

CANADIAN ELECTRICAL CODE

SUBJECT: Section 0 – Object Scope, and Definitions

Scope

Street-lighting Installations

Electrical power companies have traditionally installed, operated and maintained street-lighting facilities. Due to deregulation, some companies have divested themselves of the street-lighting portion of their operations. Other organizations such as municipal and/or provincial transportation departments are taking over these installations. This situation has raised the question as to whether or not street-lighting installations fall within the scope of the CEC.

The scope of the CE Code tells us the code applies to “electrical installations for buildings, structures, and premises...” Street-lighting installations on rights of way and public thoroughfares do not appear to fit into the categories of “electrical installations for buildings, structures, or premises”.

Furthermore, the scope of the CE Code exempts “installations or equipment employed by an electric utility in its function as a utility”. The term “utility” is not a defined term so the dictionary definition would apply.

- Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines utility as:
a service (as light, power, or water) provided by a public utility.
- The Dictionary of Canadian English – The Senior Dictionary defines utility as:
a company that performs a public service.

Based on these definitions, the provider of street-lighting services could be considered a “utility” as referred to in the exemption in the scope of the CEC.

To clarify this issue, the Electrical Technical Council (ETC) has submitted requests for interpretation to the Canadian Standards Association. Until the interpretation has been reviewed, the ETC and Municipal Affairs offer the following guidelines.

- Installation requirements for street-lighting systems located on rights of way and public thoroughfares are not considered to fall within the Scope of the Canadian Electrical Code (Part I and Part III). They are considered unregulated as far as installation requirements.
- Owners of street-lighting systems installed on rights of way or public thoroughfares are responsible for using appropriate industry recognized standards in compliance with the safety principles of the Safety Codes Act. In establishing industry practices, consideration should be given to the parties responsible for maintaining the system.

The Canadian Electrical Code continues to apply to outdoor lighting on premises such as parking lots, private roads, or walkways.



SAFETY CODES COUNCIL

Issue of this STANDATA is authorized by
the Administrator

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