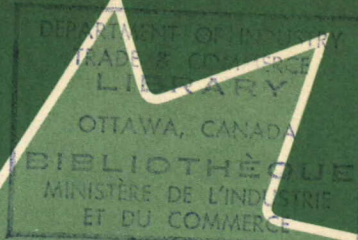


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DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, OTTAWA

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# DOING BUSINESS IN CANADA

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CONSTRUCTION  
AND EQUIPMENT  
STANDARDS

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G-1

DOING BUSINESS IN CANADA

CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

PREPARED BY

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

OTTAWA

F O R E W O R D

The information in this text deals with construction and equipment standards. Every effort has been made to accurately reflect the legislation in force at the time of preparing the material. It is believed that the text will prove to be a useful guide.

It should be appreciated, however, that many of the laws and their administration contain a considerable amount of detail. Since the text does not do more than refer to basic principles, it is suggested an enquirer should consult with relevant authorities or solicitors of his choice or both when seeking precise and detailed advice on a given problem at a specific time.

Other publications available from the Department of Industry and included in the complete series "Doing Business in Canada" are:

The Canadian Environment  
Forms of Business Organization in Canada  
Canadian Customs Duties  
Taxation - Income, Business, Property  
Taxation - Sales, Excise, Commodity  
Labour Legislation  
Federal Incentives to Industry  
Patents, Copyrights and Trade Marks  
Tariff Preferences for Canadian Goods Abroad.

CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

Table of Contents

Factories and Commercial Buildings.....	G-4
Building Codes.....	G-5
Plumbing Codes.....	G-7
Electrical Installation.....	G-7
Electrical Apparatus and Equipment.....	G-8
Weighing and Measuring Devices	
Electricity and Gas Meters.....	G-9

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CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDSFACTORIES AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

The erection or alteration of a building for use as a factory is normally subject to provincial control. Drawings and specifications must be submitted to the Department of Labour for approval. Similar requirements may apply to the erection or alteration of a building to be used as a retail outlet, restaurant, office, etc.

The next step is to secure a municipal building permit. Such permits are usually issued only when provincial approval has been obtained. Construction must be carried out in accordance with local building by-laws.

Boilers and pressure vessels must be approved before being installed. Designs must be submitted to the Department of Labour (Public Utilities Commission in Prince Edward Island) for approval and registration before construction is commenced. Inspection is undertaken during construction, installation, initial operations and annually thereafter. Provincial authorities will usually accept the inspection of their counterparts in the area in which boilers or pressure vessels are constructed.

Many provincial authorities have adopted the CSA Code B51 for the Construction and Inspection of Boilers and Pressure Vessels, issued by the Canadian Standards Association. The CSA B51 Code is intended to provide for the safe design, construction, installation, operation and repair of boilers, pressure vessels, and related equipment, as well as to promote uniform requirements amongst the provinces. It is suggested that the provincial authorities, even though having adopted the B51 Code, should be consulted as to the intent of such adoption, as the Code may have been adopted with exemptions or with additional requirements.

Regulations are also in force in most provinces with regard to elevators and hoists. Equipment is subject to inspection by provincial labour officials.

The Canadian Standards Association has issued B44-1960 - Safety Code for Elevators, Dumb-waiters, and Escalators, to meet a desire for uniform legislation throughout the various provinces. The purpose of this Code B44 is to provide reasonable safety for those persons who come in contact with elevators, dumb-waiters and escalators, by establishing minimum standards for design, installation and maintenance, and for adoption by provincial authorities throughout Canada. It is also intended as a standard reference for the use of architects, consulting engineers, elevator manufacturers, and owners.

An employer must usually forward notice to his provincial Department of Labour when undertaking to occupy a factory. The notice must contain information as to the name of his firm, the location of the plant, the nature of the work, and the amount of motive power to be used.

Premises must be maintained so that they are structurally sound and in a safe condition. Where provincial authorities consider that machinery, construction, etc., is or could be a source of danger to the health or safety of an employee or of persons having access to a factory, they can so notify the employer or owner and direct him to take measures to counteract or eliminate the danger.

#### BUILDING CODES

Local authorities usually make some attempt to regulate the location of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. Zoning regulations have been developed to protect property values and to provide for orderly growth. Questions of location must be discussed with municipal authorities.

If location plans meet with approval, one hurdle will have been taken with regard to a municipal building permit. Such permits serve a dual purpose; as well as a means of controlling the location of various buildings, they are also a means of bringing new construction to the attention of local building inspectors thereby easing their task of enforcing municipal construction by-laws.

Many municipalities have adopted the National Building Code as the basis for their local by-laws in respect of construction. Among the larger centres that have adopted the code in its entirety are: Ottawa, Calgary, Fredericton, Galt, Kingston, Nagog, Moncton, Nanaimo, Prince George, Red Deer, Rouyn, Timmins and Yarmouth.

Other municipalities have adopted the National Building Code in part, and among them are: Arvida, Cornwall, Edmonton, Fort William, Halifax, Lethbridge, London, Medicine Hat, Montreal, Moose Jaw, Owen Sound, Quebec, St. Hyacinthe, Sarnia, Saskatoon, Sherbrooke, Sudbury, Vancouver, Windsor and Woodstock.

Essentially, building codes do not have the force of law until embodied in municipal building by-laws. These by-laws are intended to protect the public with regard to safety and have special reference to health, structural soundness and fire hazard.

The National Building Code, which has been adopted in full or in part by many municipalities, is a responsibility of the National Research Council, Ottawa, and was drafted as a means of assisting municipal and provincial authorities in establishing uniform and suitable standards. The Code is the result of years of study and constant review. It specifies minimum room and window areas, lays down rules for the construction of foundation walls, basement floors, exterior walls and roofs, and, in general, is concerned with all phases of building construction.

Apart from local by-laws designed to maintain a given standard of construction there may also be concern with standards established for residential construction financed under the provisions of the National Housing Act. This legislation is administered by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, a Crown company with its head office in Ottawa and branches throughout Canada. All NHA-financed housing, with the exception of apartment buildings, must meet the requirements of the "Housing Standards, Canada, 1963," issued by the Associate Committee on the National Building Code, National Research Council. The requirements for apartment buildings are set out in the publication "Apartment Building Standards" published by the Division of Building Research, National Research Council. All housing financed under the Act must meet provincial and municipal requirements where they are higher than the "Housing Standards, Canada, 1963,"

or the "Apartment Building Standards".

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation also publishes the book "Acceptable Building Materials, Systems and Equipment" which is a loose-leaf listing of building materials, systems and equipment accepted by the Corporation for use in the construction of housing financed under the provisions of the National Housing Act. This book is intended to supplement the two booklets on building standards. Enquiries concerning acceptance of new materials, systems and methods should be directed to the Supervisor, Building Materials Department, at the Corporation's head office in Ottawa.

### PLUMBING CODES

Provincial codes in connection with plumbing have been drafted as a means of assisting municipalities. These are usually based on the plumbing standards set out in the National Building Code. In most cases, they do not have the force of law until such time as local authorities pass pertinent by-laws. In Ontario, the plumbing code has been established on a province-wide basis and is mandatory in every municipality of that province.

Where plumbing by-laws have been enacted, fees are charged for each inspection, and approval of the installation must be obtained before the system can be used.

### ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

Electrical installation must conform to the provisions of the Canadian Electrical Code. The code has been adopted and has the force of law in all provinces other than New Brunswick and Newfoundland. In these latter two areas adoption of the code has been a matter for municipal action.



Enforcement is primarily a matter for municipal concern, except in Saskatchewan where the Electrical and Gas Inspection Branch of the Department of Labour carries on inspection throughout the province.

In other than municipally organized areas, enforcement is carried out by provincial authorities. Power suppliers are requested to withhold service until equipment and installation have been approved. Fees are charged for inspection.

### ELECTRICAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

Electrical apparatus and equipment offered for sale in Canada must be CSA certified.

The Canadian Standards Association is an autonomous, non-government body, established for the purpose of developing uniform nation-wide standards on products, processes and procedures. The standards developed are published as recommended good practice; acceptance remains voluntary until such time as the standards receive force of law through appropriate legislation by provincial or municipal authorities. A listing of the standards that have been developed can be obtained from the General Manager, Canadian Standards Association, 235 Montreal Road, Ottawa 2.

All provinces have enacted legislation requiring that electrical equipment comply with CSA standards. In Ontario, for example, a dealer selling sub-standard equipment would be liable to a fine ranging from \$10.00 to \$50.00. Regulations prohibit advertising, selling, renting or transferring ownership or possession where electrical equipment has not been certified by the CSA. Other provinces have similar regulations. Usually a dealer buying electrical merchandise will insist the terms of sales include a warranty that the equipment meets CSA standard.

Applications for the CSA certification of electrical equipment may be made in person or in writing to the CSA Testing Laboratories, 178 Rexdale Blvd., Rexdale, Ontario, or to the CSA District Office in the location concerned. United Kingdom manufacturers should address their communications to B.S.I./CSA Agency, British Standards Association, Maylands Avenue, Hemel

Hempstead, Herts, England; European manufacturers - N.V. tot Keuring van Electrotechnische Materialen (KEMA), Utrechtseweg 310, Arnhem, The Netherlands.

An application form will be furnished, and when completed and returned, together with a specified initial deposit (to be applied against the costs of a laboratory investigation, report, and promulgation or certification), work will be initiated according to the schedule of jobs on hand.

Samples must be delivered, as directed, to the specified testing laboratory with all carriage, customs, brokerage and other charges prepaid. The samples will be inspected and/or tested to determine whether they conform to requirements. Should the final decision be favourable, the applicant will be asked to accept the CSA Follow-up Inspection Service.

The Follow-up Inspection Service, involving an annual fee, is carried out by means of periodic tests and/or inspection by an inspector at the factory; by observation of the certified equipment in service, and/or by the tests at laboratory on samples submitted, or purchased in the open market.

#### WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES ELECTRICITY AND GAS METERS

The production and/or sale of weighing and measuring equipment, electricity and gas meters, for commercial use is controlled in Canada under legislation administered by the Standards Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa. Before sale and use, prototypes and specifications must be submitted to the laboratory of the Branch for inspection and test. The results are considered, and the equipment is either approved and listed, or rejected, as the circumstances warrant. All such equipment is subject to periodic inspection during its lifetime.

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