



## CHANGES TO THE 2007 ELECTRICAL FEE SCHEDULE

**Date of Issue:** April 13, 2007

Effective July 16, 2007, all work formerly covered by the No Fee Electrical permit will require a Contractor Installation Permit.

After extensive consultation with the electrical industry and analysis by BCSA, BCSA is making this change to its Electrical Fee Schedule. In November 2006, all known industry participants were advised of the proposed fee change and were asked to provide comments. The notice of the proposed fee change was also posted on the BCSA website, which invited all to comment. The industry stakeholders that responded provided valuable feedback during the 60 day consultation period, which ended December 31, 2006. After consideration of the feedback, the BCSA is proceeding with the fee change.

### Background

No Fee Permits were introduced in 1995 as part of the *Electrical Safety Regulation, BC Reg. 487/95* (now repealed), which was administered by the Safety Engineering Services Division of the Province of British Columbia. This type of permit was largely granted to contractors performing installations involving low value, extra-low voltage electrical work. Prior to 1995, all contractors were required to apply and pay for a Contractor Installation Permit.

Since then, responsibility for administering the electrical safety program in British Columbia has been transferred to the BC Safety Authority, an independent not-for-profit service agency. This change was marked by the creation of the *Safety Standards Act*, the *Safety Standards General Regulation*, and the *Electrical Safety Regulation, BC Reg. 100/2004*, in April 2004.

Following the feedback and support received from our customers, it was not in the best interest of the BCSA, nor its stakeholders, to continue subsidizing this type of electrical work. Fees that are to be reintroduced for this type of electrical work will be based on our existing cost-recovery principle.

### Summary of changes

- Under the existing 2007 Electrical Fee Schedule, all work with a declared value between \$1 and \$500 is charged \$65 for each Contractor Installation Permit. To better reflect the safety risks involved with the work being performed under these permits, the BCSA introduced a new lower fee class for work valued between \$0 and \$250. This new fee class is projected to cost approximately \$45 per permit. This is not only competitive with current market prices but it would make the electrical contractor installation permit one of the lowest cost permits among all jurisdictions in British Columbia and Alberta for work of similar value.
- For work valued between \$251 and \$500, the existing \$65 charge per permit will continue to apply.
- BCSA will continue to honour No Fee Electrical Permits issued up to July 13, 2007 and where installation is to be completed by August 31, 2007.

The *Safety Standards General Regulation* requires a permit to be obtained before regulated work is performed or a regulated product is used. Under the *Safety Standards Act*, failure to comply is a punishable act upon which monetary penalties can be imposed.