

## MEMBER ADVISORY: 2018-02

# Changes to the Electrical Field Safety Representative Program

March 16, 2018

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### BACKGROUND

This advisory is issued to members and licensees of Engineers and Geoscientists BC regarding changes and enhancements to the Electrical Field Safety Representative (FSR) program administered by Technical Safety BC (previously BC Safety Authority). These changes were effective starting **February 1, 2018**, and are relevant to members and licensees of the association who are currently qualified as Electrical FSRs or whose work is impacted by inspections carried out by Electrical FSRs.

The Electrical FSR program has been in place since 2004 when the *BC Safety Standards Act* and regulations—which set the guidelines for the safe installation and operation of technical systems and equipment—introduced the certificate class of Field Safety Representative. Electrical FSRs are professionals and experts in electrical codes and regulations. They perform an important function for public safety by assessing and declaring, on behalf of their employer, that electrical work is safe and complies with existing safety codes, standards, acts and regulations. For new buildings, building alterations, and building modifications where a contractor is involved with the project, an Electrical FSR is required to declare that the building's electrical system is in compliance with the *BC Electrical Code* and applicable regulations. This can impact the issuance of a building's occupancy permit.

### CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM

The *Safety Standards Act* and the *BC Electrical Code* are important standards for electrical safety. Changes are made to the electrical code every three years and integrate current knowledge of safety risks, hazards and new technologies within the electrical industry. In order to ensure current knowledge of certified inspectors and to maintain a database of Electrical FSRs, Technical Safety BC is implementing the following changes to the Electrical FSR program:

- **Renewals.** Electrical FSRs will be required to renew their certificate of qualification every three years beginning February 1, 2018. Electrical FSRs will have until July 31, 2019, to renew their certificate before it becomes invalid. Technical Safety BC is imposing a renewal fee of \$100 +GST every three years to cover the cost of administering the program enhancements.
- **Knowledge update requirements.** Beginning in the second renewal cycle in 2021, Electrical FSRs will need to confirm either successful completion of a free online assessment, or completion of up to eight hours of training related to the *BC Electrical Code*, *Safety Standards Act* and regulations from Technical Safety BC or a Technical Safety BC approved training provider.

- **BC Master Electrician designation.** Electrical FSRs who hold a class A, B, or C certificate and also hold qualification as an industrial or construction electrician will be given the new designation of BC Master Electrician.

These improvements to the Electrical FSR program are being introduced to strengthen the integrity of the system and ensure all current Electrical FSRs can demonstrate up-to-date knowledge of codes, standards, acts and regulations.

Technical Safety BC administers the *Safety Standards Act* and associated regulations that apply throughout British Columbia, including on lands which are subject to federal regulation for other purposes. For information on Technical Safety BC's jurisdiction, including exceptions, visit their website at [www.technicalsaftybc.ca/jurisdiction-information](http://www.technicalsaftybc.ca/jurisdiction-information). Depending on the jurisdiction where work is being performed, the process for inspection and inspection audit will vary.

For more information about these changes or the Electrical FSR program, visit the Technical Safety BC website at [www.technicalsaftybc.ca/fsr-changes](http://www.technicalsaftybc.ca/fsr-changes) or contact Technical Safety BC at 1.866.566.7233 or [engage@technicalsaftybc.ca](mailto:engage@technicalsaftybc.ca).

To contact an Engineers and Geoscientists BC practice advisor email [practiceadvisor@egbc.ca](mailto:practiceadvisor@egbc.ca), or call 604.430.8035 or 1.888.430.8035.