



Dual Role of Electrical Regulators

by Ark Tsisserev, P.Eng.

The Canadian electrical safety system is an envy of many countries that use their installation codes for regulatory purposes.

This system is an excellent example of uniformity and consistency on application of the Canadian Electrical Code throughout jurisdictional areas of the country. The reason for such uniformity is based on the fact that all electrical inspection authorities adopting the CE Code for enforcement purposes actively partake in the development of this very document.

Organization and rules of procedure of the CE Code, Part I, are designed in such a way that not a single provincial/territorial electrical inspections body is omitted from participation on the CEC Technical Committee.

The matrix of the technical committee (Clause C2.3.1 of Appendix C of the CE Code) includes all thirteen provincial and territorial chief electrical inspectors as the committee members representing "Regulatory Authority." This approach is instrumental in ensuring that the CEC is adopted for use in all provincial and territorial jurisdictions as an applicable provincial/territorial electrical code. While some jurisdictions adopt the CE Code without any administrative or technical amendments, others make a few administrative/legal changes to Section 2 of

the CE Code, to reflect specifics of their particular administrative process. There are also a few provinces that choose to make some changes to the technical content of the CE Code, in order to recognize unique environmental, health or safety provisions.

For example, Electrical Safety Authority in Ontario, the sole electrical safety regulatory body in the province, has modified the CE Code for adoption and enforcement as the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, and this modification has been achieved through a comprehensive consensus based advisory process.

In addition to thirteen provincial/territorial chief electrical inspectors/code administrators, three municipal electrical inspections bodies are also included in the matrix of the technical committee on the CE Code, Part I. Traditionally these are three municipalities that are located in different areas of the country (from Atlantic, Pacific and prairie regions) and are governed by their unique municipal charter or by law have retained such membership.

For quite some time, the cities of Halifax, Winnipeg and Vancouver had been representing municipal electrical inspectors on the CE Code committee.

In the late 80s, when inspection responsibilities in Halifax had been assigned to Nova Scotia Power, the

created vacancy allowed the chief electrical inspector for the city of Calgary to join this dedicated group of experts.

Electrical inspectors participate in the Code committee not only as formal members in accordance with the Committee matrix. Various electrical inspectors are actively involved as chairs and members of technical sections subcommittees, selflessly committing their time and knowledge to the consensus process of the Code development.

It is interesting to note that the electrical inspectors category on the Code committee is only one of three categories that are recognized by the Appendix C matrix requirements.

Two other categories are: Owner/Operator/Producer and General Interest. While the owner/operator/producer group represents viewpoints of electrical installation users, electrical designers, contractors, manufacturers of electrical equipment, the general interest category reflects views of power and communication utilities, educators, labor, fire chief, and so forth. All areas of representation are clearly identified in Clause 3.1 of the CE Code Appendix C.

It is also interesting to note that in accordance with the CSA guidelines not a single category on the

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committee may dominate other categories of representatives. Thus, matrix allows a maximum of sixteen electrical inspectors (which is the present number on the committee) for a total of 41 committee members.

Appendix C of the CE Code also takes into account a fact that chief electrical inspectors on the committee may have regulatory/legal concerns related to some of the requirements proposed during a Code development process. As such, a specific tool has been developed to recognize these potential concerns - by establishing very clear provisions for a Regulatory Authority committee (RAC). RAC acts as the section subcommittee for legal amendments. RAC consists of all chief electrical inspectors who are members of the Code committee. Scope, mandate and operation of RAC are described in Section C3 of Appendix C. When a RAC member submits a negative vote during the committee discussion

process, this member must identify whether this negative vote is made on technical grounds only, or it manifests legal concerns related to a jurisdictional enforcement of the proposed requirement. This RAC member must provide a comprehensive and transparent substantiation of the negative that relates to the regulatory concerns and must (through the RAC deliberation process) derive at the acceptable alternative solution that could be adopted by the entire Code committee.

Such objective process certainly helps in avoiding any surprises when the CE Code is being adopted for regulatory use in each jurisdictional area.

This process allows the electrical safety regulators to continually “keep their finger on the pulse” of the CE Code practicability, as in their role as the technical enforcers of the adopted CE Code, they notice any

“imperfections” of this document. And when “imperfections” are noted, electrical inspectors try to make Code improvements by submitting proposals for technical amendments or by encouraging their customers (installers, designers, consumers) to participate in this continuing process.

No doubt - this is a great cycle, and a dual role of the electrical inspectors only brings this cycle to a desired perfection.

Ark Tsisserev, P.Eng., is the chief electrical inspector for the city of Vancouver, Canada. He is a registered professional engineer, with a master's degree in electrical engineering. He is currently the chairman of the technical committee on the Canadian Electrical Code and represents the CE Code Committee on NEC CMP-1 non-voting member. Ark is presently the third vice president of the Canadian Section.

Expiration of the Temporary Field Safety Representative Certificate of Qualification as of April 1, 2006

As we are all aware, the above expiration date is fast approaching. According to the Safety Standards Act and Regulations, a Temporary Field Safety Representative must become a Full Field Safety Representative before April 1, 2006 in order to continue to have the authorization to sign declarations, be named on a permit or perform any other duties required of a FSR.

To achieve Full FSR status and avoid possible disruption in your current activities, a FSR Certificate of Qualification examination class A, B or C must be completed.

In most cases, it would be beneficial to complete a recognized Electrical Code course prior to the exam as knowledge of the current

<http://www.safetyauthority.ca/services/esp/>

B-E7 050727 2 Temporary FSRs

CofQExpires April 1 2006.pdf

Act, Regulations, Codes and Standards is essential.

In order to assist the electrical industry in meeting the April 1st

deadline, BCIT will be offering additional Code classes and will endeavor to accommodate those who would like to complete the course with the least amount of interference in workplace. Courses can be customized to fit the needs of individuals and companies interested; evening or weekend courses can be scheduled.

If you are interested in scheduling a Code course or would like to discuss training options please contact us at (604) 453-4045.

Courtesy: Ted Simmons, Chief Instructor, Electrical Trades Programs, BCIT

Fire Pumps - Application and Installation Requirements

By Ark Tsisserev, P.Eng.

The CE Code, Part I, governs installation of various electrical equipment. A fire Pump is certainly also covered by the Code requirements. But in addition to the CEC, Part I, this type of electrical equipment must meet provisions of other important documents.

Let's check out these additional requirements.

Our first stop is the scope of Section 32-000(1). It states "This section applies to the installation of fire pumps required by the National Building Code of Canada" (NBCC). This means that unique requirements of Rules 32-200 - 32-212 do not have to apply for a pump installed in a water system, if this pump is not considered to be a "required fire pump" by the NBCC. This observation leads us to the second stop - NBCC.

Article 3.2.5.7 of the NBCC appears to be sufficiently clear in its intent. It states that "An adequate water supply for fire fighting shall be provided for every building." This is a well understood objective, but how does it correlate with a requirement for a fire pump? The answer may be found in A-3 of Appendix A to the NBCC.

Explanatory notes in A-3 on "Fire Fighting Assumptions" provide comprehensive clarification regarding the water supply requirements for fire protection installations. These notes indicate that acceptable water supplies may be furnished by various means, and that use of automatic fire pumps is one of such means. Further, Article 3.2.5.19 of the NBCC states the following: "If a fire pump is installed, it shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of

NFPA 20, "Standard for the installation of centrifugal fire pumps."

Appendix A Note on this NBCC Article explains that the Building Code provision to ensure an adequate water supply may be met by installing "a fire pump for a building that has either a stand pipe system or an automatic sprinkler system installed." What does it mean for us, electrical practitioners? It simply means that a Professional Electrical Engineer responsible for the design of the project must clearly understand whether an adequate water supply for fire fighting in the building is, in fact, dependent on an automatic fire pump. And if it is, then requirements of NFPA 20 and respective Rules in Section 32 of the CEC, Part I must apply.

Let's say that a fire pump is required to provide an adequate water supply mandated by the NBCC.

Thus, we're ready for the third stop - at NFPA 20. This standard provides elaborate criteria for installation of fire pumps and their auxiliary equipment. It mandates normal and alternate power supply sources, protection of feeder conductors against exposure to fire, selection of disconnecting means and over-current protection devices upstream from a fire pump controller and characteristics of the fire pump controller including alarm and signal devices on the controller. NFPA 20 also states that when the pump room is not constantly attended, the following audible and visible signals have to be provided at a point of constant attendance:

- a) Pump or Motor Running
- b) Loss of Phase
- c) Phase reversal

- d) Controller connected to Alternate source

Note: This point of constant attendance should be a fire alarm annunciator of the building fire alarm system. [Sentence 3.2.4.9(2) of the NBCC requires electrical supervision of a fire pump.]

These supervisory conditions are verified by the fire protection and electrical experts during commissioning of a fire pump at the installation site.

As we know, many requirements of NFPA 20 have been already incorporated in Rule 32-206 of the CEC. These requirements include a need for a separate automatic transfer switch for each fire pump and a special certification of this transfer switch for "fire pump service."

However, many other requirements of the NFPA 20 have only been recently adopted by the CEC, Part I Committee for inclusion into the 20th edition of the Code. These requirements will be mandating protection of conductors against exposure to fire, coordination of elected upstream o/c protection for a fire pump circuit with the o/c protection provided in the fire pump controller, when a fire pump is supplied from a normal power, and selection of the o/c protection for a fire pump feeder when the fire pump is supplied from an emergency generator. (The NBCC requires an emergency generator as a source of alternate power supply for an electrically connected fire pump). Thus, we are now ready for our final, fourth stop (which brings us back to a portion of Section 32 that is dedicated to fire pumps.)

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The Inspector

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Exact wiring of new fire pump requirements in the 20th Edition of the CEC is shown below. (Text in italics depicts new wording in the 20th edition of the CEC, Part I.)

Rule 32-200 has been modified to read:

32-200 Conductors (see Appendix B)

Conductors from the emergency power source to a fire pump shall:

(a) Have ampacity not less than:

(i) 125% of the full load current rating of the motor, where an individual motor is provided with the fire pump and

(ii) 125% of the sum of the full load currents of the fire pump, jockey pump and the fire pump auxiliary loads, where two or more motors are provided with the fire pump and

(b) Be protected against fire exposure to provide continued operation in compliance with the National Building Code of Canada.

Appendix B Note on Rule 32-200:

Intent of this rule is to protect the feeder conductors between a fire pump and an emergency power source from fire damage. The National Building Code of Canada requires that conductors supplying a life and fire safety equipment be protected against exposure to fire to ensure continued operation of this equipment for a period not less than 1 h.

NFPA 20 also mandates protection of circuits feeding fire pumps against possible damage by fire.

The following example illustrates acceptable methods for achieving this protection:

(a) Using mineral insulated cables conforming to fire rating requirements as specified in Clause 5.3 of the CSA Standard C22.2 No. 124 "Mineral Insulated Cable;"

(b) Embedding the raceway containing fire pump feeder conductors in not less than 50 mm of concrete;

(c) *Installing the raceway containing fire pump feeder conductors in a shaft enclosure or service space of at least 1 hour fire resistance construction.*

Specific requirements pertaining to the fire resistance rating of a material or an assembly of materials can be found in subsection 3.1.7 of the National Building Code of Canada or in the appropriate Provincial/Territorial Legislation.

Rule 32-204 has been amended by deleting Subrule (3) and by adding the following wording to Subrule (1):

32-204(1) A separate service box conforming to Rule 32-206 shall be permitted for fire pump equipment.

Rule 32-206 has been amended to read as follows:

32-206 Disconnecting Means and Overcurrent Protection.

(1) No device capable of interrupting the fire pump circuit, other than a circuit breaker specifically approved for fire pump service, shall be placed between the service box and a fire pump transfer switch or a fire pump controller.

(2) The circuit breaker referred to in Subrule (1) shall be labelled in a conspicuous, legible, and permanent manner identifying it as the fire pump power supply.

(3) The circuit breaker referred to in Subrule (1) shall be permitted to be used as a separate service box described in Rule 32-204.

(4) Where the circuit breaker conforming to this rule is installed in an emergency supply circuit between the emergency power source and the fire pump transfer switch, the rating or setting of the circuit breaker shall comply with rule 28-200.

(5) Where the circuit breaker conforming to this rule is installed in a normal supply circuit upstream of the fire pump controller, the rating or setting of the circuit breaker

shall be not less than the overcurrent protection that is provided integral with the fire pump controller.

Rule 32-206 has been renumbered as Rule 32-208 and Rule 32-208 has been deleted. Appendix B Note has been added on newly developed Rule 32-206 to read as follows:

Appendix B Note on Rule 32-206:

The intent of this rule is to only allow a circuit breaker specifically approved for a fire pump service to be installed upstream from the fire pump controller in a normal power supply circuit, or upstream from the fire pump transfer switch in an emergency power supply circuit. It is also intended by this rule that this circuit breaker could be used as a fire pump service box when permitted by Rule 32-204. When this circuit breaker is installed in the emergency power supply circuit, upstream from the fire pump transfer switch, then the circuit breaker overcurrent protection provided by requirements of Subrule (4) should be able to allow the fire pump operate up to locked rotor current condition. This will allow an emergency generator to provide necessary power to the required fire pumps while supplying all other loads connected to the generator. It is intended that compliance with rule 28-200 could be met by selecting overcurrent protection in conformance with Table D16.

The circuit breaker installed in the normal power supply circuit, upstream from the fire pump controller, should have a rating/setting that is coordinated with the integral overcurrent protection of the fire pump controller in such a manner that the upstream overcurrent device does not disconnect the circuit prior to the operation of the fire pump controller overcurrent protection.

Note: Clause 7-4.3.3. of NFPA 20(1999) requires that the controller have an instantaneous trip setting of not more than 20 times the full load

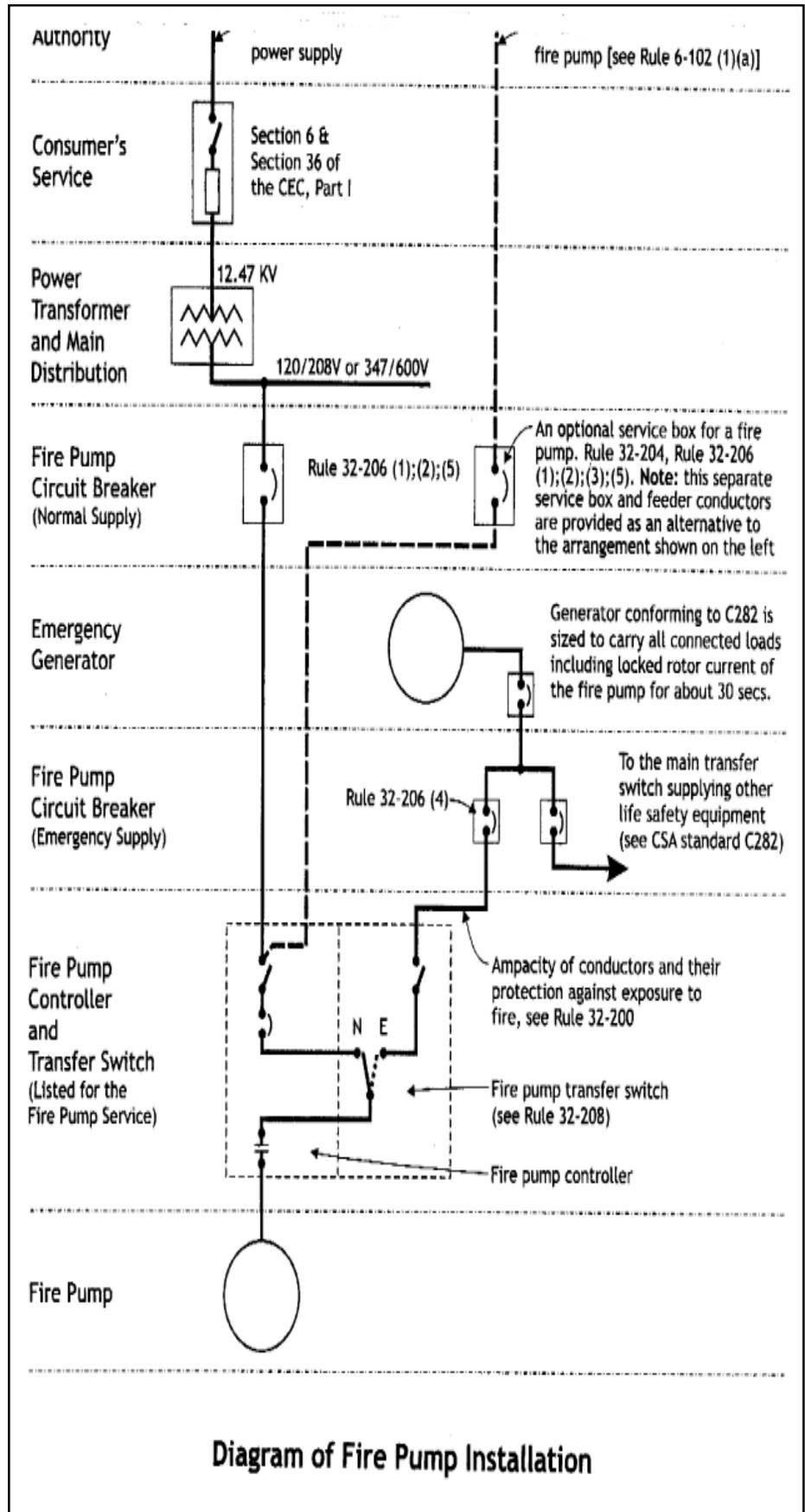
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 current. Clause 7-4.4 of NFPA 20 requires that a fire pump controller carry locked rotor current for a period of 8 to 20 seconds.

Reference to Appendix B has been deleted from the title to Rule 32-210 (as there is no Note in Appendix B on this rule.)

The following diagram is intended to clarify these new requirements of Section 32.

Thus, this little tour around application and installation requirements for fire pumps clearly indicates to the electrical practitioners that the use of the CE Code only, without understanding provisions of other Codes and Standards, may not be necessarily sufficient in order to meet intricate conditions for installation of this unique electrical and fire safety equipment. To be sure that this is done correctly, designers and installers are always invited to check with authorities having jurisdictional responsibility for enforcement of application and installation of fire pumps.



Awareness of Lightning Safety

By Kim Graziano and Michael G. Clendenin
Lightning strikes the United States as many as 20 million times each year. Because lightning traditionally causes more deaths than tornadoes or hurricanes and occurs when outdoor activity reaches a peak, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) and the Lightning Protection Institute (LPI) are reminding consumers and those who work outdoors of these lightning safety guidelines.

“Lack of awareness about what to do during thunderstorms seems to be a factor in many lightning injuries and deaths,” noted Michael G. Clendenin, executive director of ESFI.

Data from the National Weather Service shows that lightning strikes are fatal in approximately 10 percent of strike victims. Another 70 percent of survivors suffer serious long-term effects.

Outdoors is the most dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. If you hear thunder, take cover.

For protection in homes and buildings, consider contracting with an experienced LPI-certified lightning protection specialist to install a lightning protection system, which can intercept lightning strikes and guide the current harmlessly to the ground.

“The LPI certifies individuals through a master installer testing program to maximize safety through education,” says Bud VanSickle, executive director of the Lightning Protection Institute. “LPI-certified specialists are trained in accordance with national safety standards of LPI, The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL).”

ESFI and the Lightning Protection Institute recommend following these guidelines to stay safe during electrical storms:

- If outdoors, go inside. Look for a shelter equipped with a lightning protection system.
- Go to a low point. Lightning hits the tallest object. Get down if you are in an exposed area.
- Stay away from trees.
- Avoid metal. Don't hold metal items, including bats, golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets or tools. Avoid clotheslines, poles and fences.
- If you feel a tingling sensation or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Crouch down and cover your ears.
- Stay away from water. This includes pools, lakes, puddles and anything damp, such a wet poles or grass.
- Don't stand close to other people. Spread out.
- Once indoors, stay away from windows and doors. Do not use corded telephones except for emergencies.

- Unplug electronic equipment before the storm arrives and avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords during storms.
- Avoid contact with plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets. Do not take baths and showers during electrical storms.
- Don't forget pets during thunderstorms. Doghouses are not lightning-safe. Dogs that are chained can easily fall victim to a lightning strike.

Victims of lightning strikes should be given CPR if necessary, and seek medical attention.

LPI recommends contacting local lightning protection specialists for more information; or visit their website at www.lightning.org. For more information on electrical safety, visit ESFI's website at www.electrical-safety.org.

For additional electrical safety information, visit the Foundation's website at www.electrical-safety.org or call 703-841-3229.

Kim Graziano is communications consultant for LPI Marketing. Michael G. Clendenin is executive director of Electrical Safety Foundation International.

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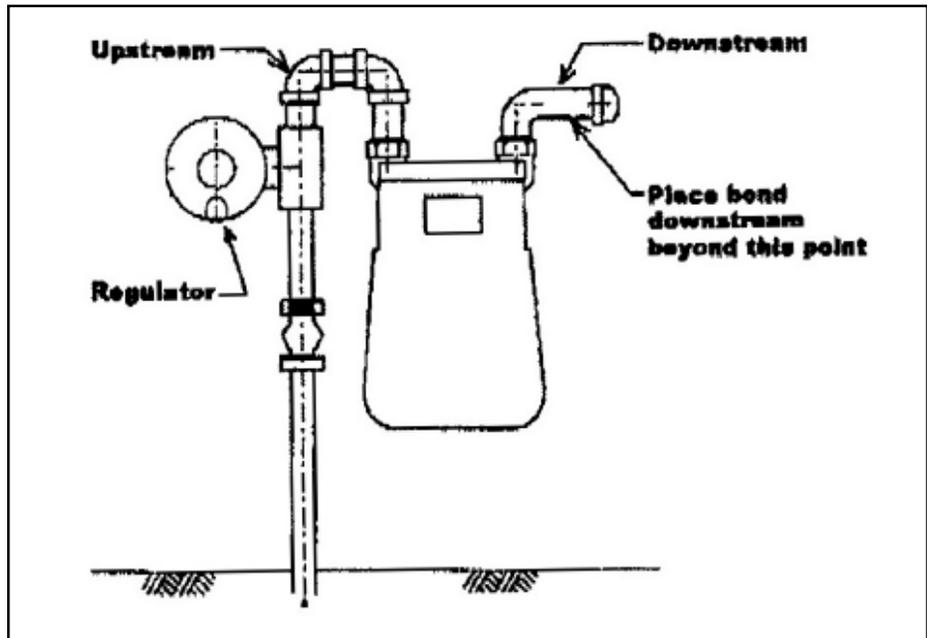
BCSA Safety Notice Electrical Bonding of Gas Piping

Code Requirements

The Electrical Code, section 10-002 (A), requires all metallic gas lines to be bonded to the electrical service ground in order to eliminate any electrical potential between those systems and ground. Bonding gas piping protects anyone working on or coming into contact with the gas piping from sustaining a current flow between two different potentials.

Specification

A bonding wire must be attached downstream of the meter set whether the service is steel or plastic and must not interfere with the ability to perform meter maintenance. To ensure a good connection, the bonding must be permanently attached and connected to steel piping only. For a combination steel/copper house line connection, the bonding should be installed on the steel piping as far from the meter connection as possible.



HUMOUR

Honest to a fault

A police officer pulls over a speeding car. The officer says, "I checked you at 80 miles per hour, sir."

The driver says, "Gee, officer I had it on cruise control at 60, perhaps your radar gun needs calibrating."

No looking up from her knitting the wife says: "Now don't be silly dear, you know that this car doesn't have cruise control."

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife and growls, "Can't you please keep your mouth shut for once?"

The wife smiles demurely and says, "You should be thankful your radar detector went off when it did."

The man glowers at his wife and says through clenched teeth, "Darn it, woman, can't you keep your trap shut?"

The officer frowns and says, "And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, sir. That's an automatic \$75 fine."

The driver says, "Yeah, well, you see officer, I had it on, but took it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my license out of my back pocket."

The wife says, "Now, dear, you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on. You never wear your seat belt when you're driving."

And as the police officer is writing out the third ticket the driver turns to his wife and barks, "WHY DON'T YOU PLEASE SHUT UP??"

The officer looks over at the woman and asks, "Does your husband always talk to you this way, Ma'am?"

*** I love this part ***

"Only when he's been drinking!"

The BC Safety Authority Proposes Installation Fee Increases for 2006

The BCSA is proposing significant installation fee increases for 2006. The increases vary considerably in accordance with the jobs size and what they claim is the degree of involvement. Following is a chart that will give you a quick snapshot as to the amount of the increases and a comparison with an example of municipal fees.

Job Size	2005	2006	% Increase	Municipal Fees
\$10,000	\$244	\$285	16.8	\$476
\$50,000	\$566	\$735	29.8	\$1,382
\$100,000	\$969	\$1,300	34.2	\$2,050
\$300,000	\$2,303	\$2,650	15.1	?
\$500,000	?	\$3,450	?	\$5,750

Compared to municipal fees, BCSA fees seem like a bargain, but what are you getting for your money? BCSA Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Trevor Fedyna provided the following explanation for the increases:

- 1. Historical Freezing of fees** - true fee rebalancing and analysis of fees hasn't been undertaken since the late 1990s. While there was a general inflation adjustment in 2004, that was based on the fee structure that reflected the old safety services model.
- 2. Structural costs** - the BCSA has undergone a significant amount of structural changes to its organization as it now stands outside of Government. Many of these services used to be provided some where else in the government bureaucracy, (i.e. finance Department, legal services, insurance, Government service agency fees, GST).
- 3. Enhanced Services** - the BCSA has increased services. For example:
 - 40 hour work week for technical staff
 - Over the phone purchasing
 - Acceptance of credit cards
 - Enhanced on-line access
- 4. 2006/2007 future costs** - increases that are beyond standard inflation rates, such as targeted increases in the number of certain types of field staff positions, recruitment and retention costs and customer service training costs.

It's of note that the fees themselves were not just arbitrarily increased. The advisory firm KPMG led the NCSA through a cost analysis that considered time and effort to provide each service item and the cost of each technology. KPMG's work provided a more rational basis for setting fees. There were also guiding principles to the process.

Those being:

- **Fairness** - is the fee fair to those who operate safely and efficiently and does it make steps towards the technology and service line item paying its own way.
- **Transparent** - clients must be consulted with regard to the fees and know what they can expect for each service.
- **Simple** - the price of a service should be relatively simple to determine and where possible fees should be consolidated and made consistent across technologies.
- **Motivate** - the fee should encourage safety and one way to do this is by having the unsafe pay a higher rate.

The result of this analysis is that not all fees in every technology have increased. The proposed fees have been adjusted to varying degrees. Depending on the technology and the service line item some proposed fees have gone down, some stayed the same, some experienced only modest increases, while others may have increased more substantially.

Additionally, although BCSA's fees are being proposed to increase in 2006, I am sure you will agree that they are reasonable in comparison to other jurisdictions in BC and Canada. Not all programs or fees can be compared due to differences in cost and program structures, but what comparisons do tell us is that our fees are "generally reasonable" and that we are generally not the price leaders.

Editor's Note: The new fee schedule is a draft proposal only and the BCSA is requesting feedback. The following two websites provide detailed schedules for current and proposed fees. The e-mail address will direct you comments to Trevor Fedyna.

Current Fees: <http://www.safetyauthority.ca/services/fees/index.html>

Proposed Fees: http://www.safetyauthority.ca/services/fees/proposed_fee_schedules_2006_2007.html

Comments to: feecomments@safetyauthority.ca

Courtesy: "The Conduit."

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Monday, September 26, 2005

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