

# ELECTRICAL

## OPERATING PERMITS



[technicalsafetybc.ca/electrical-operating-permits](https://technicalsafetybc.ca/electrical-operating-permits)

### Who is Technical Safety BC?

Technical Safety BC is an independent, self-funded organization that oversees the safe installation and operation of technical systems and equipment across the province. In addition to issuing permits, licences and certificates, we work with industry to reduce safety risks through assessment, education and outreach, enforcement, and research.

### What is an operating permit?

An operating permit ensures that a qualified individual is responsible for your technical equipment on your premises. This includes the safe operation, maintenance and inspection of equipment, as well as ensuring that the appropriate records are maintained and available on request by our safety officers.

### Why do you need an operating permit?

You need an operating permit to:

- satisfy requirements for operation and maintenance of electrical equipment specified in the Safety Standards General Regulation, Section 18 and BC Electrical Code Regulation, Rule 2-300; and
- ensure that maintenance of electrical equipment is monitored by qualified individuals.

### Who needs an operating permit?

Either the owner of the electrical equipment or the owner/agent of the premises where the electrical equipment is being maintained must obtain an electrical operating permit. Some examples are shown below:

- buildings with elevators;
- educational facilities;
- commercial properties;
- manufacturing and processing facilities;
- multi-occupancy office or residential buildings; or
- recreational facilities, schools, hospitals, & municipal sites.

### When is an operating permit required?

An operating permit is required for electrical equipment when:

- the electrical supply is greater than 250 kVA;
- the electrical supply is provided to privately-owned equipment (non-utility) greater than 750 volts (exception: high voltage neon signs);

- the rated service capacity of electrical equipment (e.g., main service switch, main transforming equipment, electrical panel, or transformer) is capable of handling an electrical supply of over 250 kVA.

The electrical equipment or system is:

- an operation or design that requires regular or ongoing maintenance; or
- operated or maintained for an emergency service; or
- part of a fire alarm system.

### Benefits of having an operating permit

The benefits of holding an operating permit include:

- allowing you to install new equipment, relocate equipment, or make minor alterations such as adding lighting, wiring or plugs, without having to take out multiple electrical installation permits
- having a qualified person in control of the maintenance of your property's electrical system;
- knowing you have done your due diligence as a property owner or manager; and
- protecting your investment by ensuring that your electrical system is safe and compliant with the requirements of the BC Electrical Code and Safety Standards Act.

### How do I get an operating permit?

An application form has been included in the email for you to fill out and send back to us.

#### Your application must include:

The name and registration number of the Field Safety Representative (FSR) responsible for your site. An FSR is an individual certified by Technical Safety BC. This individual may be your own qualified employee, the electrical contractor you hire, or your contractor's qualified employee.

Your application must also include the service capacity for your premises.

Once your application has been submitted to Technical Safety BC and approved, you will be sent an invoice. Once Technical Safety BC has received payment, your operating permit will be provided to you.

For more information on how to obtain an electrical operating permit please visit our website or contact us: 1 866 566 7233

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