



Provisional Electrical Contractor Licence Transition High Voltage (HV), Pole Line (PL), SubStation (SS) Contractors

As the transitional deadline of December 31, 2011 for the Provisional Electrical Contractor Licence (EC-P) is fast approaching, a Steering Committee has been diligently working to provide input into recommendations for amendments to Ontario Regulation 570/05 to accommodate the HV/PL/SS Contractors into the full licensing system. The purpose of this document is to outline the key discussion areas and proposed recommendations by this Committee.

Committee Members

Dave Ackison	Ackison Electric
Peter Calabrese	Black & McDonald
Wayne Gatien	PowerTel
Ron Haldane	K-Line Maintenance & Construction Ltd
Cameron Hann	Jestek Electric Ltd
Jason Hicken/Jim Wilson	Wilson High Voltage
Mary Ingram-Haigh	Ontario Electrical League
Paul Krupicz	Tiltran Services Inc
Marty McGriskin	MC G. Pole Line Ltd
Arnold Portt	Tal Trees Inc
Eryl Roberts	Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario
Glenn Sturdy	Sturdy Power Lines Ltd
Peter Marcucci	Electrical Safety Authority
Lucy Impera	Electrical Safety Authority
Tracy Durant	Electrical Safety Authority

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 for this trade.



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Guiding Principles

The Committee established the following set of Guiding Principles 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.

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
- Grandfathering
 - 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 Associations and other Industry Stakeholders.

Proposed Recommendations:

1. ME Licence Requirements for HV/PL/SS Persons;

- Maintain one Master Electrician Licence type focused on running an Electrical Contracting business
- Use existing Pre-Master Electrician training course
- Use existing ESA Master Electrician examination for all Master Electrician's

2. Requirements for HV/PL/SS Persons to qualify to write the Master Electrician Examination;

A) Qualifications (one of):

- 434A ,or;
- 309A, or;
- CET/CTech, or;
- P.Eng

Plus

B) Experience:

- i) Minimum 3 years experience holding one of the above designations, and;
- ii) Minimum 3 years experience working for an electrical contractor. (Electrical Contractor as defined in accordance with Regulation 570/05, means a person who is licensed to operate an electrical contracting business under this Regulation)

Transition (Grandfathering) – Provision for those EC-P licence holders with less than 3 years holding a valid qualification: (sunset clause of 3-4 years)

During the transition phase the following provisions are being recommended for individuals who presently hold an EC-P licence limited to HV/PL/SS work;

1. For those persons who have held one of the qualifications in section 2A) above for less than 3 years, they will be able to use one of the following certifications in conjunction with the required qualification listed in 2A) to meet a qualifying interim 3 year requirement;
 - A Journeyman Substation Electrician certificate for at least 3 years, or;
 - A Powerline Technician Certificate issued by the Electrical & Utilities Safety Association (E&USA) or the MEARIE Group.
2. Those Master licences issued using certifications listed under Item 1 in this section, will be issued a Limited Licence, which limits the Master to only being the Designated Master Electrician for their present company until they meet the full 3 year C of Q requirement, as required in the Reg., for holding a valid Qualification. Once the 3 year requirement has been met, the limitation will be removed and the Master Electrician will no longer be restricted to working as a Designated Master Electrician solely for that company.