

# **What's New in 1998**

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Changes to the  
CE Code, Part I,  
*explained*



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## Preface

We wrote *What's New in 1998* to help you use the CE Code, Part I.\* In it we review the more significant amendments to the 1998 edition. For your convenience we have given the number and caption of each Rule amended. Future editions of the Code are scheduled to be published every 4 years.

This booklet, the 5th edition of *What's New*, provides unofficial explanations and background information for some of the changes that have been made to the CE Code. It does not form part of the CE Code, Part I.

*\*The reader should understand that the "we" so used throughout this publication includes not only CSA and its staff but also consultants and the many committee and subcommittee members without whose invaluable efforts these changes would not have been possible.*

## How to Use the CE Code

The CE Code, Part I, is a voluntary Code for adoption and enforcement by the electrical inspection authorities of each Province, Territory, or City.\* It is divided into 41 Sections. Sections 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 26 are considered to be "general" sections in that they provide the Rules generally applicable to all installations. The remaining sections are "supplementary" or "amendatory" to these general Rules in the Code. That is, these Rules are additional to the Rules in the general sections of the Code and in some cases may modify the general Rules of the Code. "Supplementary to or amendatory of" is the term used in the Scope of these sections to clearly

indicate that the Rules following cover the specific subject matter of that section.

Code Rules are written in the positive sense, with the word "shall" indicating a mandatory requirement.

To fully understand how to use the Code, you need a good knowledge of the definitions in Section 0 and the general Rules of Section 2. The CE Code is adopted across Canada and in certain areas, to meet local conditions, amendments or additional requirements may be introduced. You should therefore determine if any special requirements exist before making any electrical installations.

Appendices A, B, D, E, F, G, and H provide general information on the Code and do not include any amendatory requirements. Appendix C outlines the organization of the Committee on CE Code, Part I, and gives the Rules of Procedure. Annex J18 applies to locations in which electrical equipment and wiring is subject to the conditions indicated.

*\*It is important to note that some Provinces, Territories, or Cities may not yet have adopted the 1998 (18th) edition of the CE Code.*

## **How to Interpret the CE Code**

Because the CE Code may be adopted as a regulatory document, we have taken extreme care in the legal wording of requirements. When you find that the language used poses difficulties in interpretation or intent, you can request an interpretation. Such requests can be made by anyone; see Clause C10 of Appendix C of the CE Code. The resulting

interpretation will be based on the literal text and not on the intent.

Requests should be made in writing to the Standards Administrator of the Committee on CE Code, Part I, Canadian Standards Association, 178 Rexdale Boulevard, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 1R3.

## **How to Change the CE Code**

We explain the approach and method of introducing amendments to Code Rules in Clause C6 of Appendix C of the CE Code.

Anyone can request an amendment by writing to the Standards Administrator of the Committee on CE Code, Part I, Canadian Standards Association, 178 Rexdale Boulevard, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 1R3.

In your request, provide the text of the amended or new Rule being proposed, as well as the rationale and supporting information for the proposal.

## **Metric Units**

We introduced SI units and symbols in the 1978 edition, and have made no significant changes in their use in the 1998 Code. For your convenience, however, we have kept the table "Symbols for SI Units" in the Preface.

Certain products have yet to be converted to SI units, since agreement has not been reached in the industries involved. These include wire sizes and motor control ratings.

## **CSA Certification**

The Canadian Standards Association provides a certification service in accordance with the definition of "approved as applied to electrical equipment" in the Canadian Electrical Code, Part I.

Further information can be obtained by consulting the "Foreword" in any current Standard of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part II, or by writing to the Applications and Records Section, Canadian Standards Association, 178 Rexdale Boulevard, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 1R3.



## **What's New in 1998**

### *Changes to the CE Code, Part I, explained*

#### ***General Changes***

There are significant changes to Sections 0, 2, 6, 10, 12, 14, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 60, 62, and 80. In addition, there are significant changes to Sections 18 and 20, which have been revised to use the European method (Zone 0, 1, and 2) for classifying Class I hazardous locations. A new Section 86 was added to provide the requirements for Electric Vehicle Charging Systems. A new Appendix G has been added to assist the user of the Code in finding specific references to the National Building Code of Canada. Also, Appendix J has been added to assist the user of the CE Code in finding the Rules that cover the Division method for classifying Class I hazardous locations, which may be required to cover additions and changes to existing installations classified under the Division method.

Throughout the CE Code, Part I, the word "acceptable", which delegates authority to some other individual or organization for setting a requirement, has been replaced with a suitable word or phrase. This has been done by the Regulatory Authority Committee, because they consider the term subjective and dependent on an inspector's decision.

Throughout this edition of the CE Code, Part I, the user will find that the word "may" has been replaced with a suitable phrase, eg, "shall be permitted." This has also been done by the Regulatory Authority Committee, in order to make the requirement a mandatory statement.

In many locations, the term “ground” or “grounded” was used incorrectly. In these cases the term “bond” or “bonded to ground” has been substituted.

### ***Metrification of Conduit Sizing***

In this edition, changes to the indication of the size of conduit have been made throughout the Code:

- (a) Reference to “inches” from the present traditional inch-pound trade sizes has been removed (eg, 1/2, 3/4 ... instead of 1/2 inch, 3/4 inch).
- (b) An alternate column to all Tables where trade size is referenced has been included.
- (c) The “Metric Trade Designator” has been added parenthetically after the traditional inch-pound trade size where referenced in the text (eg, 1/2 (16) trade size).

Changes have been made to reflect the following intent:

<b>Previously</b>	<b>This edition</b>
3/8 inch conduit	3/8 (12) trade size conduit
1/2 inch conduit	1/2 (16) trade size conduit
3/4 inch conduit	3/4 (21) trade size conduit
1 inch conduit	1 (27) trade size conduit
1-1/4 inch conduit	1-1/4 (35) trade size conduit
1-1/2 inch conduit	1-1/2 (41) trade size conduit
2 inch conduit	2 (53) trade size conduit
2-1/2 inch conduit	2-1/2 (63) trade size conduit
3 inch conduit	3 (78) trade size conduit
3-1/2 inch conduit	3-1/2 (91) trade size conduit
4 inch conduit	4 (103) trade size conduit

5 inch conduit

5 (129) trade size conduit

6 inch conduit

6 (155) trade size conduit

In the next edition, the Metric Trade Designator will come first, and in the following edition, the inch-pound size will be dropped.