



INFORMATION BULLETIN

2015 BC ELECTRICAL CODE ADOPTION

Date of Issue: December 4, 2015

No: IB-EL 2015-06

Scope:

This Bulletin provides guidance with regard to the use of the 2012 and 2015 Electrical Code editions, permits and performance of regulated electrical work.

Adoption:

The Electrical Safety Regulation has been amended as per the attached Ministerial Order, and is effective as of February 29, 2016. This provides for adoption of the 2015 Canadian Electrical Code, with BC amendments, as the BC Electrical Code 2015. Please also see appended Ministerial Order.

BC Electrical Code Regulation 2012 remains in effect until February 28, 2016.

Electrical Permits & Field Safety Representative Exams:

- Effective February 29, 2016, all of the electrical work performed under an installation permit, installation work performed under an operating permit, or a gas or elevating device permit, must be performed in accordance with the BC Electrical Code 2015.
- Effective February 29, 2016, all exams will be based on the BC Electrical Code 2015.
- Exams that are written prior to February 29, 2016, will be based on the BC Electrical Code Regulation 2012.
- Installation permits issued prior to December 2, 2015, will require work to be done according to the BC Electrical Code Regulation in effect at the time of issuance.
- For permits obtained after December 2, 2015 and before February 29, 2016, and for installations done under an operating permit during this time, the electrical work will be based on the BC Electrical Code Regulation 2012, except under an approved variance.



To request a variance, within BCSA jurisdictions, the permit application must state the following under *Description of Work*: **Variance requested to utilize the BC Electrical Code 2015 for work performed under this permit.** Issuance of the permit is considered to be acceptance of the variance request. There is no fee for the variance in BCSA jurisdictions. Note that **all** work performed under the permit must be in compliance with the BC Electrical Code 2015, as a condition of the variance. Please check with [municipal authorities](#) having jurisdiction for their permit requirements.

Ulrich Janisch Safety Manager, Electrical



Enclosure:
Ministerial Order No. M 392

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British Columbia Safety Authority
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PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
REGULATION OF THE MINISTER OF NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT AND
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING AND DEPUTY PREMIER

Safety Standards Act

Ministerial Order No. M 392

I, Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing and Deputy Premier, order that, effective February 29, 2016, the Electrical Safety Regulation, B.C. Reg. 100/2004, is amended as set out in the attached Appendix.

DEPOSITED

December 2, 2015

B.C. REG. 222/2015

DEC 01 2015

Date



Minister of Natural Gas Development and
Minister Responsible for Housing
and Deputy Premier

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: *Safety Standards Act*, S.B.C. 2003, c. 39, s. 88 (2) (s)

Other: M58/2004

November 23, 2015

R/828/2015/97

APPENDIX

- 1 *Section 20 of the Electrical Safety Regulation, B.C. Reg. 100/2004, is repealed and the following substituted:*

Canadian Electrical Code adopted as B.C. Electrical Code

- 20 The Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, Twenty-third Edition, Safety Standard for Electrical Installations, Canadian Standards Association Standard C22.1-15, amended as set out in the Schedule to this regulation and including any errata, is adopted as the B.C. Electrical Code 2015.
- 2 *The Schedule is repealed and the following substituted:*

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS FOR PURPOSES OF ADOPTING CANADIAN ELECTRICAL CODE AS B.C. ELECTRICAL CODE 2015

- 1 *For the purposes of section 20 of this regulation, the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, Twenty-third Edition, Canadian Standards Association Standard C22.1-15, is adopted as if it were amended as follows:*
- (a) *in section 0 by deleting the definition of "Electrical contractor" and substituting the following:*
- "Electrical contractor"** means a licensed electrical contractor, as defined in the Electrical Safety Regulation;
- "National Building Code of Canada", "National Building Code of Canada or local building legislation"** or words of similar effect, except in Appendix C, mean the British Columbia Building Code and local building bylaws;
- "National Fire Code of Canada"** means the British Columbia Fire Code; ;
- (b) *in section 2 by repealing rule 2-104 (1);*
- (c) *in section 10 by repealing rule 10-802 (1) and substituting the following:*
- (1) The grounding conductor may be insulated or bare.
- (1.1) Subject to sub-rules (1.2) and (1.3), the grounding conductor must be made of copper.
- (1.2) The grounding conductor may be made of aluminum if installed in a dry location.
- (1.3) The grounding conductor may be made of a material other than copper or aluminum if special permission is obtained under rule 2-030. ;
- (d) *in section 18 by amending rule 18-002 by adding the following to the definition of "Explosive dust atmosphere":*
- For certainty, dust, fibres, or flyings arising from the processing or handling of wood, when mixed with air under atmospheric conditions, are conclusively deemed to be

flammable substances that, after ignition, permit self-sustaining propagation for the purposes of this definition. ;

(e) in Appendix B

(i) by adding the following note to rule 10-002 (1):

Rule 10-002(1)

The object of bonding is to have an impedance sufficiently low in order to

- (a) facilitate the operation of the overcurrent devices in the circuit on the occurrence of a fault of negligible impedance from an energized or phase conductor to exposed metal, and
- (b) limit the duration of the voltage above ground on this exposed metal. This object is accomplished by means of completing the fault path of the bonding arrangement of the consumer's installation which would normally have to be such that a current of not less than 5 times the rating of the overcurrent device protecting the circuit will flow on the occurrence of a fault of negligible impedance via a bonding conductor back to the solidly ground source. ,

(ii) by amending the note to rule 12-1204 by striking out "3.1.5.15, 3.15.17," and substituting "3.1.5.16,"

(iii) by amending the note to rule 12-3000 by striking out "Subsections 9.25.3 and 9.25.4" and substituting "Subsections 9.25.3 and 9.25.4 and Article 9.36.2.9,"

(iv) by adding the following to the note to rule 32-110:

Article 2.1.3.3 of the British Columbia Fire Code permits battery-powered fire alarms in some circumstances. , *and*

(v) by amending the note to rule 46-108 by striking out "Section 3.2.6" and substituting "Sections 3.2.6 and 3.2.7";

(f) in Part G3. of Appendix G

(i) by repealing the following reference:

Rule 2-122 3.8.1.5., Mounting height of electrical controls in barrier-free areas
and substituting the following:

Rule 2-122 3.8.3.21., Mounting height of electrical controls in accessible areas ,

(ii) by repealing the following reference:

Rule 2-312 3.8.1.5., Mounting height of electrical controls in barrier-free areas
and substituting the following:

Rule 2-312 3.8.3.21., Mounting height of electrical controls in accessible areas ,

(iii) by repealing the following reference:

Section 26 3.8.3.3.(5), Power-operated barrier-free doors
and substituting the following:

Section 26 3.3.1.13. and 3.8.3.5., Power-operated accessible doors ,

(iv) by repealing the following reference:

Section 26 3.8.3.7., Assistive listening device systems

and substituting the following:

Section 26 3.8.3.20., Assistive listening device systems ,

(v) by repealing the following reference:

Section 38 3.3.1.7.(1),, Protection of conductors for elevator used in barrier-free floor
area

and substituting the following:

Section 38 3.8.3.19.(1),, Protection of conductors for elevator used in accessible floor
area , and

(vi) by repealing the following reference:

Section 38 3.8.3.5., Elevators in barrier-free floor areas

and substituting the following:

Section 38 3.8.3.10., Elevators in accessible floor areas .