



HV/PL/SS Committee Discussion Paper

Final Recommendation

April 8, 2009

Committee Purpose

To provide input into the development of the Master Electrician (ME) requirements for High Voltage (HV), Pole Line (PL) and Substation (SS) Electrical Contractors to meet the Provisional Electrical Contractor (EC-P) Licence transitional timeline of December 31, 2011.

Background

Regulation 570/05 does not currently permit persons engaged in the HV/PL/SS electrical work to obtain a Master Electrician (ME) licence. This was known at the time Reg. 570/05 was under development, in part, due to this trade not requiring any mandatory certification for the individuals performing HV/PL/SS work.

One of the reasons the Provisional Electrical Contractor Licence was established was for a means of licensing the HV/PL/SS contractors while providing an opportunity to establish the ME requirements and transition provisions so that this group of Electrical Contracting businesses could be transitioned into the full licensing system. Keeping in mind that provisional licensing will expire on December 31, 2011.

There are approximately 136 Provisional Electrical Contractor licensees limited to HV/PL/SS work. ECRA can be used as the framework to establish the Master Electrician requirements for these HV/PL/SS persons, starting with making changes to Regulation 570/05 and having a “mandatory type of” Certificate of Qualification requirement for this trade.

Guiding Principles

The Committee established the set of Guiding Principals with which to govern the process and measure the effectiveness of the options to be considered.

Principles:

1. The system should be built on the existing standards already in place, which is the master electrician examination and licensing.
2. The qualification requirements should be built on the existing Certificate of Qualification (C of Q) “434A” requirements and a demonstration of skills, not to supersede the “309A” C of Q.
3. There should be no duplication or conflict with other standards.
4. Some consideration needs to be made for those who held other related forms of 434A qualifications/training to meet the 3 year requirements.
5. The system should be independent from any apparent conflicts of interest and visibly seen as representing the public interest.



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Strategic Challenges

In drafting the Guiding Principles and following Recommendations, the Committee identified several Strategic Challenges.

Strategic Challenges:

- Substation – How is this group captured/included?
 - What designation do we point to?
- Scope of Work and trade overlap
 - Today 309A's are doing HV work and do not have 434A's
- Transition (Grandfathering) provision for existing Provisional Electrical Contractor Licence holders limited to HV/PL/SS work
 - What qualifies as 3 years experience with a valid C of Q or equivalent?
 - How do we define “demonstration of skills” to meet the 3 years experience?
- TQAA Scope of Work changes to include HV/PL/SS
- Lobbying for compulsory certification of 434A
- Do we create a specialist Electrical Contractor designation for HV/PL/SS contractors?
i.e. Distinct Business Licence
 - Restriction, limitation to HV/PL/SS work
- How do we deal with other provinces' contractors – red seal qualifications



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Recommendations

The Committee has put forth the following recommendations for review and discussion with their respective Associations, other Industry Stakeholders and contractors currently in the Industry or looking to get into the Industry.

Proposed Recommendations:

1. Master Electrician (ME) Licence Requirements for HV/PL/SS Persons;

- Maintain the existing Master Electrician Licence focused on running an Electrical Contracting business,
- Use the existing Pre-Master Electrician training course,
- Use the existing qualifying Master Electrician examination for all Master Electricians

2. Requirements for HV/PL/SS Persons to qualify for the Master Electrician Licence; Three (3) years experience as a lineworker carrying out electrical work under a valid certificate of qualification, while working for an Electrical Contractor, and has passed the existing qualifying master electrician examination.

(Master Electrician Licence requirements in accordance with S. 11 of Reg 570/05 – with proposed change to accommodate the 434A C of Q - highlighted in Red)

An individual who applies for a master electrician licence shall not be issued the licence unless the applicant,

- (a) is at least 18 years old;
- (b) demonstrates at least three years experience,
 - (i) as a construction and maintenance electrician, a domestic and rural electrician, an industrial electrician, or a **lineworker (434A – TQAA Regulation 1067)** carrying out electrical work under a valid **certificate of qualification**,
 - (ii) working for an **electrical contractor** as a licensed professional engineer registered with the Professional Engineers of Ontario, or
 - (iii) working for an **electrical contractor** in the capacity of a certified engineering technician or a certified engineering technologist registered with the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists;
- (c) has passed the master electrician qualifying examination within the 12-month period preceding the date of the application; and
- (d) does not owe the Authority any money for which payment arrangements have not been made.

Definitions in accordance with Regulation 570/05:

“certificate of qualification” means a certificate of qualification issued under the *Trades Qualification and Apprenticeship Act* or the *Apprenticeship and Certification Act, 1998*, as the case may be; **Legislative Council to draft legal language – Committee is seeking to recognize Canadian experience to meet the 3 yr requirement**

“electrical contractor” means a person who is licensed to operate an electrical contracting business under this Regulation; **Legislative Council to draft legal language – Committee is seeking to recognize Canadian experience to meet the 3 yr requirement**



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3. Transition (Grandfathering) provision for those persons applying for a Master Electrician Licence with less than 3 years holding a valid qualification as listed in section 2(b) above for the purpose of becoming the Designated Master Electrician for a company who currently holds a valid EC-P licence limited to HV/PL/SS work (sunset clause 3-4 years);

During the transition phase the following provisions are being recommended;

- (a) Section 2(b) above - Qualifications; a person who has held one of the qualifications in section 2(b) above for less than 3 years, shall be able to use one of the following certifications in conjunction with the required qualification listed in 2(b) providing that the additional certification has been held for at least 3 years;
 - (i.) A Journeyperson Substation Electrician certificate issued by the Electrical & Utilities Safety Association (E&USA) or the MEARIE Group (including former associations such as AMEU, MEA and EDA), or;
 - (ii.) A Powerline Technician Certificate issued by the Electrical & Utilities Safety Association (E&USA) or the MEARIE Group (including former associations such as AMEU, MEA and EDA), or;
 - (iii.) A Power Maintenance Electrician Certificate (207A) issued by the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities