

LEGISLATION
Permit Regulation

**SUBJECT: General – Permit Regulation, Communication Systems and Travelling
Carnival, Entertainment and Show Facilities**

Permit Regulation

The *Permit Regulation AR 204/2007*¹ came into force on April 1, 2008. This document mandates “Required Permits”, “Permit Eligibility”, and “Conditions” for obtaining a permit as well as “Administrative” requirements for permits.

A permit:

- provides the owner with access to expert advice before costly mistakes are made;
- provides the owner with a record of having done their due diligence to comply with the codes and standards;
- informs the jurisdiction with the responsibility for administering the *Safety Codes Act*¹ that the project is taking place;
- provides the additional oversight at the early stages of a project through services such as plans or design review; and
- initiates an inspection process by a trained and certified safety codes officer.

Alberta Municipal Affairs with the cooperation of the Safety Codes Council has published a guidelines handbook to the Permit Regulation. This handbook can be accessed at:

http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/cp_index.cfm

This handbook provides guidelines for the application of Alberta’s *Permit Regulation* under the *Safety Codes Act* (SCA). It is designed to assist accredited municipalities and all agencies that are contracted to issue permits on an accredited municipality’s or the Government of Alberta’s behalf to provide consistent permitting services to Albertans.

¹ Copies of the noted Acts and Regulations are available from Alberta Queen’s Printer:

Main Floor, Park Plaza
10611 – 98th Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7
Phone: 780 427-4952

Web Site: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/index.cfm>

Communication Systems

Communication circuits are audio, video or data circuits. These systems are exempt from requiring a permit.

Even though a permit is not required for communication systems, the systems must still meet the requirements of the Canadian Electrical Code (section 60) and the Safety Codes Act (SCA).

Owners are responsible for the care and control of communication systems on their side of the connection point between the customer and the utility, including making sure they comply with the relevant sections of the Canadian Electrical Code.

Travelling Carnival, Entertainment and Show Facilities

Problem to be addressed:

The amusement ride industry in Alberta is concerned that the cost imposed by frequent inspections on a facility as it travels within Alberta is unwarranted. Part 1 of the *Safety Codes Act* defines the responsibilities for owners/operators of such facilities. By fulfilling that responsibility, the safety of Albertans can be assured without imposing undue cost.

The facilities involved, including their power supply and distribution systems, are those that travel between inspection jurisdictions within the province and may or may not have evidence of inspection and approval by a recognized certification organization.

Those facilities intended to be set up for a local show and not relocated to another jurisdiction do not fall within this policy. Similarly those facilities governed by the amusement ride standards are the responsibility of the Alberta Elevating Devices and Amusement Ride Association and do not fall within this policy.

Policy Statement:

Owners of travelling carnival, entertainment and show facilities touring Alberta must be able to demonstrate evidence of inspection in the form of:

- an authorized label of an accredited certification organization¹, or
- an inspection report, issued within the current year by a Safety Codes Officer designated the power to perform inspections under the Safety Codes Act.

Sponsoring organizations must ensure that owners of these facilities can demonstrate evidence of inspection and adequate maintenance procedures. Sponsoring organizations are to report to the inspection authority where this evidence cannot be produced or where there is an identified safety concern.

Process:

Once travelling carnival, entertainment or show facilities enter a community, the sponsoring organization will determine if the owners have evidence of inspection and if there are no obvious safety concerns.

The sponsoring organization will notify the inspection authority when they identify safety concerns. The inspection authority will determine whether further inspections are required. Owners must comply with the Safety Codes Act before they operate their facilities.

Responsibilities:Owner's Responsibility

Sections 5 through 9 of the Safety Codes Act outline the responsibilities or duties of the various persons involved. An owner is responsible;

- to ensure that facilities under its care and control are safe from electrical hazards,
- to ensure the facility bears evidence of inspection in the form of:
 - an authorized label of an accredited certification organization¹, or
 - an inspection report, issued within the current year by a Safety Codes Officer designated the power to perform inspections under the Safety Codes Act,
- to ensure that it is available for review by a Safety Codes Officer or the sponsoring organization, and
- to ensure the facility is maintained in a manner that provides for continued safety.

Sponsoring Organization's Responsibility

By nature of the relationship between the owner of the facility covered by this policy and the sponsoring organization, the sponsor shares the responsibility for safety with the owner. In most cases, the sponsor will be obtaining the services of a contractor to install electrical systems, or to ensure local facilities are ready for use. This person is already on site and can visually check for 'evidence of inspection' on all of the travelling facilities and note any obvious safety concerns that may be present. The sponsoring organization is responsible:

- to ensure all local facilities comply with the Act,
- to ensure all travelling facilities bear evidence of inspection and there are no obvious hazards present,
- to ensure that facilities that do not have evidence of inspection or that show possible safety concerns are inspected by the inspection authority before they are connected to the power supply, and
- to ensure that the power supply, if a generator, and the distribution system used for the facilities are installed in a safe manner.

Inspection Authority's Responsibility:

- Work with the sponsoring organization to ensure that this policy is implemented.
- Provide inspections when required to address an identified safety concern or to provide a facility with evidence of inspection.

¹ Please see STANDATA LEG-ECR-2 for information on accredited certification organizations