
BULLETIN 2000-018-EL

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ELECTRICAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT AND FILM INDUSTRY

This bulletin clarifies electrical permit requirements for:

- a) Each entertainment event such as a movie or film project undertaken in a studio or on location; and
- b) Operating and maintaining electrical equipment intended for entertainment purpose on an annual basis in a building (studio, arena, theatre, convention facility, etc.).

1. **Is an electrical permit required for a film production or for operation/maintenance of entertainment equipment?**

Yes. The BC Electrical Safety Regulation states that a permit must be obtained in order to install and to operate electrical equipment. When filming is done in a studio or where entertainment activity is intended to take place in a building on an annual basis, a permit must be obtained for the whole year (operating/annual permit). When filming is done on location, a permit is required for each filming project to install and to operate electrical equipment used in a filming project.

NOTE: An operating (annual) permit may be issued for filming in multiple locations provided that a list of the locations is submitted monthly to the Electrical Inspection Branch, where the electrical equipment used for filming is intended to be installed and operated.

2. **Who can obtain the required electrical permit?**

The required electrical permit may be obtained by the following persons:

- (a) A registered Electrical Contractor; or
- (b) The owner/operator of entertainment equipment (production company), or owner of the building (studio, arena, theatre, convention facility, etc.) where the entertainment events or filming are intended to take place, provided that this production company or building owner:
 - (i) has a valid business license to operate in the City of Vancouver; and
 - (ii) employs a "qualified person" who is named on the permit application as being responsible to perform electrical work under the scope of the permit.

NOTE: "Qualified person" is deemed to be a person who holds a valid certificate of qualification issued by the BC Safety Authority.

3. What must be included in the permit application?

The application for permit shall include the following:

- (a) Payment of the fee set forth in accordance with item 4 below;
- (b) Description of the installation;
- (c) All locations where the entertainment equipment is to be installed under the scope of this permit; and
- (d) Time period required to operate the entertainment equipment under the scope of this permit.

4. What permit fees are required?

An up to date list of current fees may be found on the City's website at:

<http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/developmentservices/fees/index.htm>

Please refer to Electrical Permit By-law Number 5563, Schedule A, Section 3A (page 17).

NOTES:

The electrical contractor or "qualified person" named on the permit must:

- (i) ensure that the electrical equipment installed under the scope of the permit is approved for the purpose, and that wiring methods are in conformance with the applicable requirements of the BC Electrical Code; and submit requests for inspection.
- (ii) If the person named on the permit has to leave the location while the set is energized, the production company must ensure that another "qualified person" is left in charge on the site.

(Original signed)

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