

NEWS

LETTER

Eric Ramsden.

Co Editors.

Clarence Dresser.

Guest Editorial.

THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY.

Evidently those responsible for our present registration system for electrical contractors were chiefly concerned with improving the standard of electrical wiring.

In this respect they were successful as they were in affording some protection to the public.

The writer recalls an experience in point which is a classic example of something or other - taking place before the registration system was in effect.

A new Contractor to the District applied for a license to the local Municipal License Inspector, who after a new routine questions granted him one. The Contractor then promptly made out applications for electrical permits for seven residence jobs he had already wired.

The inspector found that approximately 75% of the work was contrary to Code regulations. The Contractor was indignant at first considering that he was being discriminated against by the Inspector, being an outside man. After much talking he agreed to have another electrician take a look at the houses, since he strongly maintained that his work elsewhere had always passed inspection. However, it was necessary to make arrangements to rewire the seven houses 100% which took about seven months to finally approve to the last one. In the meantime a delegation of irate housewives stormed the Municipal Hall demanding compensation for being overcharged (which they were), redress for having to wait so long and insisting that the Contractors license be revoked. No one seemed to know just what to do and nothing was actually done except the making of some promises. To everyones relief the Contractor disappeared and apparently hasn't been heard of since that time.

That was before the days of contractor registration which permits the issuing of licenses to only those holding Certificates of Competency.

Speaking of Certificates of Competency, are we not stressing the responsibility of the holder more than their competency? By way of explanation an electrician holding a "C" certificate was doing poor work causing the Inspector considerable trouble. After a period he was apparently no better and it was decided something had to be done. However before anything drastic was undertaken, the Inspector was surprised to find that the electrician had associated himself with a Contractor holding a "B" certificate. He then could legally do "B" work when he was not competent as a "C" certificate holder. This he did for some time, but fortunately the Contractors influence made a decided improvement to his work.

The point I wish to make is that only electricians who are holders of the appropriate certificates should be permitted to do work in any particular category. In other words there should be a qualified man on the job. Some instances have been related where only a helper with little experience has been running the job and the Owner has complained.

Our certificates could be more properly termed Certificates of Responsibility when in so many cases the holders have little or no actual contact with the work.

If, on the other hand, it was mandatory to have a qualified electrician on the job, whose responsibility it was to furnish proof of his qualifications, it would not be too difficult for an Inspector to make certain that this was the case.

T.P. Pugh,
Electrical Inspector,
Cloverdale, B.C.

I.C.I.A. Reports

Sir Lancelot escorted by three Knights of the Round table ventured south of the mighty Fraser and are pleased to report that the Barbarians living there are very friendly and no doubt can be educated. Valiant duty of turning new pages was done by Sir Reginald.

Inspectors from four different inspection departments attended a Contractors meeting as far away as Langley City.

It is rumoured that Cue Ball of the City is so busy studying ways and means to lay charges that he cannot attend our meetings, where he really would get educated.

The husband of an operator of a ladies dress goods somewhere on the Sechelte peninsula recently purchased a two way mirror. We wonder why.

A certain inspector from THE island did sally forth and cause the marine gas pump on Salt Spring to be disconnected to the consternation of certain mariners - Egad Sir.

That at least one Inspection dept. still refuses to admit that Sec. 26-124 is amended.

A certain bold headed inspector was recently requested to fix something "hot". Did he or didnt he?

Recently 5'2 was brought to the attention of the "proféssor" and his boss Wacky. Seems he won out as he is still with us.

Our hard working one from Victoria is now one step up the ladder.

Our gentleman inspector from way up mile 0 way was seen cavorting around the city - report says he has grown a few inches - is this possible? Welcome to the club Al.

DID YOU KNOW

That no device rated at more than 5 amperes shall be connected to a branch circuit which supplies incandescent lamps - its in the book.

Dear Editors:

You are to be congratulated for your informative newsletter Volume 2, No.1. A good deal of effort is required to produce such a letter and I am sure that most inspectors will not only be enlightened technically, but should also get a chuckle (as I did) from the side issues.

I would be interested in knowing who "Fat & Forty" from Burnaby might be. After listening to the "Canadian Electrical Code Committee Part 1" last week, I doubt if the suggestion would ever become a "must". Is it possible that "Forty" has been misspelled.

Yours truly,
Hell Schwartz

Eds: It is.

News Letter Editors:

The purpose of holding Friday meetings was to encourage up-country and out-of-town inspectors; to attend the meetings of the association. To most of us locally, Friday is just about the worst night in the week for a meeting; stores, etc. are open and it disrupts long range week end plans.

Unless there is a good turnout of out-of-town inspectors; I believe we would be smart to revert to our old Monday night meeting arrangements. Losing all the local enthusiasm just because a few hillbillies may attend is just going to kill this association.

Yours truly,
"Short circuit"

Gentlemen:

There seems to be a difference of opinion among inspectors as to whether it is necessary to insist on backing being in place behind meter sockets before connection is authorized.

Referring to Rules 12-270 and 12-272 and considering that the round type meter bases are under 100 cubic inches it would seem to be doubtful. However as securing holes are provided in the back of the base and in the interests of good workmanship it is my opinion that backing and securing should be required.

Yours truly,
"Crewcut"

From the front of the Lions

INDICATION OF CSA APPROVAL

Gentlemen :

In the January, 1962 List of Equipment Approved by the Canadian Standards Association, there is only one listing of air heaters which would not bear a CSA Monogram, as evidence of approval. It is Electromode, Div. of Commercial Controls Ltd, and covers convection-type electric heaters for wall mounting. Any other electric air-heaters for use in either hazardous or non hazardous locations would have to bear a CSA monogram to be considered as approved.

There are two classes of equipment, listed by the Canadian Standards Association, which are not required to bear a CSA Monogram, as evidence of approval :

1. Certain devices which are never sold to the public separately, but are always a component of equipment which bears a CSA Monogram.

2. Devices, for use in hazardous locations, which are listed by the Canadian Standards Association on the basis of a report and factory inspections by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.. An example is the listing of air heaters, mentioned above.

Any other equipment within the scope of the Canadian Standards Association Testing Laboratories, must bear a CSA Monogram or it is unapproved.

A CSA Monogram can only be applied to equipment, conforming to related requirements, after approval is granted; equipment manufactured prior to approval is not eligible to bear a CSA Monogram.

It is possible that one piece of equipment, bearing a given catalogue number, without a CSA Monogram, may be constructed differently to another piece of equipment with the same catalogue number, but with a CSA Monogram affixed. The latter piece may incorporate alterations required to have it conform to requirements of the Canadian Standards Association.

Furthermore, a CSA Monogram can only be applied to approved equipment at a factory listed with the Canadian Standards Association. If a monogram is forwarded for application at any other location, the related approval may be cancelled immediately.

An electrical inspector may reject any equipment on the basis that it is unapproved if,

with the two exceptions previously noted, it does not bear a CSA Monogram.

The writer would be pleased to provide any information, regarding the operation of the Canadian Standards Association, which would be of assistance to electrical inspectors.

Yours truly,
J. R. Oakley,
Inspector.

From a letter received from the CSA Testing Laboratories Office in Vancouver, addressed to The Electrical Inspectors Association.

WE'LL MISS HIM

The provincial Government inspectors in this area turned out en-mass to attend a staff dinner at the Devonshire Hotel in honor of W. J. Leppard - known to most of us as Lepp - he says he is retiring.

After thirty-three years in the business - (is this a record?) - he may not find it easy to retire and it is a pretty good bet that Lepp will be around making loud noises occasionally for a long time yet.

Along with the entire staff of "411" we were privileged to have the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr. Webb, who presented Mr. Leppard with an engraved token of appreciation on behalf of the Premier and the Government of British Columbia.

Lance Robson made presentations on behalf of the staff; and Lepp, who was speechless - (for the first time in his life I think) was ably assisted by Mrs. Leppard and managed to rise to the occasion in his usual capable manner.

We all wish you a very pleasant retirement Lepp and hope you will give us the benefit of your presence at many meetings.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO :

The Inspectors Newsletter,
Box 54, White Rock, B.C.

or

Electrical Inspectors Association
at 970 Burrard St.,
Vancouver, 1, B.C.

FLEXIBLE CORD: Notes and Comments on Rules 4-013 to 4-030
By G.A. Harrower, P. Eng.

The four rules governing the use of flexible cords are generally quite clear. There can be little argument regarding the exact meaning of most of the sub rules. However, some amplification or examples may be of value in some cases.

Rule 4-013 (2)(a) permits the use of flexible cord for (i) portable domestic equipment, i.e., irons, toasters, mixers, portable heaters and so on; and (ii) for equipment which may be detachably connected according to Part 2 specification. This latter group includes such things as refrigerators, console radios, range-tops and some types of washers, all appliances that are not moved around much once they are installed, and which cannot be classed as truly portable.

Paragraph (b) of sub rule (2) permits the use of flexible cord for industrial equipment which must be capable of being moved from place to place for operation. This wording does not require the equipment to be portable, nor to be detachably connected, hence it is permissible to use flexible cord for connection to machine tools to overhead bus duct systems to give one example, thus permitting frequent re-arrangement.

Under paragraph (c) flexible cords may be used for pendants, but sub rule (3)(c) limits the weight of any device suspended thereon to five pounds. Above this weight the cord may still be used but the device must be independently suspended.

The use of flexible cord under paragraph (c) of sub rule (2) for cranes and hoists, although permitted, must be approached with caution. Obviously long runs of cable trailing after a crane or hoist cannot be considered desirable, and in many instances a set of trolley conductors is preferable. Rule 40-004(2) requires the cord to be kept clear of the floor.

A good example of the use of flexible cord under paragraph (f) was recently approved, in which a portable sawmill was built in four sections, and the electrical connections between the sections were run in type S flexible cord. An example of its use under paragraph (h) is in marine installations where floats must be connected to shore installations.

Except under paragraph (h) and (g) of sub rule (2), flexible cord must not be used as a substitute for fixed wiring of structures. However under paragraph (g) its use has been approved in place of rigid conduit for the wiring of rock crusher plants and conveyors, where heavy vibration caused frequent breakage of conduits.

It should be noted that the current carrying capacity of flexible cords is NOT governed by Table 2 of the Code, but by Table 12. This fact is sometimes overlooked.

FIXTURE WIRE : Rule 4-026.

This rule requires no explanation. Its meaning is quite clear. However, it is in order to mention something about the uses of fixture wire. As the name implies, Fixture wire is approved for use in wiring lighting fixtures, either in the field or in the factory. Rules 30-044 through 30-056 govern the field wiring of fixtures. Fixture wires are not approved for wiring in raceways, except that types RF-32 & TF or other approved equivalent may be used in class 1 remote control circuits, under rule 16-020.

A special reference must be made to rule 12-123 (2) which requires circuit wires carried through fluorescent fixtures in the same raceways as the ballasts, to be of type A-13 wire only. Fixture wire is not permitted under this rule.