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Administrative and Regulatory Electrical Safety changes announced

Effective April 1, 2004, the new *Safety Standards Act* (SSA) and Regulations replaced the previous *Electrical Safety Act* and Regulation, the *Gas Safety Act* and Regulation, the *Elevating Device Safety Act* and Regulation, and, the *Power Engineers and Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act* and Regulation. As well, the Province of British Columbia also delegated the administration of the SSA to the British Columbia Safety Authority (BCSA). The BCSA is an independent not-for-profit corporation established under the *Safety Authority Act*.

Below are some of the administrative and regulatory changes made to the *Safety Standards Act*, and Regulations that are relevant to clients and stakeholders including electrical contractors, homeowners, operating permit holders and electrical workers. The information is general in nature and may require further information. Please contact our nearest BCSA office for additional information or clarification. The telephone numbers may be found by visiting the BCSA website (www.safetyauthority.ca), clicking on the "FAQ's" and then clicking on the "List of Area Offices".

Permitting		
Under the new <i>Safety Standards Act</i> and Regulations, all permits are categorized as Installation or Operating Permits. Within these categories remain specific permit types.		
<i>Previous Electrical Regulation</i>	<i>New Electrical Regulation</i>	<i>Changes</i>
Regular Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Contractor Installation Permit➤ Homeowner Installation Permit	<p>Holders of Operating Permits now have the authority to obtain Installation Permits.</p> <p>A Field Safety Representative (FSR) must be named on all electrical permits except for Homeowner Installation Permits.</p> <p>See below (Transition to FSR) for explanation about how Accredited Representatives (ARs), Registered Representative (RRs) and "Qualified Persons" will change under the new Act and Regulations.</p>
Temporary	➤ Temporary Entertainment	"Qualified Persons" may no longer

Entertainment Permit	Installation Permit	be named on these permits. See below in screened box (Transition to FSRs) for explanation about how ARs, RRs and “Qualified Persons” will change under the new Act and Regulations.
Annual Permit Utility Permit Annual Entertainment Permit	➤ Operating Permit	“Qualified Persons” may no longer be named on these permits, an FSR is required See below in screened box (Transition to FSRs) for explanation about how ARs, RRs and “Qualified Persons” will change under the new Act and Regulations.
Operating Permit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overhead Spans• Underwater Distribution Cables• High Voltage Vaults	➤ Operating Permit	A separate permit type is no longer available for this type of installation. If electrical maintenance is performed a new Operating Permit is required.
Supplementary Permit	➤ Now referred to as a Reinspection/ Expiry Amendment.	An amendment to a permit does not require a new permit.
Additional Value Permit	➤ Now referred to as a Permit Value Amendment.	An amendment to a permit does not require a new permit.
Survey Permit	➤ Now referred to as a Survey Permit	BCSA will continue to offer survey inspection services.
Equipment Approval Permit	➤ Now referred to as Product Approval.	Consistent terminology across technologies.
No Fee Permit	➤ No Fee Installation Permit	Applicable to some low voltage/low value installations.
<p align="center"><i>Transition to Field Safety Representatives</i></p> <p>Under the new <i>Safety Standards Act</i> and Regulations, Accredited Representatives, Registered Representatives and “Qualified Persons” have been replaced with Field Safety Representatives (FSRs). An FSR must be named on all electrical permits, except a Homeowner Permit, however they may only be named on one contractor license. A licensed contractor’s FSR may be named on multiple operating permits.</p>		
<i>Previous Electrical Regulation</i>	<i>New Electrical Regulation</i>	<i>Changes</i>

Accredited Representative (AR)	➤ Field Safety Representative (FSR)	ARs are deemed to be fully qualified FSRs. Existing AR class fields remain in effect.
Registered Representatives (RR)	➤ Temporary Field Safety Representative (TEMP FSR)	Temporary FSRs must become fully qualified FSRs before April 1, 2006. Temporary FSRs may only be named on installation permits. Existing RR class fields remain in effect until April 1, 2006
"Qualified Person"	➤ Operating Permit-Field Safety Representative (OP-FSR)	Qualified Persons named on an operating permit as of April 1, 2004 may continue to represent their employer in that capacity. Completion of a new application form is required for a temporary OP-FSR upon renewal of the Operating Permit. This qualification is not transferable to another employer or site. The OP-FSR status expires when either the permit is not renewed or the qualified person ceases to be employed as an OP FSR under this permit.
<i>Applicants for Electrical Certificates of Qualification</i>		
The Electrical Safety Regulation has expanded the number of available FSR certificates in restricted classes.		
<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Changes</i>
First-time applicants (except those applying to be an RR)	➤ All first-time applicants for an electrical A, B, C or restricted certificate must take an FSR examination.	For information on restricted certificates, contact the BCSA.
Registered Representative (RR), Temporary FSR	➤ Qualified applicants must apply to be a Temporary FSR by November 1, 2004. Temporary FSR registration will not be offered after this date.	All Temporary FSR certificates will expire April 1, 2006. Other than OP-FSRs on an Operating Permit, only fully qualified FSRs may be named on a permit after this date.

Supervision Requirements

The *Safety Standards Act* and Regulations enables individuals who would otherwise require authorization or certification, to perform work under appropriate supervision. The Electrical Safety Regulation provides specific supervision ratios for various installation types. This information is provided to electrical contractors and Operating Permit holders performing electrical installations.

<i>Installation</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Details</i>
Class A or B (Above 200 amps; 150 volts to ground)	➤ Ratio of one qualified supervisor (e.g., recognized certificate or qualification) to two "trainees"	"Trainees" as defined in Ministry of Advanced Education's <i>Industry Training Act</i> .
Class C (Up to 200 amps; 150 volts to ground, single phase)	➤ Ratio of one qualified supervisor to four workers	Workers may include trainees and individuals.
Restricted Electrical Classes	➤ Ratio of one qualified supervisor to two workers	Workers may include trainees and individuals.