

Ontario's Building Code

ONTARIO ONLY	PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE 2006 BUILDING CODE		
CHANGE NUMBER	H-B-03-03-01	CODE REFERENCE	Div. B 3.3.1.3.(11)
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT	Add a "signpost" to the Ontario Electrical Safety Code requirements applicable to access to egress requirements for rooms containing electrical equipment.		

EXISTING 2006 BUILDING CODE PROVISION(S)
--

3.3.1.3. Means of Egress

- (1) Access to exit within *floor areas* shall conform to Subsections 3.3.2. to 3.3.5., in addition to the requirements of this Subsection.
- (2) If a podium, terrace, platform or contained open space is provided, egress requirements shall conform to the appropriate requirements of Sentence 3.3.1.5.(1) for rooms and *suites*.
- (3) *Means of egress* shall be provided from every roof that is intended for *occupancy*, and from every podium, terrace, platform or contained open space.
- (4) At least two separate *means of egress* shall be provided from a roof, used or intended for an *occupant load* more than 60, to stairs designed in conformance with the *exit* stair requirements of Section 3.4.
- (5) A rooftop enclosure shall be provided with an access to exit that leads to an *exit*,
 - (a) at the roof level, or
 - (b) on the *storey* immediately below the roof.
- (6) A rooftop enclosure that is more than 200 m² in area shall be provided with at least 2 *means of egress*.
- (7) Two points of egress shall be provided for a *service space* referred to in Sentence 3.2.1.1.(9) if,
 - (a) the area is more than 200 m², or
 - (b) the *travel distance* measured from any point in the *service space* to a point of egress is more than 25 m.
- (8) Except as required by Sentence 3.3.4.4.(9) and permitted by Sentences 3.3.4.4.(6) and (7), each *suite* in a *floor area* that contains more than one *suite* shall have,
 - (a) an exterior *exit* doorway, or
 - (b) a doorway,
 - (i) into a *public corridor*, or
 - (ii) to an exterior passageway.
- (9) Except as permitted by this Section and by Sentence 3.4.2.1.(2), at the point where a doorway referred to in Sentence (8) opens onto a *public corridor* or exterior passageway, it shall be possible to go in opposite directions to each of 2 separate *exits*.
- (10) Means of egress from a roof for personnel servicing roof top equipment or for a below ground service room that is not normally occupied, is permitted to be provided by stairways or fixed ladders.

Related provisions in the Ontario Electrical Safety Code.

2-310 Entrance to, and exit from, working space (See Appendices B,G and I)

- (1) Each room containing electrical equipment and each working space around equipment shall have unobstructed means of egress in compliance with the National Building Code of Canada.
- (2) Where a room or space referred to in Subrule (1) contains equipment that is rated 1200 A or more, or rated over 750 V, and consists of transformers, overcurrent devices, switchgear, or disconnecting means, such equipment shall be arranged so that, in the event of a failure in the equipment, it shall be possible to leave the room or space referred to in Subrule (1) without passing the failure point, except that where this cannot be done, the working space requirement of Rule 2-308(1) and (2) shall be not less than 1.5 m.
- (3) For the purposes of Subrule (2), the potential failure point is any point within or on the equipment.
- (4) Doors or gates shall be capable of being readily opened from the equipment side without the use of a key or tool.

PROPOSED CODE CHANGE

Add new Sentence 3.3.1.3.(11) as follows:

(11) In addition to the requirements of this Code, rooms containing electrical equipment shall be provided with *means of egress* complying with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

Problem / General Background

In addition to Building Code provisions, the OESC contains egress requirements for rooms containing equipment that is rated 1200 A or more, or rated over 750 V. Equipment includes “transformers, overcurrent devices, switchgear, or “disconnecting means.” As these requirements are provided to ensure safe access to egress around electrical installations building designers should be made aware of them. As such, a signpost is provided in the Building Code.

Justification / Explanation

Include in the Building Code a signpost to Ontario Electrical Safety Code provisions that specify access to egress requirements applicable to rooms containing electrical equipment.

Cost / Benefit Implications

None. The provisions are currently required by a code applicable to building construction.

Enforcement Implications

None. These provisions are currently in force.

Who is Affected

Designers, Building Officials.

Objective-Based Analysis

Provision	3.3.1.3.(11) new
Objective	N/A - signpost
Functional Statement	