

May 16, 2013
ELECTRICAL SECTION

ENTERTAINMENT ELECTRICAL OPERATING PERMIT

Are you planning an upcoming event/production in the City of Surrey? If so, you may require an Entertainment Electrical Operating Permit. Electrical equipment associated with temporary entertainment productions is subject to a great deal of "wear and tear" due to the nature of installation. If not properly maintained and/or installed, this equipment is subject to failure which may pose a risk to persons and property. An Entertainment Electrical Operating Permit ensures your electrical installation is monitored by a qualified person who is responsible to confirm compliance with applicable codes and standards.

Examples of temporary events/productions which may require an Entertainment Electrical Operating Permit include:

- Film/Television Productions
- Mobile Concession Stands
- Festivals
- Concerts
- Fairs
- Carnivals
- Temporary Amusement set ups
- Any event that requires the "set up" of distribution cabling, electrical panels, transformers and or a generator rated 5 KW or greater

When is a Permit not required?

Small events that do not require a significant source of power (i.e. stage with PA system only, inflatable amusements [bouncy castles], open sided tents with two or three lights & cash register, concession stand with gas appliances and minimal power requirements etc.) do not require a temporary entertainment installation permit if the power is supplied by:

1. An approved flexible cord (extension cord) that is plugged into existing G.F.C.I. protected receptacle(s) having CSA configuration 5-15R and or 5-20R at the site. If on site receptacles are not G.F.C.I. protected than an approved inline G.F.C.I cord protector is required. See Example #1 below for an example of such:



Example #1

2. An approved flexible cord that is "plugged" into a portable power generator rated at 5KW or less. Note: the generator must bear evidence of approval for use in B.C. and may not be modified in any way that would void the original approval. The generator must be in good working condition and be operated within manufacture's specifications. The receptacle(s) located on the generator must be G.F.C.I protected.

Basic set-up requirements

Whether an Entertainment Electrical Operating Permit is required or not, there are minimum safety requirements that must be met for the set-up of the event as follows:

1. All cords and cables must be in good condition, free from any cracks or breaks in the outer jacket and the cord end caps must be in good condition and properly secured to the outer jacket
2. All extension cords (flexible cord) used must be of the extra hard usage type, as indicated in table 11 of the B.C. Electrical Code, incorporate a ground (bond) conductor and be connected to grounded cord ends (three prong style).
3. All cords and cables must be run in such a manner as to not create a tripping hazard and, where possible, be run in areas away from public access.
4. Cords should not be run across streets or other areas subject to vehicle traffic.
5. All receptacle having CSA configuration 5-15R and 5-20R must be provided with ground fault protection

How to obtain a Temporary Entertainment Electrical Installation Permit

The event organizer is responsible to obtain an Entertainment Electrical Operating Permit two (2) weeks prior to the event date. The Field Safety Representative (FSR) or Electrical Contractor named on the permit is responsible to ensure the electrical installation is compliant and to request all inspections.

If further information is required, please contact the Electrical Section at 604-591-4155 or view our website at www.surrey.ca/electrical.