

## 2018 CANADIAN ELECTRICAL CODE

**SUBJECT: Section 0 — Object, scope, and definitions**

### Scope

#### Retroactive Application of Requirements

The following is intended as an explanation for code updates which contain more stringent requirements than those contained in a previous code edition, and the impacts of those changes on existing electrical installations.

Upon adoption of a new edition of a Code, an existing installation in compliance with the previous edition of the Code(s) in force at the time of the installation is generally not required to be upgraded to meet the requirements of the newly adopted Code.

There have been instances, however, where an existing installation is deemed to pose an unacceptable risk, despite having met the requirements in force at the time it was constructed. In those cases, new legislation is normally introduced to mandate that the installation be brought to current Code requirements. An example would be the mandating of smoke alarms in the late 1970s to be installed retroactively in all homes, old and new.

Modifications to an existing installation that introduce changes to the characteristics of the installation would require that part or all of the installation be made to comply with the requirements of the current Code in force at the time the modifications are made. This should be discussed with the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) prior to design / construction.

#### Street Lighting and Primary Metered Installations

Supply authorities have traditionally installed, operated and maintained street-lighting and high voltage distribution facilities. Due to deregulation, some supply authorities have divested themselves of the street-lighting portion of their operations or allowed for the primary metering of high voltage distribution systems. Other organizations, such as municipal and/or provincial transportation departments, are taking over these installations. It is not clear as to which electrical code applies, the CE Code, Part I, or the AEUC.

In Alberta, two electrical codes are adopted and in force:

- The Canadian Electrical Code (CE Code), Part I for use by other than the Supply Authority in the exercise of its function as an electric utility;

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Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, 2018.

Issue of this STANDATA is authorized by  
the Provincial Electrical Administrator

*[Original Signed]*

Clarence C. Cormier, P.Eng.

The logo for the province of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized, cursive script font, followed by a small blue square.

- The Alberta Electrical Utility Code (AEUC), which indirectly adopts the CE Code, Part III, No. 1 and 7 with amendments, for use by the Supply Authority in the exercise of its function as an electric utility.

Ownership notwithstanding, if the street lighting installation or primary metered distribution system is under the care and control of the Supply Authority, it shall meet the requirements of the AEUC. If, however, these installations are under the care and control of an organization other than the Supply Authority, they shall meet the requirements of the CE Code, Part I.

Accredited corporations that are authorized to provide services under both the CE Code, Part I and the AEUC may do so according to the applicable scope.

*Disclaimer:*

*The information in this bulletin is not intended to provide professional design advice. If professional expertise is required with respect to a specific issue or circumstance, the services of a professional should be sought.*