code book replaced (i.e. page missing, etc)?

In the case of a defective Code book, contact the CSA Group at 800-463-6727 and arrange for a replacement. CSA Group will ship the replacement book at no charge to the customer.