

## **Contractor Licensing – Impact on Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) and their affiliates, or electrical contractors**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this document is to communicate the new provincial licensing requirements under the Licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electrician Regulation 570/05 and when these new requirements apply and don't apply to LDCs, their affiliate companies or electrical contractors working for an LDC. Examples of when a licence is required and when it is not are described below.

**BACKGROUND:** In order to operate an electrical contracting business in Ontario, a contractor must obtain a licence from the Electrical Contractor Registration Agency of the Electrical Safety Authority (ECRA/ESA) before January 1, 2007. Applications must be received on or before November 30, 2006.

The new Regulation was developed at the request of the electrical industry to establish consistent province-wide licensing requirements, increase safety compliance, and provide a standard for enforcement.

There are three different types of licences that are being issued and are described in the attached reference guide "Moving Towards Provincial Licensing" or through the licensing website [www.esaecra.info](http://www.esaecra.info) or by contacting ESA at 1-877-372-7233 and press 3 for Licensing. As a minimum most LDCs, their affiliate companies or high voltage contractors would qualify under category C which is the Provisional Electrical Contractor Licence.

**LICENSING EXEMPTIONS:** All work that falls within the scope of O. Reg. 22/04 Electrical Distribution Safety is excluded from the licensing requirements. For example:

- If an electrical contracting business performs work under O. Reg. 22/04 for a Licenced Distributor, as described in "section 2 Application", the contracting business is exempt from the licensing requirements.
- If an LDC or an LDC affiliate company performs work under O. Reg. 22/04 for a Licenced Distributor, as described in "section 2 Application", the company is exempt from the licensing requirements.

**WHEN LICENSING APPLIES:** An Electrical Contractor Licence/Provisional Electrical Contractor Licence is required when an LDC, or an LDC affiliate company or an electrical

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## Electrical Distribution Safety

contracting business performs any work, including emergency repair work, that falls within the scope of the O. Reg. 164/99, the Ontario Electrical Safety Code. Work that falls within the scope of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code - including work that is performed on the customer side of the ownership demarcation point - is described in section 2(4) and (6) of O. Reg. 22/04.

For example, if an electrical contracting business or an LDC company performs work on installations that must comply with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code such as municipally owned streetlights or customer owned equipment (or installations that are not owned by a licensed distributor), the LDC company or the electrical contractor must have a Contractor Licence.

### Master Electrician Licence - Category A

Category A combined with Category B allows a company to perform all types of electrical work that falls within the Electrical Safety Code.

Typically an LDC or LDC affiliate or electrical contractor who employs staff that are licenced professional engineers, certified technicians or technologists registered with OACETT or hold a valid Certificate of Qualification **and** who pass the ECRA/ESA exam meet the technical requirements of Category A. The company can then apply for an Electrical Contractor Licence, which is Category B.

### Provisional Electrical Contractor Licence - Category C

Category C allows a company such as an LDC to continue to perform limited types of electrical work, under the Electrical Safety Code, for which their staff is certified but where the company does not currently have a Designated Master Electrician. This will allow LDCs and their affiliates to continue to perform electrical work on customer owned substations, high voltage power lines or outside low voltage wiring such as streetlights.

The Provisional Electrical Contractor Licence provides up to a maximum of 5 years for a business to comply with the Master Electrician requirement.