

**OFFICE CONSOLIDATION**

**BYLAW NUMBER 55M89**

**Being A Bylaw Of The City Of Calgary Respecting Inspection  
And Supervision Of Electrical Installation And Regulations  
And Licensing Of Electricians And Repealing Bylaw Number  
56M86 And Amendments Thereto.**

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(Amended by Bylaw Number's 5M90, 54M95, 55M96, 45M97, 52M98, 26M99, 43M2001, 43M2002, 44M2003, 54M2004, 62M2005, 63M2005, 64M2005, 55M2006, 56M2006, 61M2008)

**WHEREAS** the *Municipal Government Act* enables, among other things, that Council of a Municipality may by Bylaw provide for the inspection and supervision of Electrical Installations, and the regulation and licensing of electrical workers;

**AND WHEREAS**, it is deemed expedient and necessary to repeal Bylaw No. 56M86 and amendments thereto, and to provide for the inspection and supervision of electrical installations, and to regulate and license electrical workers;

**NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CALGARY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

**TITLE**

1. This Bylaw may be cited as "The Electrical Regulations, Licensing, Installation and Inspection Bylaw".

**INTERPRETATION**

2. In this Bylaw
  - (a) "*Board of Certification*" means the Board of Certification of Electricians, Communication Electricians, and other electrical workers created pursuant to the provisions of this City of Calgary Bylaw and passed in amendment thereof or in substitution or addition therefore.
  - (b) "*Canadian Electrical Code Part I*" means a voluntary code, for adoption and enforcement by Electrical Inspection Authorities.
  - (c) "*Certification Electrical Equipment*" means electrical equipment constructed to conform with the Canadian Standards Association Part II Specifications and certified by an acceptable laboratory as conforming with those specifications.
  - (d) "*Chief Electrical Inspector*" means the person designated as responsible for the administration of the Electrical Inspection Division and for the supervision and inspection of electrical installations and electrical equipment in accordance with this Bylaw.

- (e) "*Communications Electrician*" means a person who holds a valid and subsisting Communication Electricians Certificate issued under the *Manpower Development Act* and the regulations passed thereunder.
- (f) "*Current Permit*" means a permit which authorises a supply authority to supply electric energy to an electrical installation.
- (g) "*Electrical Equipment*" means any apparatus, appliance, device, instrument, fitting, fixture, machinery, material used in, or for, the generation, transformation, transmission, distribution, supply, or utilisation of electric power or energy, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing includes any assemblage or combination of materials which is used, or is capable of being used or adapted to serve or perform a particular purpose or function when connected to an Electrical installation, notwithstanding that any of such materials may be mechanical, metallic, or non-electric in origin.
- (h) "*Electrical Inspection Division*" means the division of the City of Calgary Electric System which has charge of the inspection of Electrical Installations and of persons engaged therein, the issuance of Permits and such other duties that may ensure compliance with the regulations under the *Electrical Protection Act* set by the Province of Alberta and by the City of Calgary under this Bylaw.
- (i) "*Electrical Inspector*" means the person or persons designated to carry out inspections in accordance with this Bylaw.
- (j) "*Electrical Installation*" means the installation of any wiring in or upon any land, building or premises from the point or points where electric power or energy is delivered therein or thereon by the supply authority or from any other source of supply, to the point or points where such power or energy can be used therein or thereon by the Electrical Equipment and shall include the connection of any such wiring with any of the said equipment, and any part of the wiring aforesaid, and shall also include the maintenance, alteration, extension and repair of such wiring.
- (k) "*Electrician*" means a person who holds a valid and subsisting Electricians Certificate issued under the *Manpower Development Act* and the regulations passed thereunder.
- (l) "*Master Electrician*" means a person who is the holder of a Master Electrician Certificate issued by the Board of Certification.
- (m) "*Network Area*" means area designated from time to time by the supply authority from which electric energy is supplied from a high capacity interconnected secondary voltage network.
- (n) "*Permit*" means an electrical permit issued by the City of Calgary Electrical Inspection Division.
- (o) "*Plant Electrician*" means an Electrician who as a permanent employee performs Electrical Installations exclusively on business premises of his employer which said employer is required to obtain Permits for such Electrical Installations from the Electrical Inspection Division.

- (p) "*Regulations*" means the regulations established under the *Electrical Protection Act* by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of Alberta, any amendments added thereto and by bylaw of the City of Calgary.
  - (q) "*Service/Meter Cut-out Permit*" means a permit authorising the breaking of a meter seal in order to accommodate the removal of the electrical meter from the meter base.
  - (r) "*Supply Authority*" means the City of Calgary Electric System or an electrical distribution system as defined under the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, R.S.A. 1980, Chapter H-13, and amendments thereto.
  - (s) "*Temporary Current Permit*" means a permit which authorises a supply authority to supply electric energy to an electrical installation where wiring is in progress and not complete.
  - (t) "*The Act*" means the *Electrical Protection Act*, R.S.A. 1980, Chapter E6, and amendments thereto.
3. Any term not herein defined shall have the meaning defined in the *Electrical Protection Act* and the regulations passed thereunder.

#### **PERMITS**

4. (1) All persons, firms or corporations within the corporate limits of the City of Calgary who are eligible to install Electrical Installations for the use of electrical energy supply by the City of Calgary Electric System shall, before commencing or doing any Electrical Installation of any kind whatsoever, including, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the installation of any new Electrical Equipment, or repairing or altering or adding to any Electrical Installation or equipment already installed, shall file with and obtain approval of an application for a Permit therefor from the Electrical Inspection Division.
- (2) In addition to the normal Permits required, individual Permits will be required for Temporary Wiring, Fire Alarm Systems including but not limited to ancillary devices, Communication Installations and for the connection of Electrical Signs.
- (3) In addition to those Permits referred to 4(a) and (b) above, a Service/Meter Cut-out Permit shall be acquired prior to the disconnection of any Electrical service and Meter, or either of them.
- (4) Permits are not transferable.
- (5) Permits are issued only to the firms or persons performing the work described on the Permit.
- (6) Permit holders shall immediately notify the Electrical Inspection Division upon completion of an Electrical Installation.
- (7) (a) Except by special permission of the Chief Electrical Inspector, Permits shall be void if the electrical installation is not commenced within 90 days

of the date of issuance of the Permit or if there has been no progressive work for a period of 90 days.

- (b) The Chief Electrical Inspector may grant an extension of the period of validity of a Permit for not more than 90 days.

5. The persons, firms or corporations eligible to apply for a Permit under Section 4 shall be:

- (a) an owner of an electrical contracting firm licensed in the City of Calgary who is certified as a Master Electrician in the Province of Alberta and licensed by authority of the Board of Certification and who is available on a full time basis to the said electrical contracting firm during normal working hours in the City of Calgary.
- (b) an Electrician employed by an electrical contracting firm licensed in the City of Calgary and who is certified as a Master Electrician in the Province of Alberta and licensed by authority of the Board of Certification and who is available on a full time basis to the said electrical contracting firm during normal working hours in the City of Calgary.
- (c) the Plant Electrician of any industrial, commercial, or other establishment shall apply for an Annual Maintenance Permit.
- (d) an owner of a communication installation firm which is registered with the City of Calgary Electrical Inspection Division and employs a Communication Electrician who is available on a full time basis to the communication installation firm during normal working hours in The City of Calgary for the installation of communication conductors and the connection of related communication equipment.
- (e) a person who owns and resides in a single family dwelling in the City of Calgary and the Electrical Installation is to be made by that person in that single family dwelling, but notwithstanding the foregoing, a permit shall not be issued to such person for work relating to Electrical Installation of main service equipment, swimming pools, therapeutic pools or tubs and hot tubs.
- (f) the Master Electrician, eligible to apply for a Permit, who employs electrical workers shall be available on a full time basis during normal business hours to supervise electrical workers in the City of Calgary.

6. Every application for a Permit shall:

- (a) be made in the form prescribed by the Chief Electrical Inspector; and
- (b) be signed by the applicant; and
- (c) state that all material used in Electrical Installation shall conform to and be installed in accordance with The Act, the regulations passed thereunder and the provisions of this Bylaw; and
- (d) describe the nature of the Electrical Installation to be installed; and
- (e) state the municipal address of the proposed work; and

- (f) contain any and all other information necessary to comply with this Bylaw and the requirements of the Chief Electrical Inspector; and
  - (g) be accompanied by the applicable fees as designated in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
7. The Chief Electrical Inspector may refuse to issue a Permit or may revoke any Permit issued hereunder for non-compliance with the Act, and Regulations, or the provisions of this Bylaw.

**ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PERMITS**

8. (1) An Annual Maintenance Permit does not entitle the holder to effect major electrical alterations or additions to the establishment.
- (2) The holder of an Annual Maintenance Permit shall maintain at all times a log book providing an accurate record of all electrical alterations for maintenance which are carried out in establishment and shall produce the log book upon request by an Electrical Inspector.
- (3) The holder of an Annual Maintenance Permit may apply for a permit under section 5(c) which authorises major electrical alterations in or additions to the establishment if he first submits plans and specifications for examination to the Chief Electrical Inspector.
- (4) The number of inspections to be made at an establishment for which an Annual Maintenance Permit has been issued shall be in the sole discretion of the Chief Electrical Inspector.

**FEES**

9. Every person applying for an inspection shall tender therewith an inspection fee as set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming a part hereof.

**CURRENT PERMITS**

10. When a Current Permit is required for the connection of an Electrical Installation, the Electrical Inspection Division will issue same upon full completion of such installation, unless cause exists not to issue same.

**TEMPORARY CURRENT PERMITS**

11. (1) Notwithstanding Section 10, a Temporary Current Permit may be issued at the request of a Master Electrician for the connection of an Electrical Installation which is in progress and not complete.
- (2) The Master Electrician shall sign the electrical Permit application requesting service supply connection.

- (3) The Temporary Current Permit shall remain in effect until the Master Electrician who has requested same notifies the Electrical Inspection Division in writing that the Temporary Current Permit is no longer required.
- (4) When the Master Electrician notifies the Electrical Inspection Division in writing that the Temporary Current Permit is no longer required, he shall cause all Electrical Equipment to be disconnected from the supply and the Electrical Inspection Division shall cause the supply service to be disconnected.
- (5) Temporary Current Permits will only be issued to Master Electricians who are responsible for the complete Electrical Installation.

(B/L 5M90, 1990 January 8)

**POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR**

12. (1) The Chief Electrical Inspector or any Electrical Inspector may inspect or re-inspect all overhead, underground and interior wires and Electrical Equipment installed on or in private property.
- (2) The Chief Electrical Inspector or any Electrical Inspector may condemn any wiring or Electrical Equipment constituting a danger to life and/or property. The owner or occupant of the premises containing condemned Electrical Equipment shall be notified of the reason for the condemnation by the Electrical Inspection Division.
- (3) The Chief Electrical Inspector may cause the supply service wires to be disconnected should he deem any part of an Electrical Installation to constitute a danger to life or property.
- (4) The Chief Electrical Inspector or any Electrical Inspector may enter at any reasonable hour upon any property or building to inspect the Electrical Equipment or to carry out any of the provisions contained herein.
- (5) The Chief Electrical Inspector shall make a ruling on any question or dispute that may arise pertaining to the rules regarding the installation or maintenance of any Electrical Equipment designated to control or carry electrical energy and the decision of the Chief Electrical Inspector shall be final.
- (6) The Chief Electrical Inspector or any Electrical Inspector, when inspecting any Electrical Installation may require the owner or occupant of the premises to remove any obstructions in order to allow inspection of Electrical Equipment.
- (7) The Chief Electrical Inspector or any Electrical Inspector may, after inspection of any Electrical Installation, upon request and payment of the fee set out in Schedule "A" to this Bylaw, issue a certificate of the said inspection.

**PROHIBITIONS**

13. (1) No person shall install Electrical Equipment or alter or add to any existing Electrical Installation unless a Permit has been issued for such installation, alteration or addition by the Electrical Inspection Division.

- (2) No person shall cut, damage, alter, or interfere in any way with any electric wiring that has been inspected and approved by the Electrical Inspection Division.
- (3) No person shall cover up from view with lathing, boarding, insulation or other material, any Electrical Installation that has not been inspected and approved by the Electrical Inspection Division.
- (4) No person shall install Electrical Equipment or connect same to any source of supply or turn on or use any electric energy in violation of any of the provisions contained herein.
- (5) No person shall use the Electrical Equipment which has been condemned until the condemnation has been remedied to the satisfaction of the Chief Electrical Inspector.
- (6) No person shall use or install any Electrical Equipment that does not meet the provisions of this Bylaw.
- (7) No person shall install, use or permit the use in any manner whatsoever of a fence within the corporate boundaries of The City of Calgary which is electrically energised.

**RULES**

14. (1) The rules governing the installation of Electrical Equipment in, upon or on land, buildings or structures shall be the rules and regulations laid down in the Canadian Electrical Code, any amendments or additions thereto as adopted under The Act, the provisions contained herein, and any supplementary regulations added thereto by Bylaw of the City of Calgary which are not inconsistent with the said Act and regulations thereto.
- (2) When any fuse is used as a consumer's over-current device in any Electrical Installation supplied from a system where the available fault current exceeds 10,000 amps (symmetrical), the said fuse shall be a high rupturing capacity type and shall be installed in an approved switch designed to reject any fuse other than a high rupturing capacity type fuse.
- (3) In any installation of underground electrical conductors whether the same are in a duct, conduit or directly buried the trench shall not be backfilled until an Electrical Inspector has affixed a tag certifying that he has examined and accepted the installation.

(B/L 5M90, 1990 January 8)

**ACCESS TO TENANTS OVER-CURRENT DEVICES**

15. In multiple occupancy buildings, each tenant shall have direct access to the over-current devices protecting his portion of the electrical distribution, and in the event that any tenant does not have such access, a separate accessible electrical room shall be provided for this purpose.

**ALTERATIONS**

16. The Chief Electrical Inspector may allow minor electrical alterations or additions to be made to any building; such electrical alterations or additions shall comply with the current requirements contained herein, the Act and any regulation passed thereunder.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if in the opinion of the Chief Electrical Inspector the existing electrical wiring in the building is considered hazardous then the entire Electrical Installation shall be made to comply with the current requirements contained herein, in the Act and any regulation passed thereunder.

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSTALLATION**

17. (1) This Bylaw shall not relieve any person, or corporation from liability for damage caused to property and injury or death to a person resulting from installation, alteration or modification of Electrical Equipment or wiring authorised by the provisions hereof or by a Permit or certificate issued hereunder.
- (2) The City of Calgary or any of its employees or agents shall not be liable for damage caused to property and injury or death to a person resulting from installation, alteration or modification, by a person or corporation of Electrical Equipment or wiring which has been authorised by the provisions hereof, or by Permit or certificate issued hereunder.

**BOARD OF CERTIFICATION**

18. (1) A Board of Certification shall be appointed annually by the Chief Electrical Inspector and shall consist of the Chief Electrical Inspector and the following persons:
- (a) one certified Electrician representing electrical workers;
  - (b) one certified Electrician representing employers of electricians.
- (2) All members of the Board of Certification shall be appointed for a term to be determined by the Chief Electrical Inspector but in no case shall the term be greater than two years.
- (3) A member or former member of the Board of Certification is eligible for re-appointment to the Board.
- (4) In the event that a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board of Certification by reason of death or resignation of a member or from any other cause other than expiration of the term for which a member is appointed,
- (a) the Chief Electrical Inspector shall, within 60 days of the vacancy, appoint a successor to fill the vacancy on the Board for the remainder of the term; or
  - (b) if the vacant position on the Board is that of the Chief Electrical Inspector, his position shall be filled by the Assistant Chief Electrical Inspector as designated by the Electrical Inspection Division.

**DUTIES OF THE BOARD**

19. Regulating and licensing electrical workers, providing or inquiry into their qualifications, examination of master electricians, electricians, communication electricians, foreman, overseers or managers and other electrical workers using the tools of the trade and desiring to engage in the work of installing electrical apparatus or fixtures within the municipality and granting or refusing certificates of qualification.

**MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION**

20. (1) The Board of Certification shall hold regular Board of at least three times a year at such times and in such places as the Board shall determine.
- (2) The Board of Certification need not follow formal rules of procedure but may set rules for its own procedure.
- (3) The Board of Certification shall appoint one of its members as chairman.

**POWERS OF THE BOARD**

21. The Board may:
- (a) certify Electricians who are holders of valid Province of Alberta Master Electrician Certificates in The City of Calgary for licensing for the purpose of Section 5 (b) hereof.
- (b) certify Plant Electricians who are holders of Province of Alberta Master or Electricians Certificates, and who are permanent employees performing Electrical Installations exclusively on employer business premises for licensing in The City of Calgary for the purpose of Section 5 (c).
- (c) certify Communication Electricians who are holders of valid Province of Alberta Communication Electricians Certificates for licensing in The City of Calgary for the purpose of Section 5 (d) hereof.

**OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

22. (1) A person who contravenes a provision of this Bylaw by
- (a) doing something which he is prohibited from doing, or
- (b) failing to do something which he is required to do, or
- (c) doing something in a manner different from that in which he is required or permitted to do by this Bylaw, or
- (d) allowing to remain in existence Electrical Equipment or an Electrical Installation which has been installed in contravention of the provisions of this Bylaw

## Bylaw Number 55M89

is guilty of an offence and is liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500.00 and not less than \$100.00 and costs, and upon failure to pay the fine and costs to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 90 days unless such fine and costs, including the cost of committal, are sooner paid.

- (2) Notwithstanding section 22 (1), a person convicted of an offence under this Bylaw for the second or subsequent time is liable to a fine of not less than \$300.00 and not more than \$500.00 and costs, and upon failure to pay the fine and costs to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 90 days unless such fine and costs including the costs of committal, are sooner paid.

### SCHEDULE

23. The document attached hereto and marked Schedule "A" shall form part of this Bylaw and shall be identified by the signature of the City Clerk.

### EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEAL OF BYLAW NUMBER 56M86 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO

24. The Bylaw Number 56M86 amended to the date of passage of this Bylaw is hereby repealed upon this Bylaw coming into force.
25. This Bylaw comes into force upon receiving third reading.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 1989

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 1989.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 1989.

(Sgd.) A. Duerr  
MAYOR

(Sgd.) J.E. Woodward  
CITY CLERK

**SCHEDULE "A"**

**TO THE ELECTRICAL REGULATIONS, LICENSING, INSTALLATION AND  
INSPECTION BYLAW**

(Amended by Bylaw 63M2005, 64M2005, 55M2006, 56M2006, 61M2008)

**Fees for Permits**

1. For the purposes of this Bylaw, "residential dwelling" means a single detached dwelling, semi-detached dwelling or duplex dwelling, as those terms are defined in the Calgary Land Use Bylaw, 1P2007, as amended.
2. The minimum fee for a permit for any Electrical Installation shall be \$65.00 which will be non-refundable and non-transferable. (One inspection only.)
3. For the construction of a new residential dwelling, a permit fee will be charged which includes the fees for building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing and gas permits, and is referred to as a Single Permit Fee. The electrical portion of the Single Permit Fee, shall be calculated based on the estimated construction costs of the new construction, and shall be \$0.58 per \$1,000.00 of construction costs or part thereof.
4. Fees for residential dwellings (other than new residential dwellings), multi-family dwellings, commercial, industrial, fire alarm systems, and electrical sign installations shall be based on the electrical costs so that:
  - (a) When an applicant provides labour and material for an electrical installation, the permit fees shall be based on the charge to the customer for applicable electrical equipment used and all electrical work performed; and
  - (b) When an applicant provides only labour for an electrical installation, the permit fee shall be based on the charge to the customer for all electrical work performed plus the cost of applicable electrical equipment supplied by the customer.
  - (c) Fees charged under this Section shall be calculated at \$7.60 per \$1,000.00 or part thereof. There shall be a minimum processing fee charge of \$65.00.
5.
  - (a) If any person starts the installation of an electrical installation prior to obtaining the required permit, the applicant shall pay, prior to the issuance of the appropriate permit, an additional fee equal to the greater of \$120.00, or the fee as calculated in Sections 2, 3, or 4, as applicable, based on the estimated construction cost of the work done without a permit.
  - (b) Emergency work may proceed after hours without first obtaining a Permit, in which case the permit application shall be made on the first working day following commencement of the emergency work.

- (c) Despite Subsection (a), an officer may waive permit fees if, in the opinion of the officer, the work is required to be done on an emergency basis or extenuating circumstances exist.
- 6. Fees for each concession at Fairs and Exhibitions shall be \$13.00 or as determined by the Electrical Inspection Section.
- 7. Fees for Plan Acceptance:
  - (a) Shall be on a per hour basis or fraction thereof, at a rate of \$92.00 per hour per staff person.
  - (b) This fee shall be additional to the fees charged for inspection.
- 8. Fees for Homeowner Permits shall be:
  - (a) Basic Rate (maximum two (2) inspections) shall be \$65.00.
  - (b) Each additional inspection because of the size of the project shall be \$55.00.
- 9. Fees for additional inspections shall be charged as follows:
  - (a) If, in the opinion of the Safety Codes Officer, more than one inspection is necessitated by the failure of the contractor/owner to either ensure accessibility to a site for which the contractor/owner has requested an inspection, or the failure of the contractor/owner to ensure the correction of the same deficiency/ies notified through an inspection report, or work not being ready for the requested inspection, an additional fee of \$225.00 may be charged for each re-inspection.
  - (b) At the request of the contractor/owner and if agreed upon by the Safety Codes Officer, an additional inspection can be performed and for each additional inspection, a fee of \$92.00 will be charged if the inspection takes place Monday through Friday, excluding statutory holidays.
  - (c) At the request of the contractor/owner and if agreed upon by the Safety Codes Officer, an additional inspection can be performed and for each additional inspection, a fee of \$140.00 per hour per staff person, for a minimum of 4 hours, will be charged if the inspection takes place on a weekend or on a statutory holiday.
  - (d) The fee for an underground inspection of service to a residential dwelling or triplex or fourplex residential dwelling shall be \$40.00.
- 10. The fee for an Annual Maintenance Permit shall be at the hourly rate of \$92.00 per hour per staff person and based on the total hours performed over a 12-month period. The minimum fee for an Annual Maintenance Permit payable upon application shall be \$121.00.
- 11. The installation of Communication Systems shall require a permit, and the fees for all Communication Permits shall be based on Section 3 of this Schedule.

12. (a) Whenever an electrical Permit is cancelled or revoked, a refund shall be made to the applicant for the amount paid for such Permit, less a \$40.00 cancellation fee, plus \$92.00 for each inspection that has been made, including any electrical inspection which may be performed to ascertain what work has been done, and any fee for plan examination.
- (b) No refunds are payable for:
  - (i) Homeowner Permits
  - (ii) Annual Maintenance Permits
  - (iii) Service/Meter Cut-out Permits
13. Permit privileges may be revoked where fees and charges are not paid within 30 days of the billing date.
14. Where permit types are not specifically identified, fees shall be based upon the most comparable fee type.