
**“SPECIAL PERMISSION” OF THE ELECTRICAL BY-LAW NO.5563
APPLICATION OF RULE 2-030 OF THE CANADIAN ELECTRIC CODE, PART I
“DEVIATION OR POSTPONEMENT”**

The intent of this bulletin is to announce the amendment of the Vancouver Electrical By-law (VEBL) with a new fee as set out in Schedule A of this By-law for the special permission request. This bulletin outlines the conditions under which an application for a special permission can be made to deviate from the prescriptive requirements of the Canadian Electric Code, Part I (CEC).

The amended Section 4.9 of the VEBL states “The City Electrician may relax any provision of this By-law and may charge a fee as set out in Schedule A for every special permission request if satisfied that:

- (a) an installation of electrical equipment is intended to be temporary in nature; or
- (b) special permission meets the fundamental safety principles of protection against electric shock, thermal effects, overcurrent, fault currents and overvoltage; in conformance with the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I adopted pursuant to Section 7.1.”

The new fee as set out in Schedule A shall be payable to the City and shall accompany every application for a special permission request pursuant to Section 4.9 of the VEBL.

CEC Rule 2-030 recognizes the fact that a deviation from the Code prescriptive requirements could be allowed. Although Rule 2-030 clearly states that if necessary, a special permission to deviate from the CEC requirements must be obtained before proceeding with the work and emphasizes that a special permission shall apply only for a particular installation for which it is given, it does not explain the criteria required for each such application.

The Object of Section 0 of the CEC addresses the fundamental principles of protection against electric shock, thermal effects, overcurrent, fault currents and overvoltage in electrical installations. Strict compliance with the prescriptive rules of the CEC is required to meet these fundamental safety principles and to provide an essentially safe installation.

However, it is acknowledged by the Object of Section 0 of the CEC that a safe installation may be also achieved by alternatives to this CEC requirement, where such alternatives meet the fundamental safety principles provided by the prescriptive rules of the CEC. Therefore, in accordance with Section 4.9 of the VEBL and CEC Rule 2-030, each request for a special permission is considered by the City Electrician based on the following conditions:

1. A request for a special permission is made by using a generic application form (see attachment);
2. A request is submitted by the permit holder (FSR of an electrical contractor) or by the Electrical Registered Professional of record in respect to the specific permit number and to the specific installation only;
3. Each request provides a reference to the particular rules of the CEC from which a deviation is requested;

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4. Each request demonstrates a clear technical substantiation that a proposed alternative meets the fundamental safety principles of protection mandated by the CEC requirements from which a deviation is requested; and
5. The application for a special permission shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee as set out in Schedule A of the VEBL. http://app.vancouver.ca/bylaw_net/

When a special permission is granted, a completed request form is signed by the City Electrician (or on his behalf) and returned to the applicant.

(Original signed by)

W. White
Deputy City Electrician
Manager, Trades Inspection

(Original signed by)

P. Ryan, M.Sc., P.Eng.
Chief Building Official
Director, Building Code and Policy

Attachment - REQUEST FOR SPECIAL PERMISSION

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL PERMISSION

The City
Electrician
453 W 12th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Y 1V4

Date: _____
(YY MM DD)

Dear Sir: The following are the reasons for the request and supporting information

Address: _____
Electrical Permit: _____
Building Permit: _____

To deviate from the following code requirements: Rule(s) _____

Reasons for request, summary of solutions and provide analysis and evaluation to validate acceptance: _____

Affix Professional Seal (if applicable)

FSR/Permit Holder: _____
Company Name: _____

Name of the Registered Professional of record (if applicable): _____

Signature: _____
Telephone / cell: _____
Address: _____
E-mail: _____

[For City's office use only]

Request for Special permission is accepted: YES NO

For the City Electrician (Inspector name): _____

Fee for Special Permission \$ _____ See Schedule A of VEBL