Safety Notice and Guideline for Electrical Equipment Certification

Introduction

Installation and use of uncertified electrical equipment and appliances may pose potential electrical hazards to the public, workers and students. The purpose of this notice and guideline is to outline criteria for the purchase and installation of electrical equipment and appliances and to ensure compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and other applicable Codes and Standards.

Code, Regulations and Standard

The following Codes and Regulations define the standards for safe electrical products and installations in Ontario, and when followed, protect the public.

- Ontario Regulation 164/99 (Electrical Safety Code) of the Electricity Act
- Ontario Regulation 438/07 (Product Safety) of the Electricity Act
- Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC)
- Ontario Regulation 851 (Industrial Establishment) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act

The OESC and O.Reg.438/07 requires:
Rule:2-022 Sale or Other Disposal and Use
- No person shall use, advertise, display, sell, offer for sale or other disposal any electrical equipment unless it has been approved in accordance with Rule 2-024 and Ontario Regulation 438/07.

Rule:2-024 Approval of Electrical equipment
- Electrical equipment is deemed to be approved if it has been approved according to the process set out in section 2 of Ontario Regulation 438/07.

Only equipment bearing a recognized mark or label (see Appendix A) is deemed to be approved. Failure to comply with these Rules or the Regulation is an offence and upon conviction, a person or director/officer of a corporation could be found liable to a fine of up to $50,000 and/or imprisonment of not more than a year. A corporation may be found liable to a fine up to $1,000,000.

The Electrical Safety Authority has been designated under the Ontario Regulation to enforce the Electricity Act and Regulations, including the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, Ontario Regulation 164/99.
Certification and Approval

Electrical products can only be certified by agencies that have been accredited by the Standards Council of Canada.

Electrical products can be approved by:
1. Obtaining a certification mark or field evaluation label from a recognized certification/testing agency. A list of recognized certification and field evaluation agencies can be found in http://www.esasafe.com/GeneralPublic/epa_002D.php.
2. Obtaining an Electrical Safety Authority registration number for the product manufacturer.

Purchase and Installation Requirements

All electrical products sold, displayed or connected to a source of power must be approved by a recognized certification agency in Ontario. Only equipment bearing a recognized mark or label (see Appendix A) is deemed to be approved. No other product approval markings are accepted in Ontario.

When purchasing new electrical equipment, ensure the equipment supplier is aware of the requirement for approvals. Electrical products which have been imported from abroad are likely to require approval.

Electrical products that do not bear the recognized mark or label may be unsafe, and could pose serious electrical shock and/or fire hazards. Do not use this equipment until it receives the approval of one of the testing services acceptable to the ESA.

Research Equipment

Research equipment which is fabricated for, or modified for, research purposes, must be inspected and certified by the Canadian Standards Association or the Electrical Safety Authority before it is connected to a power source.

At York University, all equipment which requires hard-wiring must be installed by Campus Services and Business Operations (CSBO).

Prepared by:
Department of Occupational Health and Safety and Insurance and Risk Management.

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Appendix A

Recognized Certification Marks (Ref. Electrical Safety Authority)

Products approved for use in Ontario will bear one of the following markings -

Recognized Certification Markings

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Recognized Component Certification Markings
Note: Electrical components bearing these marks may have restrictions on their performance or may be incomplete in construction, and are intended to be used as part of a larger approved product or system. The Component Recognition marking is found on a wide range of products, including some switches, power supplies, printed wiring boards, some kinds of industrial control equipment and thousands of other products.

**Recognized Field Evaluation Agency Markings**

![Recognized Field Evaluation Agency Markings](image)

**Recognized Panel-Only* Field Evaluation Agency Markings**

![Recognized Panel-Only* Field Evaluation Agency Markings](image)

* NOTE: “PANEL ONLY” label identifies that the panel has been evaluated to the SPE-1000. It does not cover equipment that is added or connected to the panel.