



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 24, 2017  
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: November 1, 2017

TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities  
FROM: Chief Building Official/ City Electrician  
SUBJECT: 2017 Electrical By-law Housekeeping Amendments

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

THAT Council adopt, in principle, the proposed amendments to the Electrical By-law presented in Appendix A;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment a by-law to amend the Electrical By-law in accordance with the above.

### ***REPORT SUMMARY***

Housekeeping changes are proposed for 2017 that are administrative in nature and will:

- Standardize the required permit information with that which is required for the annual permits;
- Coordinate Electrical By-law requirements with the 2015 Canadian Electrical Code; and
- Provide clarifying wording with respect to existing By-law requirements.

It is recommended by staff that Council amend the Electrical By-law No. 5563 to adopt the proposed Housekeeping amendments in Appendix A.

### ***COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS***

Under Section 314(1)(e) of the Vancouver Charter, Council may, subject to the Safety Standards Act and the regulations under that Act, provide for adopting, in whole or in part or with such modification as may be provided in the by-law, the rules and provisions of the Canadian Electrical Code promulgated by the Canadian Standards

Association with respect to electrical works, and constituting as regulations under the by-law the rules and provisions so adopted or modified.

On July 13, 1982, Council adopted the Electrical By-law, a by-law to regulate electrical works in the city of Vancouver and its subsequent amendments. Subsequent amendments enacted by Council in June 14, 2016, expanded the existing annual permit process to cover all buildings. This provided all building owners and organizations the ability to obtain an annual license and hire qualified electrical trades to manage the ongoing maintenance and repair of their buildings on a yearly basis.

### ***CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The City Manager and the General Manager of Development, Buildings and Licensing support the approval of the Recommendation.

### ***REPORT***

#### ***Background/Context***

Through amendment to the Electrical By-law in 2016, Council has, for the protection of the general public and consistency with existing provincial legislation, adopted the 23rd Edition of the Canadian Electrical Code. This adoption included administrative amendments expanding the existing annual permits process. These changes provided the ability for all building owners and organizations to obtain an annual license and hire qualified electrical trades (the field safety representative) to manage the ongoing maintenance and repair of their buildings on a yearly basis.

Following the expansion of the annual permits process, housekeeping changes are proposed for 2017 that will:

- Standardize the required permit information with that which is required for the annual permits;
- Coordinate By-law requirements with the 2015 Canadian Electrical Code;
- Provide clarifying wording with respect to existing By-law requirements; and
- Formalization of process for special permissions to vary from Canadian Electrical Code Requirements.

#### ***Strategic Analysis***

The proposed housekeeping amendments identified in Appendix A are administrative in nature and are consistent with the intent and provisions of the provincial *Safety Standards Act*. As the proposed changes are clarifications to existing policy and provincially accepted practice, City staff does not expect that the implementation of these proposed changes will generate new risk to owner, the industry, or the City.

***Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)******Financial***

There are no financial implications.

***Legal***

The City has the legal authority under Section 314(1)(e) of the Vancouver Charter to adopt the Canadian Electrical Code, in whole or in part or with such modification as may be provided in the by-law, and is subject to the *Safety Standards Act* and the regulations under that Act.

This includes adoption of administrative requirements that do not otherwise conflict with provincial legislation, and ensure the safety of the public through uniform enforcement of electrical regulations throughout the province.

***CONCLUSION***

Staff recommend that Council adopt the changes to the Electrical By-law presented in Appendix A.

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BY-LAW NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A By-law to amend Electrical By-law No. 5563  
regarding to miscellaneous Housekeeping amendments.**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts as follows:

1. This by-law amends the indicated provisions of Electrical By-law 5563.
2. Council strikes out Section 4.9 and substitutes:

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

  - (a) an installation of electrical equipment is intended to be temporary in nature; or
  - (b) equivalent protection is afforded by other means not specifically covered by this By-law or an alternative approved by special permission meets the fundamental safety principles of protection against electric shock, thermal effects, overcurrent, fault currents and overvoltage; in conformance with the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I adopted pursuant to Section 7.1.”
3. In Section 5, Council strikes out Section 5.4 and substitutes:

“5.4 The application for a permit shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee as set out in Schedule A of this By-law and shall include the following particulars:

  - (a) the address, location and name of the registered owner or tenant of the premises for which the permit is sought;
  - (b) the name and the class of certificate of qualification of the field safety representative who will perform or supervise the electrical works under the permit;
  - (c) the name and address of any electrical contractor who will perform electrical works under the permit;
  - (d) the scope of work, type of permit and work, work description and installation details; and
  - (e) any other drawings, plans or specifications required by the City Electrician.”
4. In Section 5, Council strikes out Section 5.13 and substitutes:

“5.13 Where an annual permit has been issued to a person pursuant to this By-law, that person shall not be required during the term of such permit to obtain a permit for minor electrical works which do not increase the total service supply or power supply KVA rating specified in the application by more than 5 percent.
5. In Section 5, Council strikes out Articles 5.14 and 5.15 and substitutes the following:

“5.14 An annual permit shall be required for the following:

- (a) the maintenance of existing operating electrical equipment;
- (b) a service supply or power supply to a building or premises, where either or both supply ratings in combination exceed 500 KVA;
- (c) any service supply or power supply to the electrical equipment that is greater than 750 volts; or
- (d) any existing electrical equipment maintained for emergency service.

5.15 An annual permit issued pursuant to Section 5.14 authorizes an owner to maintain all existing operating electrical equipment in safe and proper working order in conformance with Rule 2-300 of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I."

6. In section 5.16, Council adds the words "drawings or " before the words "plans referred to in Section 5.4"

7. After section 5.23, Council adds:

"5.24 A holder of an annual permit shall:

- (a) request inspections within the time period of the permit;
- (b) maintain an up to date log of electrical works undertaken under the permit;
- (c) immediately notify the City Electrician if the field safety representative named on the permit ceases to perform or supervise the works; and
- (d) immediately cease all electrical work under the existing permit and apply for a new permit, if the field safety representative named on the permit ceases to perform or supervise the works."

8. In Schedule A, Item 3, Council adds the words "supply or power supply" after the word "service" and before the words "rating up to and including".

9. In Schedule A, Item 5, Council adds the words "drawings or" before each instance of the word "plans".

10. In Schedule A, Council adds the following items in numerical order:

"9. The fee for an application for special permission pursuant to Section 4.9 shall be ..... \$169.00

10. For electrical equipment in trade shows that has not been approved in accordance with the provisions of the Electrical By-law, the fee for an application for permission to display or energize for up to 14 days .....\$169.00".

11. A decision by a court that any part of this By-law is illegal, void, or unenforceable severs that part from this By-law, and is not to affect the balance of this By-law.

12. This By-law is to come into force and take effect on January 1, 2018.

