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Volume 44 • Number 2 • Spring 2006



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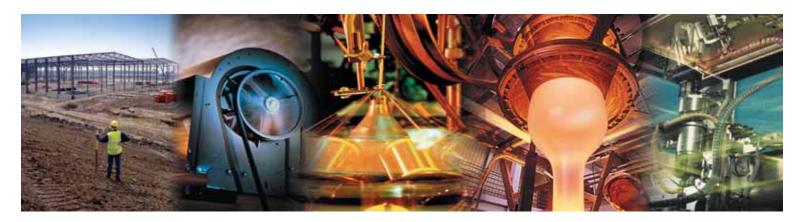
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**On the cover:** Phil Bova, Local Union 353, IBEW and John Wright, Ontario Electrical Construction Co. Ltd. chat with a PM Expo attendee in the newly designed booth.

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## From the President...



his issue of the Ontario Electrical Contractor deals with all types of industry standards impacting our daily business. The development and promotion of quality, ethical and performance standards is a major function of most trade associations. It is certainly true of ECAO.

The article on the transition to province-wide contractor licensing is a case in point. A coalition of industry partners led by ECAO has established a legislated, universal standard, soon to be adopted by the entire industry, regardless of affiliation. Our industry has leveled the playing field among qualified contractors and, in the process, has raised the quality bar for the entire industry. The article also examines some transitional issues and answers common questions regarding the licensing process.

The issue of fairness and transparency in the tendering process is never far from a contractor's mind. Bid depository is always a debating point in any gathering of trade contractors. Tom Vivian has contributed an article on the first year of the Construction Bid Depository of Ontario (CBDO), including some thoughts on future directions. He argues that we should look beyond the numbers and focus on the guiding principles that set the standard for tendering practices.

In a similar vein, there is also a brief update on the National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada (NTCCC), which is promoting bid depository, use of unaltered standard contracts and prompt payment.

This issue also re-introduces contractors to the National Electrical Installation Standards (NEIS). The library of installation standards has grown considerably since it was first introduced by NECA eight years ago and now covers most aspects of electrical work, setting workmanship and performance standards for electrical construction.

Beyond the "standards" theme, this issue also looks at the basics of marketing and promotions. Bob Inglis of Technalysis Inc. is retained by the Joint Electrical Promotion Plan (JEPP) to measure advertising effectiveness. In the course of this year's review, ECAO learned many interesting facts about its members, their business and what their customers want. Bob summarizes the findings in his article, "A New Direction for Promotions".

I am sure you will find useful information and thoughtprovoking commentary throughout this edition of the *Ontario Electrical Contractor*. In keeping with ECAO's philosophy of being a member-driven organization, I welcome your views and feedback on any of the issues raised here or any other matter you would like to see addressed in your publication.

#### **Brad Vollmer**

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# ONTARIO'S TRANSITION TO PROVINCIAL LICENSING

ince 2001, an electrical industry coalition made up of the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario (ECAO), the Ontario Electric League (OEL) and the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) has been developing and promoting a provincial contractor licensing framework for Ontario. The proposal addresses concerns with the current municipal licensing scheme of electrical contractors and master electricians throughout the province.

The 2003 Provincial Auditor's Report noted electrical safety concerns resulting from deficiencies in trade and contractor licensing, giving political traction to the coalition's efforts and ESA's role in developing a solution. The Provincial Auditor recommended that the Ministry of Government Services (MGS) and the ESA work with stakeholders to develop consistent provincial standards for ongoing licensing and training of electricians to improve public safety.

In 2004 the Government of Ontario amended the *Electricity Act, 1998*, with the passage of Bill 70, to enable the establishment of a statutory framework for province-wide licensing of electrical contractors and master electricians in the compulsory electrical trades, to be administered by the ESA.

## Why introduce a province-wide licensing system?

Until 2005 there was no uniform provincial system to license electrical contractors or master electricians, resulting in a lack of consistent oversight of electrical safety, education and training for those in the electrical contracting industry.

Several municipalities license electrical contractors on the basis of the contractor being or employing a master electrician. These municipalities recognize each other's licenses through their participation in the Electrical Contractors Registration Agency (ECRA) reciprocal recognition program. ECRA is the registration body for master electricians and electrical contractors and is responsible for administering a pre-master's course and the associated examinations of master electricians.

Other municipalities license electrical contractors and possibly master electricians to their own unique standards, and some municipalities have no local business licensing requirements at all.

This disparity between municipalities causes duplication and added costs for industry and confusion for consumers. Potential gaps in public safety and consumer protection arise because work may be performed to different standards across the province.

## What are the benefits of a provincial licensing system?

Among its many benefits, the new system streamlines and integrates the electrical contractor and master electrician licensing with other regulatory processes such as inspections and compliance activities related to Ontario's Electrical Safety Code. Its objective is to improve public safety and eliminate duplication by creating a consistent, effective and recognizable framework of contractor licensing and enforcement across Ontario. It also removes the burden on electrical contractors to obtain multiple municipal business licenses to work in different areas of the province, while addressing elements of the underground economy in the electrical contracting sector.

## How will the transition to province-wide licensing occur?

ECRA, which is currently an agency of ECAO, will be transferred to ESA early in 2006. On July 1, 2006 the new ECRA of ESA will officially open for business and commence receiving applications and issuing master and contractor licenses, which will be recognized across the province. Following a six-month transition period, province-wide licensing by ECRA of ESA will come into full force effective January 1, 2007 and will be the only electrical contractor license recognized in Ontario.

#### **Key Dates to Remember:**

**July 1, 2006** – ESA will begin accepting applications for electrical contractor and master electrician licenses July 1, 2006.

**January 1, 2007** – Full enforcement of this regulation begins January 1, 2007. All electrical contractors and master electricians are required to hold a provincial license issued by ECRA/ESA.

The new licensing system is designed to take advantage of years of experience gained with the ECRA master electrician system as it has been applied among the municipalities involved in the reciprocal recognition program. The keystone remains qualification of the individual as a master electrician. Next comes licensing of the electri-

cal contracting business which is owned/operated by, or employs a master electrician.

What is new to province-wide licensing is the creation of a third level of license called the Provisional Electrical Contractor License. This level is meant for those qualified contractors who have operated their businesses in areas of the province that do not require an exam-based Master License in order to operate an electrical contracting establishment. It is a "grandfathering" license which affords qualified contractors five years to meet the Master criteria.

### **Transitional licensing process**

The interim transitional ECRA board is working closely with ESA staff to develop an "applicant-friendly" and efficient transition process, particularly for those already licensed through the current ECRA/municipal system. This involves making the best use of relevant data already in the system and accounting for prepaid municipal license fees. At the time of writing this update (mid-February) the major issues had been identified and systems were being crafted to smooth the transition.

Regardless of the processes in place, or which type of license a contractor applies for, one thing will not change. All electrical contractors will have to be registered in the new system between July 1, 2006 and November 30, 2006.

ECRA/ESA license application forms will be available online by June. Beginning July 1, 2006, applications for electrical contractor (EC) and master electrician (ME) licenses will be accepted at ECRA/ESA's customer service centre in Cambridge.

## What if I have a municipal/ECRA recognized master electrician/electrical contractor license?

If you currently have a municipal/ECRA recognized master electrician/electrical contractor license, you will be required to apply for a provincial license between July 1 and November 30, 2006. However, you will not be required to rewrite the qualifying master electrician exam.

In the meantime, continue to renew your license with the municipality until June 30, 2006. Do not allow your current municipal license to lapse, otherwise you may be required to rewrite the qualifying master electrician exam.

Where a municipality has ceased or ceases to issue such licenses prior to June 30, 2006, you will not be required to re-write the qualifying master electrician exam if you held a valid master electrician license with that munici-

pality on the day before they ceased licensing.

Apply to ESA for a license no later than November 30, 2006, but prior to the expiry date of your current municipal license, to ensure continuity of coverage and that you have the required provincial license in place by January 1, 2007. The ECRA/ESA license fee will be prorated based on the number of months remaining on your current municipal license.

#### I have never required a master electrician/electrical contractor license before. What are my options?

Electrical contractors who operated in a municipality that did not require an exam-based master electrician/electrical contractor license have two options in order to qualify under the provincial licensing regulations.

The first option is to apply for a Provisional Electrical Contractor License (see page 12 for qualifications). This option will give the electrical contractor a five-year period in which to meet the requirements to be or employ a Master Electrician.

The second option is to challenge the Master Electrician exam and either obtain a Master Electrician License through a municipality before July 1, 2006 or through ESA after July 1, 2006. Exams are offered by ESA at various locations throughout the province. The ECRA Pre-Master Exam Course is available through ESA to assist Master Electrician candidates in passing their exam. The course is voluntary but strongly recommended for those seeking to challenge the exam. A listing of exam/course locations, dates and application forms are available on the ECRA/ESA website at www.esaecra.info.



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## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

#### ECRA/ESA Master Electrician License Requirements for New Applicants

To be eligible for an ECRA/ESA master electrician license the applicant shall:

- 1. Be at least 18 years of age
- **2.** Demonstrate at least three years' experience:
- a) As a construction and maintenance electrician, a domestic and rural electrician or an industrial electrician carrying out work under a valid certificate of qualification (C of Q)
- b) Working for an electrical contractor as a licensed professional engineer, and be registered with the Professional Engineers of Ontario
- c) Working for an electrical contractor in the capacity of a certified engineering technician or a certified engineering technologist, and be registered with the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists
- **3.** Have passed the master electrician qualifying examination within the 12-month period preceding the date of the license application
- **4.** Not owe ESA any money for which payment arrangements have not been made.

## ECRA/ESA Electrical Contractor License Requirements for New Applicants

To be eligible for an ECRA/ESA electrical contractor license the applicant shall:

- 1. In the case of an individual, be at least 18 years of age
- **2.** Be a master electrician, or employ at all times at least one designated master electrician
- **3.** Have a place of business in Ontario

- **4.** Have public liability and property damage insurance coverage of at least \$2,000,000
- **5.** Be registered with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, if the applicant is required to register under the Work Place Safety and Insurance Act, 1997
- **6.** Not be in default of filing a return with the Minister of Finance or of paying any tax, penalty or interest assessed under the Retail Sales Tax Act or the Corporations Tax Act, if applicable, for which payment arrangements have not been made
- **7.** Not owe ESA any money for which payments arrangements have not been made.

## ECRA/ESA "Provisional" Electrical Contractor License Requirements

To be eligible for an ECRA/ESA "provisional" electrical contractor license, the applicant shall:

- 1. In the case of an individual, be at least 18 years of age
- 2. Have a place of business in Ontario
- Demonstrate at least five years' experience in:
- a) Operating an electrical contracting business in a part of Ontario where a license to operate such a business was not required on June 30, 2006
- b) Operating an electrical contracting business in a part of Ontario where a license to operate such a business was required on June 30, 2006 and the person held the required license on that date, but where it was not a condition for obtaining that license that the person either hold a master electrician license or employ a person with a master electrician license
- c) Carrying out electrical work that falls within the scope of the Electrical Safety Code

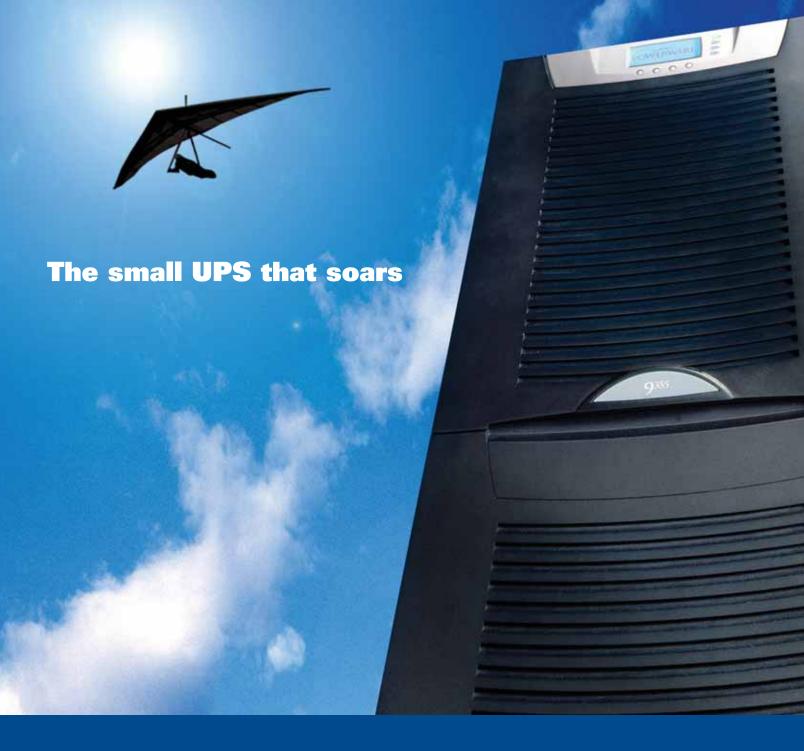
- **4.** Demonstrate being in compliance with the requirements of Rule 2-004 of the Electrical Safety Code for at least five years
- **5.** Have public liability and property damage insurance coverage of at least \$2,000,000
- **6.** Be registered with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, if the applicant is required to register under the *Work Place Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*
- **7.** Not be in default of filing a return with the Minister of Finance or of paying any tax, penalty or interest assessed under the *Retail Sales Tax Act* or the *Corporations Tax Act*, if applicable, for which payment arrangements have not been made
- **8.** Not owe ESA any money for which payments arrangements have not been made.

To qualify under this provision, application must be made to ECRA/ESA between July 1, 2006 & November 30, 2006.

#### **Licensing, Exam and Course Fees**

Master Electrician

| (ME) License  | \$75.00*     |
|---|--------------|
| Renewed annually on ME's b  | irth date    |
| Electrical Contractor (EC) License  | \$365.00*    |
| Renewed annually on ME's babbes business start date                           | irth date or |
| Provisional EC License  | \$365.00*    |
| Renewed annually on busines<br>date for a maximum of four y<br>November 30/10 |              |
| Master Electrician Exam   | \$125.00*    |
| Pre-Master Training Course  | \$517.00*    |
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## A NEW DIRECTION FOR PROMOTIONS

By Bob Inglis

tarting in 1997, the Joint Electrical Promotion Plan's (JEPP's) promotion was aimed at decision-makers in the service/maintenance and renovation/retrofit sectors, i.e., maintenance managers in factories, and commercial property managers. These target groups were chosen because, in the mid-1990s, new construction was in the doldrums. In 2005, Mr. Rob Colgan of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) presented to the JEPP Board the findings of some U.S. research. This was done among different target groups from those used in Canada, and suggested a different approach to promoting the use of union contractors/electricians from the previous campaigns in both the U.S. and here – different target groups and different messages. Had we been going about it the wrong way for years?

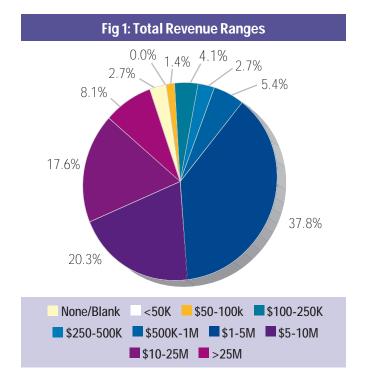
JEPP decided to put its normal promotional campaign on hold for 2005, and conduct research to find out:

- The relative importance, in terms of share of ECAO members' revenue, of various types of work.
- Who is primarily responsible for the choice of electrical contractor for each type of work.
- What ECAO members believe are the customers' main priorities.
- What the most important customers say are their main priorities.

#### Phase 1: Who Took Part?

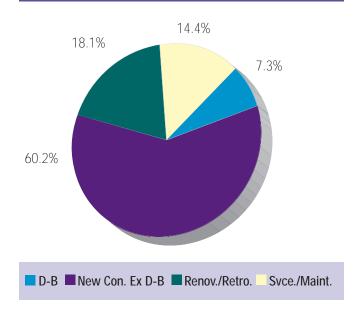
Phase 1 was research among ECAO members, asking them to report the sources of their 2004 Ontario revenue by type of project. ECAO distributed questionnaires to all its members, and heard back from those representing an estimated 25 per cent of total ECAO members' revenue (based on contributions to JEPP).

As shown in Figure 1, we got questionnaires from a broad spectrum of small, medium and large contractors, with most of those taking part in the study earning 2004



| Fig 2                 | Design-Build | New Constr. Ex.<br>Design-Build | Renovation/<br>Retrofit | Service/<br>Maintenance | Totals      |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| A - High-Rise Res.    | 0            | 41,100,000                      | 1,590,000               | 280,000                 | 42,980,000  |
| B - Other Residential | 70,000       | 18,320,000                      | 770,000                 | 931,442                 | 20,191,442  |
| C - Industrial        | 10,744,325   | 112,027,883                     | 36,145,532              | 34,051,442              | 197,669,181 |
| D - Commercial        | 15,401,442   | 80,306,442                      | 33,186,442              | 22,900,974              | 152,295,298 |
| E - Institutional     | 976,442      | 77,926,442                      | 20,180,000              | 7,582,000               | 106,684,883 |
| F - Power/Utility     | 16,650,000   | 30,705,288                      | 277,932                 | 15,355,000              | 63,488,221  |
| G - Communications    | 875,000      | 6,430,288                       | 18,080,000              | 6,577,932               | 32,013,221  |
| Totals                | 44,717,208   | 366,816,343                     | 110,229,906             | 87,678,789              | 615,322,245 |

## Fig 3: Total Revenue Split by Type of Work



Ontario revenues of at least \$1 million. According to Eryl Roberts, executive vice-president of ECAO, the demographics of the participating contractors seem to reflect those of the entire ECAO membership based on the revenue data collected.

### Where's the Money Coming From?

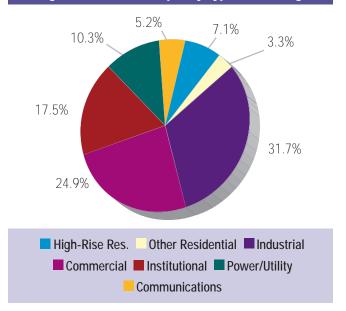
Figure 2 shows the totals as reported by the respondents. Some people gave us totals only, without allocating revenues by type, so the components may not add to the totals shown.

The percentages in Figures 3 and 4, however, show clearly that new construction on all types of buildings now accounts for about two-thirds of ECAO members' total revenue, and that the Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (I/C/I) sector, including all types of work, accounts for about three-quarters.

Clearly, the target groups for JEPP promotion should now be those who choose the electrical contractor for new construction in the I/C/I sector. But who are they?

We asked ECAO members that question as well, and the answer came back, "general contractors and building owners." Counting "public officials" as being the same as "building owners" in the institutional sector, these two were the most important kinds of decision-makers for nearly all types of new construction, and also figured prominently in renovation/retrofit. The only type of work for which general contractors were NOT named as being among the most important decision-makers was service/maintenance.

Fig 4: Total Revenue Split by Type of Building



And what do these key customers look for in deciding which electrical contractor to use, or which ones to invite to submit bids? That was the focus of Phase 2 of our research.

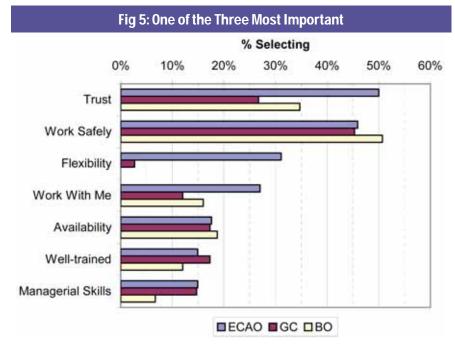
### Phase 2: What are they Looking For?

Aha, you thought we were finished with Phase 1, but we aren't. Not quite. We also asked ECAO members to rate how important their customers would find 14 different attributes, using a scale from one to 10. We defined the scale as follows: "One means you think your customers would say they couldn't care less. Ten means you think they would say this is so important to them that they would stop dealing with an electrical contracting firm if it fell short of their expectations even once, and only by a little." After the importance ratings, we asked respondents to indicate which three attributes they thought their customers would rate as the very most important, as a tie-breaker (lots of people gave more than three attributes their highest rating). Phase 2 of the research asked general contractors and building owners - pre-screened as making the choice of electrical contractor for new construction projects in the I/C/I sector – to rate the importance of the same attributes using the same scale, and we asked them the same tiebreaker.

Figure 5 shows the percentage of each group – ECAO members, general contractors and building owners – who selected each of the top seven attributes as one of the three most important. For the most part, ECAO members were fairly well in tune with key customers' priorities – better than some other Technalysis clients we can think of. That is, the attributes ECAO members thought their customers

would find the most important did in fact rank high on the customers' priority lists, and the ones that ECAO members thought their customers would find relatively unimportant – not shown here – did come far down the list. (We note that, in terms of the actual ratings, both key customer groups rated every single attribute higher than ECAO members thought they would.) The biggest miss was on flexibility – the full attribute wording was: "They are flexible. They don't nickel and dime me to death for every little thing." This was ranked third by ECAO members, but finished near the bottom of the list among both general contractors and building owners. "They work safely" was expected to be important. ECAO members placed it second, behind only "I can trust them. I don't have to worry about being hustled." In fact, it was far more important than any other attribute to key customers. Even making an allowance for "politically correct" answers (would you give "works safely" anything but a high importance rating, when asked by an interviewer) it seems clear that key customers find safety a crucial element in selecting an electrical contractor.

Bob Inglis is president of Technalysis Inc., a marketing research firm that has specialized in the business-to-business sector since 1982. Technalysis has done several research studies for the Joint Electrical Promotion Plan.









## **SUSAN BOORMAN JOINS ECAO**

CAO is pleased to announce that Susan Boorman joined the staff on January 2, 2006 as manager, human resources. Prior to joining ECAO, Susan was apprenticeship coordinator for the Toronto Joint Apprenticeship Council. During her 22-year career with the JAC, Susan was responsible for senior administration, participated on many committees such as the Electrical Provincial Advisory Committee, networked extensively with industry partners on apprenticeship issues and assisted in developing and enhancing the JAC's overall apprenticeship training program.

Susan's role as manager, human resources will be to promote training for the Electrical Contractors through the ECAO Human Resources Committee and to bring a consistent link to the membership on a broad range of issues from WSIB to changes in Electrical Apprenticeship.

Susan's background in the electrical industry and her first-hand experience working with industry committees will certainly be an asset to the overall revitalization of the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario.

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hen is a simple signature worth \$15,000? Babe Ruth's autograph on a baseball might fetch \$15,000 nowadays. A rare copy of *Alice in Wonderland* signed by author Lewis Carroll could be worth \$15,000 in some markets. And collectors are known to have paid \$15,000 or more for memorabilia signed by all four members of the Beatles: John, Paul, George and Ringo.

But when might your own signature be worth \$15,000? I am going to show you a simple strategy that could preserve \$15,000 when it otherwise would be lost, along with a host of other great estate planning ideas that you can act upon today.

Think of estate planning (EP) as a set of strategies used to direct property to the proper beneficiaries, to minimize tax liabilities and other costs, and to arrange for property management in the event of one's physical or mental disability.

My wife and I do a complete EP update every three to four years, and the exercise puts our minds at ease that our EP is optimal and up-to-date. Many readers will already have sophisticated plans in place. Others are just beginning to consider the importance of EP. The ideas you will read here are applicable to most individual situations (there are more complex EP issues that need to be addressed by business owners, which will be the topic of a future article).

Review all your registered retirement plans, pension plans and insurance policies to ensure that your desired beneficiaries, including alternate beneficiaries, are properly named as beneficiaries. Don't rely on trustees and insurance companies to maintain perfect records; verify these records periodically. It is particularly important to update beneficia-

ries if your life circumstances have changed due to marriage, divorce, births, deaths, and so on. There have been too many situations where huge amounts were paid out to unwanted beneficiaries.

2 Review your wills to ensure they are properly structured with respect to your desired distribution of assets, and the minimization of taxation in the hands of your heirs. If your asset base is large enough, you may want to alter the terms of your will to allow for the creation of one or more testamentary trusts. A testamentary trust is a trust that is created under a will and that becomes active after the grantor dies. Instead of transferring assets directly to a beneficiary, where the income from these assets would be added to the existing income of the beneficiary, the assets are transferred to the testamentary trust, which is like creating a second taxpayer, with a separate graduated tax rate, for the beneficiary. The annual tax savings using this strategy can be enormous for one or more beneficiaries.

Take this example of a married couple, each of whom has a \$1,000,000 investment portfolio generating \$60,000 of fully taxable income annually (assume each spouse is in the top marginal tax bracket). If one spouse dies and leaves the \$1,000,000 estate to the surviving spouse, the latter will have \$2,000,000 and taxable investment income of \$120,000 annually. The incremental \$60,000 will be taxed at the maximum tax rate. If the deceased spouse's will allowed for the creation of a spousal testamentary trust, the \$1,000,000 would go directly to the trust and be taxed at graduated rates. The annual tax saving to the surviving spouse for life would be in the \$10,000-\$15,000 range. A good estate tax lawyer can help you properly structure your wills to incorporate the creation of testamentary trusts.

- 3 Review all powers of attorney and living wills to ensure that you will be properly looked after when you can't look after yourself.
- ④ Contact each person you have named as executors, trustees, attorneys or guardians, in the above-noted documents, to ensure they are still willing and able to perform these duties.
- Seview all your personal and group insurance policies (life, disability, critical illness and long-term care) to determine that you have the right amount of coverage and you are *getting the best "bang for the buck"* from the policies you own. Shop around to see if you can replace an expensive policy with a less expensive policy of equal quality.
- With the guidance of income tax experts, consider the deployment of any planning structures that could be used to split, reduce or defer capital gains taxation; for example, creating an "estate freeze" can limit your estate's exposure to capital gains tax while deferring the taxation of future appreciation to future generations of family members.
- If you own American-based assets, such as property in the U.S., or shares of American companies, evaluate what you can do to avoid or reduce U.S. estate taxes.
- 8 If you are a resident of Ontario, **take steps to avoid future probate taxes.** Business owners should consider drafting multiple wills; one will for business interests, which would likely not be subject to probate taxes, and a second will for the remainder of the assets (the probate tax rate in Ontario is approximately 1.5 per cent of the value of these assets).

Another simple probate-avoiding technique is of particular importance to married or common-law couples who have RRSPs or RRIFs. Ordinarily, the members of the couple name each other as beneficiary of their registered plan, and when one spouse dies, the assets automatically transfer to the survivor's registered plan, free of income taxes or probate taxes. But in the tragic instance where the spouses pass away at the same time, or within 30 days of each other, there won't be a named beneficiary to receive the proceeds of the registered plan; the deceased's estate will become the beneficiary, and the funds received will be subject to probate taxes.



Continued on page 23



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<sup>(1)</sup> Points earned on purchases from participating IED Distributors and participating suppliers only. (2) Rules on website apply. (3) Points can be converted to charitable donations to ensure compliance with individual corporate policies.



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#### Continued from page 19

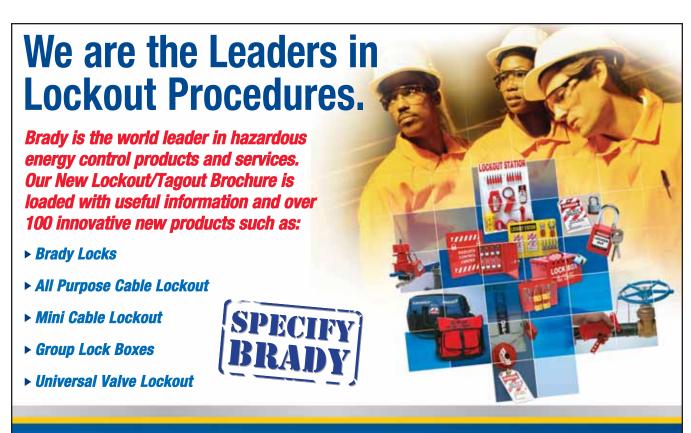
This can be avoided by *naming one or more alternate beneficiaries of an RRSP or RRIF*. If the primary beneficiary does not survive to receive the proceeds from the registered plan, the alternate beneficiaries would, and would skirt having to pay probate taxes in this instance (the estate would still be liable for income tax on the distribution of the plan assets, in most cases). For example, if both members of a couple had \$500,000 in their RRSPs and passed away concurrently without naming an alternate beneficiary, the probate tax on their combined \$1,000,000 defaulted to the estate, at 1.5 per cent, would be \$15,000.

Just like getting Babe Ruth's autograph, a simple signature on a beneficiary designation form is all it takes to put in place a strategy that could preserve \$15,000 for this couple's estate. Now, how much would you pay for a signed copy of the Beatles' record, *Taxman*?

If you are interested in getting more information about these actionable ideas, CIBC Wood Gundy has created a series of educational estate planning reports which can be mailed or e-mailed to you, if you drop me a line. The titles are:

- Financial & Estate Planning Checklist
- Will Planning to Meet Your Estate Needs
- Giving Someone the Power to Act on Your Behalf
- Executor Duties
- Estimating the Costs of Settling Your Estate
- Maximize Your Estate by Reducing it for Probate Purposes
- Preserve the Value of your Estate
- Estate Friendly Investing Through Life Company Products
- Life Insurance: Part of a completed Estate Plan
- Estate Planning and Wealth Preservation
- Preserving the Family Cottage for Future Generations

Stanley M. Tepner, MBA, CA, CFP, TEP, is a First Vice President and Investment Advisor with CIBC Wood Gundy in Toronto. He can be reached by telephone at 416-229-5566 or 1-800-488-8688 or by e-mail at stan.tepner@cibc. ca. The views of Stanley Tepner do not necessarily reflect those of CIBC World Markets Inc.



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## PCBsIN LIGHT BALLASTS

## ... They're still out there

Fluorescent light ballasts may become hot, give off smoke, and rupture before failing. When this happens, a thick black fluid, made up mostly of asphalt, may leak out.

In older ballasts, the fluid may also contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the capacitor within the ballast.

### **How to identify PCBs**

PCBs have not been used in capacitors since July 1980. Manufacturer catalogue numbers and/or date codes are marked on ballasts, ballast housings or capacitors. Use the list at the end of this article to identify the most common light ballasts containing PCBs.

The fluid from ballasts containing PCBs will remain liquid at room temperature. If no PCBs are present, the fluid will probably solidify. If you are unsure, assume PCBs are present and use proper precautions.

## The dangers of PCBs

The use of PCBs is restricted because of their threat to the environment. PCBs accumulate in the environment and may enter the food chain. Humans are regularly exposed to tiny amounts of PCBs through food, air or water, but this level of exposure is unlikely to have harmful effects.

Repeated or sustained exposure to considerable quantities causes a skin condition similar to adolescent acne. Liver damage is also possible. Exposure to small amounts of PCBs from damaged light ballasts is unlikely to have this effect.

PCBs are suspected of causing cancer in humans, but this has not been confirmed. When PCBs reach high temperatures (e.g., in a fire), they may decompose into more toxic substances such as polychlorinated dibenzodioxins and dibenzofurans. Repeated exposure to some of these substances is a cancer risk to humans.

### Replacing a failed ballast

Precautions are necessary when servicing a light ballast containing PCBs because PCBs may accumulate in the body. There is also an uncertain risk of cancer from exposure to them.

The ballast usually stops overheating soon after it fails. A small amount of liquid may drip on the light fixture, equipment or floor below. After the fluid has cooled, it should be cleaned up. If necessary, dislodge any solidified asphalt that may be present using a spatula or paper towel. Wipe down surfaces with rags, using solvents such as Varsol, kerosene or paint thinner. Finally, the affected area should be washed with detergent and water.

Gloves made of butyl or nitrile rubber, neoprene, polyvinyl alcohol, Viton or Teflon should be worn to protect the skin. To protect the environment, the ballast, rags and other waste materials contaminated with fluid should be placed in a sealed container (e.g. plastic bag), labeled "PCB" and disposed of. In situations where ballasts will be generated as waste on a continuing basis, they should be collected in drums and treated as PCB waste. Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management (SERM) regulates the disposal of PCBs.

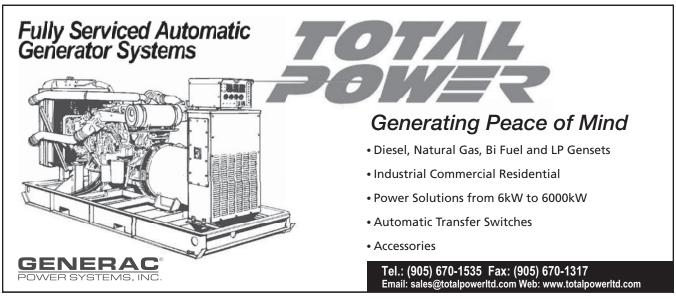
#### **Replacing ballasts**

Generally, ballasts should only be replaced when they fail. In rare situations, complete replacement may be needed depending on:

- rate of ballast failure
- · location of ballasts and work stations
- health complaints with unknown cause
- number of ballasts to replace

| Company                                    | PCB Identifier Code  |
|--|--|
| Aerovox Incorporated<br>Canada             | Two possibilities:  1. Four-number code on capacitor label. The first two numbers are the year and the last two are the month (e.g., January 1980 = 8001). PCBs are present up to and including June 1978 (7806).  2. Six-digit letter and number code stamped on capacitor. PCBs are present if the fifth digit is "F".   |
| Advance Ballasts<br>(supplied by Phillips) | Three- or four-digit number code on the ballast cover. The first one or two numbers indicate the month and the last two numbers are the year. PCBs are present up to and including 1978.   |
| Allanson Division of Jannock Ltd.          | Two-letter code on ballast plate. The first letter is the month, starting with "A" for January and the second letter is the year, starting with "A" for 1969 (e.g., February 1972 = BD). PCBs are present up to and including December 1980 (LL).  |
| Canadian General Electric                  | Two possibilities:  1. Seven-letter and number digit code on ballast name plate. PCBs are absent if one of the two final letters is "E" and likely present if it is "T".  2. Four-number code on ballast housing. The first two numbers, when reversed, are the year (e.g., 1976 = 67) and the last two numbers are the month. PCBs are present up to and including March 1978 (8703). |
| Westinghouse Canada                        | Same as for Canadian General Electric (above).   |
| Magnatex Polygon                           | Letter and number code on the ballast. The last four numbers represent the year and the month. PCBs may be present up to and including June 1980 (June 1980 = 8006). PCBs are present in capacitors made in 1978-79 unless there is a green "NO PCB" sticker on the ballast label.   |
| Magnatex Universal<br>Manufacturing (USA)  | Three-digit letter and number code on ballast cover. The first letter is the month (A = January) and the last two numbers are the year. PCBs are present up to and including December 1978 (L78). PCBs are absent if "N" follows the code.   |
| Phillips Electronics                       | Coding system changed in 1980. Units made after early 1979 are marked as being free of PCBs. Treat units not marked "PCB free" and those that have digit code ending with 79 or earlier as containing PCBs   |
| Sola Canada                                | Three-digit letter and number code on ballast label. The first letter is the month (A = January) and the last two numbers are the year. PCBs are present up to and including December 1979 (L79).  |
| Sola Electric (USA)                        | Eight-digit letter and number code on ballast name plate. The first two numbers are the year. Assume PCBs are present up to and including December 1979.   |
| Other Manufacturers                        | Assume PCBs are present if the unit is not marked "PCB Free" or not clearly dated 1980 or later.   |
| High Intensity Discharge<br>Lamps          | Allanson Division of Jannock Ltd. puts "N" before the code if PCBs are absent. Others are usually marked "PCB" or "No PCB". Assume PCBs are present if the label is not marked otherwise. Holophane Canada Inc. puts "BAA" before its three-digit code number on capacitors with PCBs. Sola Canada marks PCB capacitors with a code beginning "ACA".                                   |

The information in this article is not intended for legal applications. For all purposes of interpretation and application of the law, consult the relevant legislation. Copyright Saskatchewan Labour. Reprinted with permission. http://www.labour.gov.sk.ca/safety/bulletins/pcb-light-ballasts.htm



## THE CBDO WHERE WE'VE BEEN By Tom Vivian AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

he growth of the Construction Bid Depository of Ontario (CBDO) over the last year can be categorized by a series of contradictions: steady, static, invigorating, enervating, satisfying, frustrating. I believe this can be attributed to the fact that those giving their opinion on the use of a bid depository, solicited or not, are rarely neutral, offering strong support or arguments against it.

Our promotional and educational efforts in re-establishing the use of the Bid Depository System in Ontario have certainly adopted the strategy of the tortoise rather than the hare with very good reason. We don't see this as a sprint for instant results but an arduous marathon that will deliver a more long-lasting victory.

The foundation for this goal was certainly laid through the following regional successes. Grand Valley/



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(416) 531-4519 Cell (416) 606-7801 Email gwlehman@sympatico.ca ECAO Office: (416) 675-3226 Email glehman@ecao.org Kitchener started the ball rolling early in 2005 with a closing under our newly established 10th edition rules and regulations. Barrie and Kingston have cemented a relationship with Defense Construction Canada resulting in closings under the 10th edition. Ottawa has continued to thrive with Public Works closings. On that note, we are working together with officials from Public Works on revamping their tending rules and procedures when calling for the use of a bid depository. The intent is to provide a province-wide consistency in their application. A Brock University, Aquatic Centre and a series of Catholic Elementary School closings have contributed to a resurgence of bid depository use in the Niagara and Hamilton regions. Toronto and the GTA have re-established relationships with school boards and municipalities resulting in successful 10th edition closings. London, which adopted the 10th edition mid-way through the year, managed closings under the ninth edition and is poised for future closings under the 10th. Along with those mentioned above, other local bid depositories across the province will require a continued promotional and educational effort to build on the momentum of our early success.

In a further effort to secure a strong foothold for future growth of the CBDO, we, along with the support from the Mechanical Contractors Association of Ontario, ECAO, Ontario Sheet Metal and Air Handling Group, Master Insulators Association and IBEW, have been intensely lobbying the provincial office of the Hon. David Caplan, Minister of

Public Infrastructure Renewal (PIR). PIR is currently rolling out a \$30 billion initiative, "ReNew Ontario," which has as its goal the value-based renewal of infrastructure work earmarked over the next four years. In fact, along with representatives from some of the aforementioned supporting groups, we met with the Minister in August to discuss our involvement in this initiative. Further followup involves contact with Ontario Infrastructure Projects Corporation (OIPC), the independent agency commissioned by the Ministry to carry out this plan.

The number of closings, and what happens during these closings, are the most visible aspects of the bid depository system but are not the only measure of its success. CBDO's growth is important but we should be careful not to overlook or minimize the bid depository's value as a "watchdog" and "champion" for better tendering practices everywhere.

The CBDO is proud of its efforts and successes over the past year, regardless of which yardstick is used, and is focused on providing an enduring vehicle which will provide efficiency, fairness and transparency to construction tendering in Ontario for many years to come.

Tom Vivian has been involved in the construction and property management industries for the last 20 years. He is currently manager, region I of the Construction Bid Depository of Ontario and sits on their board of directors as secretary-treasurer. To obtain further information on the CBDO and/or to provide comments, email Tom at cbdo@bellnet.ca.

## WORKMANSHIP AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION

National Electrical Installation Standards (developed by the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) in the United States in partnership with other industry organizations) are the first performance standards for electrical construction recognized in North America. They go beyond the basic safety requirements of the Canadian Electrical Code in Canada and the National Electrical Code in the U.S. to clearly define what is meant by installing products and systems in a "neat and workmanlike" manner. All NEIS are submitted for approval by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Referencing *NEIS* saves spec-writing time, and provides unprecedented control over workmanship and long-term performance. As an enforceable part of the contract documents, *NEIS* significantly reduce misunderstandings among engineers, electrical contractors, owners, and facility managers.

With *NEIS*, the electrical installation you design not only meets code – it meets the shared expectations of everyone involved. Customers get a top-quality job, and you and your firm enjoy a reputation for long-term reliability.

## NEIS standards are available for a variety of categories.

#### **General**

- NECA 1-2000, Standard Practices for Good Workmanship in Electrical Contracting (ANSI)
- NECA 100-1999, Symbols for Electrical Construction Drawings (ANSI)
- NECA 200, Recommended Practice for Installing and Maintaining Temporary Electric Power at Construction Sites (ANSI)
- NECA 90-2004, Recommended Practice for Commissioning Building Electrical Systems (ANSI)

#### Lighting

- NECA/IESNA 500-1998, Recommended Practice for Installing Indoor Commercial Lighting Systems (ANSI)
- NECA/IESNA 501-2000, Recommended Practice for Installing Exterior Lighting Systems (ANSI)
- NECA/IESNA 502-1999, Recommended Practice for Installing Industrial Lighting Systems (ANSI)
- NECA 503-2005, Standard for Installing Fiber Optic Lighting Systems

#### **Limited Energy**

- NECA Guide to Installing Communications Systems
- NECA/FOA 301-2004, Standard for Installing and Testing Fiber Optic Cables (ANSI)
- NECA 303-2005, Standard for Installing Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)
- NECA 305-2001, Standard for Fire Alarm System Job Practices (ANSI)
- NECA 410-2005, Standard for Installing and Maintaining Liquid-Filled Transformers
- NECA/BICSI 568-2001, Standard for Installing Commercial Building Telecommunications Systems (ANSI)

#### **Power Distribution**

- NECA 400-1998, Recommended Practice for Installing and Maintaining Switchboards (ANSI)
- NECA 402-2001, Recommended Practice for Installing and Maintaining Motor Control Centers (ANSI)

- NECA/EGSA 404-2000, Recommended Practice for Installing Generator Sets (ANSI)
- NECA 405-2001, Recommended Practice for Installing and Commissioning Interconnected Generation Systems (ANSI)
- NECA 406-2003, Recommended Practice for Installing Residential Generator Sets (ANSI)
- NECA 407-2002, Recommended Practice for Installing and Maintaining Panelboards (ANSI)
- NECA 408-2002, Recommended Practice for Installing and Maintaining Busways (ANSI)
- NECA 409-2002, Recommended Practice for Installing and Maintaining Dry-Type Transformers (ANSI)

#### **Utilization Equipment**

- NECA 202-2001, Recommended Practice for Installing and Maintaining Industrial Heat Tracing Systems (ANSI)
- NECA 230-2003, Standard for Selecting, Installing, and Maintaining Electric Motors and Motor Controllers (ANSI)

#### **Wiring Methods**

- NECA 101-2001, Standard for Installing Steel Conduit (Rigid, IMC, EMT)
- NECA 102-2004, Standard for Installing Aluminum Rigid Metal Conduit (ANSI)
- NECA/AA 104-2000, Recommended Practice for Installing Aluminum Building Wire and Cable (ANSI)
- NECA/NEMA 105-2002, Recommended Practice for Installing Metal Cable Trays (ANSI)
- NECA 111-2003, Standard for Installing Nonmetallic Raceways (RNC, ENT, LFNC) (ANSI)
- NECA 331-2004, Standard for Building and Service Entrance Grounding and Bonding
- NECA/MACSCB 600-2003, Recommended Practice for Installing and Maintaining Medium-Voltage Cable (ANSI)
- NECA/NEMA 605-2005, Installing Underground Nonmetallic Utility Duct

Give your workforce the tools they need to do the job right, take control of the level of performance you expect and benefit from the enhanced reputation for your company. NECA's NEIS standards are available in Canada through the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association. Visit their website at www.ceca.org to get a detailed description and place your order, or call 1-800-387-3226.





## **Industry Briefs**

LIR Systems will be holding free half-day infrared seminar open houses showing how infrared technology can save companies time and money.

Led by a team of infrared experts who collectively have more than 50 years' experience developing infrared applications, the seminars will include demonstrations of the latest IR cameras and show how thermal imaging systems are used to find problems, manage reliability, avoid shutdowns and improve plant safety in predictive maintenance, on-line process monitoring and other industrial applications. Topics covered will include: the latest in thermal imaging technology, the newest in highquality affordable infrared cameras, and the ABCs of selecting the best IR camera to meet specific application requirements.

"We're very excited to be rolling out this series of events," says David Francoeur, director of marketing, FLIR Systems. "We've continued to make great progress in adapting technological advances into products for market and are constantly striving to inform the public about not only the latest product and technology innovations but the real-world application experiences as well. These open houses allow us to share the latest breakthroughs with the public as well as get feedback for future direction."

FLIR's InfraForums provide an excellent venue for keeping current with IR camera technology and application trends. Following is a list

of upcoming seminars to take place in Ontario. Seating is limited. Visit www.flirthermography.com/news/ seminars.asp or e-mail seminar@flir.com for further information.

June 8 Ottawa, ON Best Western Baarons

September 15 Ottawa, ON Best Western Baarons

September 19 London, ON Ramada Hotel London

September 21 Mississauga, ON Holiday Inn

September 22 Oshawa, ON Best Western



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## **010: BATTERIES AND BATTERY ROOMS**

#### Why this is important

A battery cannot be turned off. There is always potential across the posts of a battery, regardless of any controls.

Batteries can cause thermal burns when current passes through your body and chemical burns if you are exposed to the acid.

The explosion from a battery can flatten a building.

#### **Definitions**

You should know some basic definitions.

**Cell** – The basic electrochemical unit consisting of an anode and a cathode. The nominal voltage of a lead acid cell is 2.0 volts and a nickel cadmium cell is 1.2 volts. The starting battery in your car or truck is a six-cell battery and your flashlight may require two D cells.

**Jar** – The container which holds a cell or group of cells. Typical jars will have one, two, three, four or six cells.

**Battery** – Two or more connected together electrically. The cells may be connected in series, parallel or both to provide the required operating voltage and current. A typical UPS system will have one or more 240-cell batteries. The nominal voltage of this battery is 480 VDC.

**Flooded Cell** – A cell design characterized by an excess of free electrolyte. The products of electrolysis (gasses) and evaporation can freely exit the cell through a vent. Flooded cells typically have clear jars and the electrolyte is a liquid similar in appearance to water.

**Valve-regulated, sealed lead acid cell (VRLA)** – A cell that is sealed and fitted with a vent, which opens to release

excess pressure as required. This is the typical design of a car battery.

#### **New batteries**

Inspect every jar before removing from the shipping pallet. Jars can be damaged during shipping. Hoisting a cracked jar may result in leaking electrolyte or failure of the jar. The result is a major clean-up of corrosive materials.

Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for lifting and maneuvering the jars. Use only approved materials and methods in assembly. Failure to follow the installation instructions may void the warranty.

Use hoists and slings to lift cells into place. Small VRLA jars can weigh over 100 pounds. Flooded cells can weigh over 400 pounds each. Do not try to manhandle these cells.

As you assemble the cells, especially a large multi-cell battery such as for a UPS, periodically leave an inter-cell connector disconnected. This will limit the overall potential across the most positive and most negative posts. At high potentials, a battery can provide a lethal shock.

#### **Battery rooms**

Never work in a battery room or on a battery alone.

Follow the site check-in/check-out procedures for working in battery rooms.

Before working on any battery or in a battery room, identify the location of safety showers and eye wash stations.

Locate neutralizing agents (baking soda) and a spill containment kit and review its use.

Ensure you have an open exit route at all times. Do not allow yourself to be trapped with no escape route.

Wash your hands after working on a battery. Avoid wiping your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands while working on a battery.

Do not smoke or have open flames in or near a battery room or around jars. Most jars that you may work around vent hydrogen gas.

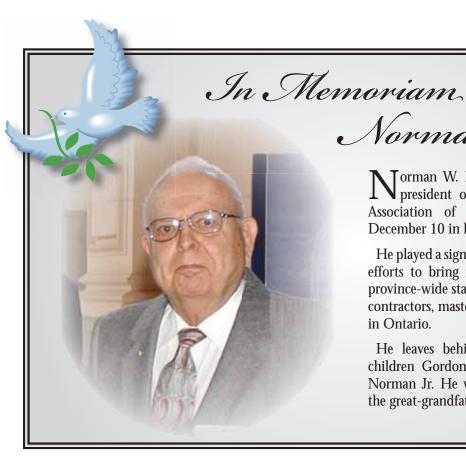
Verify the operation of the exhaust fan(s) in the battery room. These fans are designed to prevent the buildup of hydrogen gas, which is an explosion hazard.

Wear the PPE required for the task at hand. This may include gloves, aprons and face shields, but safety glasses are always required.

Use insulated tools. Cells have high fault currents. A single two-volt cell may supply over 5,000 amps when the positive and negative posts are shorted together. The generated heat is more than enough to melt metal and cause burns.

Use insulated blankets and other materials to shield the battery connections should you have to perform work over the battery.

This Tool Box Talks article is reprinted with permission from 100 Safety Training Toolbox Talks for Electrical Construction Work, 2003, National Electrical Contractors Association (US). The complete set of 100 Toolbox Talks is available in Canada through the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association (CECA). Visit the CECA website at www.ceca.org to place your order or call 1-800-387-3226.

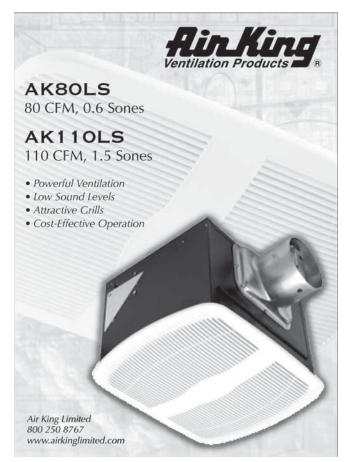


Norman W. Durdy

Norman W. Purdy, former executive vice president of the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario, passed away on December 10 in his 85th year.

He played a significant role in the association's efforts to bring forth legislation to establish province-wide standards for licensing electrical contractors, master electricians and electricians in Ontario.

He leaves behind his wife, Mildred, and children Gordon, Betty, Nancy, Robert and Norman Jr. He was a grandfather of 10 and the great-grandfather of four.





## **New Products**

## T3 Electrical/Mechanical Fastening System

The Ramset T3 Electrical/Mechanical Fastening System is 10 times faster than anchoring, five times faster than powder and there are no license or training requirements. It is also quiet, making it suitable for work in tenant-occupied buildings.

The lower recoil reduces operator fatigue and the T3 eliminates exposure to concrete dust (silicosis). It has an interchangeable nosepiece and shoots a variety of new fasteners. The dust shield significantly reduces maintenance and prolongs tool life. An easy off switch locks into place to extend the life of the 3,000 shot battery. A QuicKonnect fuel system replaces conventional powder loads and drives more than 1,000 pins.



The T3 is versatile and can fasten into concrete, hollow block, pan deck or steel without changing power or colour loads.

For additional information contact Mike Clune, national sales manager, ITW Construction Products, by telephone at 905-471-7403 ext. 315 or by e-mail at mclune@itwconstruction.ca.

### **Accubid Releases Version 7**

Accubid has announced the release of Version 7 of its family of estimating solutions – Accubid Pro BidWinner, BidWinner Plus, and PowerBid. Version 7 builds on the strong foundation of Version 6, adding a number of exciting new features and enhancements to increase contractor accuracy and productivity, including:

- Enhanced multi-user support
- Enhanced integration with pricing services, accounting systems, and Accubid's own project management programs
- Streamlined price updating
- Enhanced reporting features
- Multi-job support

"With Version 7, we are building on strength," says Giovanni Marcelli, president and CEO of Accubid Systems. "Accubid estimating programs have always provided contractors with expediency, accuracy, stability and reliability and this new release simply adds to that."

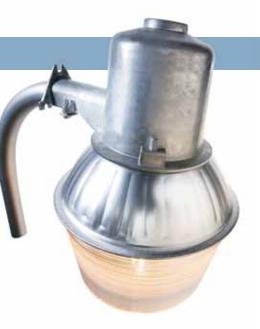
Though Accubid takes pride in having been recognized as the industry leader in both the 2002 and 2004 CFMA Technology Surveys for the construction industry, Giovanni insists that Accubid will not rest on its laurels.

"We will continue to work hard to increase the power and accuracy of our estimating programs without sacrificing expediency, stability or reliability," he explains.

Each of Accubid's Version 7 estimating solutions works seamlessly with Pocket Bid, Accubid's handheld estimating solution for the Pocket PC. Using Pocket Bid, which is sold separately, contractors can perform a complete estimate, from takeoff to extension to final pricing, right on the job site.

For further information telephone 1-800-222-8243, visit www.accubid.com or e-mail sales@accubid.com.





## High Intensity Discharge Lighting

In order to satisfy the growing demand for high quality industrial lighting, Intermatic recently announced its new line of high intensity discharge (HID) lighting, providing electrical contractors and distributors with brighter solutions for an even wider range of lighting needs.

The quality and performance customers have come to expect from Intermatic energy control products can now be found in its professional-grade line of outdoor lighting. Intermatic timer switches, control panels and photocells can be utilized for total lighting management of most residential, commercial or industrial HID applications. With comprehensive coverage of the industry's leading part numbers, Intermatic offers a full range of wall packs and floodlights.

All Intermatic HID fixtures are UL/CUL listed for wet locations and come with a limited one-year warranty. All fixtures include a brand name lamp. Visually appealing and informative packaging is designed to help electrical contractors and distributors easily select the appropriate unit for the lighting task at hand. Each unit also includes full photometric and lamp data.

Intermatic HID lighting fixtures can withstand the harshest elements while providing constant and reliable operation. Intermatic HID categories include:

- HID wall packs metal halide and high pressure sodium versions from 35 to 400 watts
- HID floodlights metal halide and high pressure sodium versions from 35 to 400 watts
- HID dusk-to-dawn lights mercury vapour and high pressure sodium versions from 150 to 175 watts
- HID quartz floodlights from 150 to 500 watts
- HID canopy lights 150 watt high pressure sodium versions

HID wall fixture with photocell
 70 watt high pressure sodium fixture.

For additional information call 815-675-7068 or visit www.intermatic.com.







## NATIONAL TRADE CONTRACTORS COALITION OF CANADA (NTCCC)

n December 22, 2005, Industry Canada approved the National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada (NTCCC) as a federally incorporated not-for-profit organization. The official objects of the Corporation are: "To facilitate communication and cooperation amongst national trade contractor associations within Canada's construction industry."

In late 2004, representatives of several national trade contractor associations initially met to determine whether or not it would be worthwhile to form "some sort of relationship" for purposes of communication, resource sharing, cooperation, collaboration, etc. During the first meeting on December 13, 2004 it was quickly determined that there was a desire, on the part of most national trade associations, to form a working relationship where before there was none amongst national trade associations per se.

Discussions ensued and by the second meeting two months later, it became evident that the creation of a formal coalition was something that could only be of extreme importance to trade contractors generally. Many items of joint interest were identified and it was agreed that, in time, the newly formed National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada (NTCCC) would address these issues. However, for purposes of being practical and effective, the Coalition decided to focus its immediate attention on three priority issues specifically:

- 1. Helping our respective members get paid promptly for work performed.
- 2. Promoting the use of Bid Depositories across Canada.
- 3. Promoting the use of "unaltered" standard contract documents.

Several meetings have taken place throughout 2005/06 with national trade association officials representing contractors engaged in such disciplines as electrical, mechanical, masonry, thermal insulation, automatic sprinkler, roofing, scaffolding, architecture woodwork, HVAC, and steel contracting.

Over the past several months the coalition has: secured startup and program funding received from its constituent trade associations; formed an official working relationship with the Trade Contractors Council of the Canadian Construction Association and the Construction Sector Council; and established committees and task forces dealing specifically with bid depository promotion targeting tender calling authorities; and created "getting paid" strategies/initiatives through the development of a national awareness/educational program. It also held a special Strategic Planning Session on November 14, 2005 to help with the ongoing operations and future initiatives of the coalition. Future meetings will also address the potential of Federal Prompt Payment/Trust Legislation.

The purpose of the National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada is not to duplicate the efforts of, or to replace, any other existing organization. On the contrary, a group of national trade contractor associations organized under the umbrella of a coalition will be an additional (and strong) voice supporting some of the efforts of other con-

tractor organizations like the Canadian Construction Association, the Construction Sector Council, the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum, and others. A unified national trade contractor association voice will add substantial and credible weight to some of the new and ongoing initiatives of the aforementioned organizations. At the same time however, the coalition has the

ability to state its own opinions and taking its own unilateral initiatives on issues that affect, or can potentially affect, the respective trade contractor members of the constituent member organizations.

Once the coalition satisfactorily completes its work on the three stated priority issues, it intends to continue work on other items of mutual interest such as: apprenticeship training, management education delivery, exchanging information on and/or sharing of association products and services, or presentation to the design community on such matters

as quality drawings/specifications, change order procedures, pre-purchasing of equipment, shifting of design responsibility, etc. The list goes on.

Even though the coalition is in its formative stages of development, it has already gained a notable awareness within Canada's construction community and by major

buyers of construction services. Its existence has created an exciting "buzz", a synergy within, and an understanding of, its potential impact on the industry.

A group of national trade contractor associations organized under the umbrella of a coalition will be an additional (and strong) voice supporting some of the efforts of other contractor organizations.



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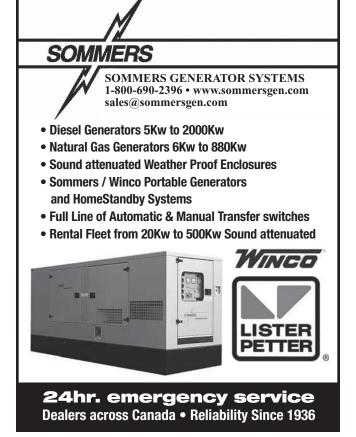
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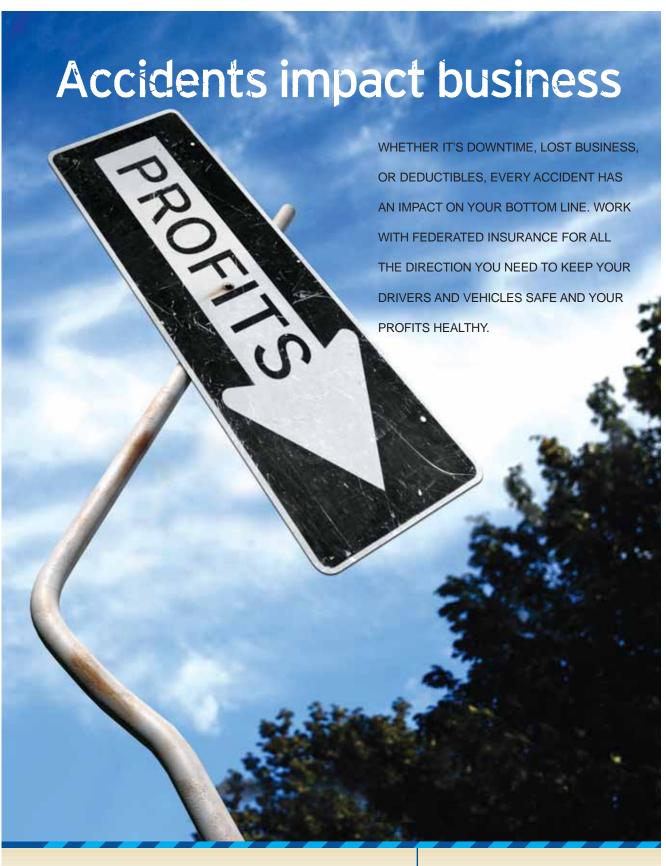


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