



Certification of Electrical Signage and Electrical Inspection Guidelines



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This document should be used by sign companies for education purposes to assist in determining certification requirements, as well as SaskPower permit and inspection requirements for electrical illuminated signs. This information is presumed to be accurate at the time of writing, but requirements may change without notice. For complete details, contact SaskPower and refer to the Canadian Electrical Code (Saskatchewan Interpretations) for up to date information.

Definition of the terms 'Certification' and 'Certified' as used in this document:

- Tested and certified by a recognized organization.
- Evidence of the sign being certified is in the form of a recognized label applied to the outside of the sign. The label must be visible from the ground.
- Evidence of a component being certified is in the form of a stamp or label.

For a list of recognized certification organizations go to:

<http://www.saskpower.com/wp-content/uploads/2012-Interpretations-FINAL.pdf> See pages 13-19.

For a copy of the Canadian Electrical Code (Saskatchewan Interpretations):

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=64496>

A. Electronic Message Centre (EMC)

- Certification required, as a complete unit. Certification on components alone is not adequate.
- Certification label must be visible on the cabinet.
- AC electrical connection to supply must be performed by a Licensed Saskatchewan Electrical Contractor under the authority of an electrical permit. An AC service disconnect switch is required on primary side of circuit hookup location.

B. Sign Cabinets/Channel Letters on raceway box (self-contained)

- Certification required, as a complete unit.
- Certification label on cabinet/raceway box. The label must be visible on the cabinet/raceway. If each channel letter is self-contained, a label is to appear on each letter.
- AC electrical connection to supply must be performed by a Licensed Saskatchewan Electrical Contractor under the authority of an electrical permit. An AC service disconnect switch is required on primary side of circuit hookup location.

C. Sign Cabinet/Channel Letters (direct-mounted, with remotely-located power supplies)

- Certification required.
- Certification label must be visible on the cabinet/sides of EACH letter or shape.
- SaskPower field wiring permit is required.
- Installation of wiring to the secondary side of class II power supplies to be performed by a person with restricted journeyman electrical license (for signs) or a journeyman electrician.



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- AC electrical connection to supply must be performed by a Licensed Saskatchewan Electrical Contractor under the authority of an electrical permit.
- Low voltage wiring from LEDs must have recognized certification with a minimum FT-4 fire rating.
- All wiring inserted through exterior wall to be sleeved with certified protective raceway (ie... abs/pvc conduit, wire-loom, liquid-tight flex conduit, etc.) to the interior side of wall.
- Extra-low voltage power supplies, remotely mounted on interior wall, do not need to be housed in a junction box.
- AC voltage (primary side) connection, however, must be in a junction box. Power supplies mounted on an exterior wall require appropriate rated weatherproof enclosures, wire conduit and connectors must be used. In instances where power supply is to be interior mounted in (ie: wet/category 1 location, such as a carwash) an appropriate weatherproof box is required.
- An AC service disconnect switch is required on primary side of circuit hookup location.

D. Halo-lit Channel Letters (direct-mounted, with remotely-located power supplies)

- Certification required.
- Certification label must be visible on the cabinet/sides of EACH letter or shape.
- SaskPower field wiring permit is required.
- Installation of wiring to the secondary side of class II power supplies to be performed by a person with restricted journeyman electrical license (for signs) or a journeyman electrician.
- Low voltage wiring from LEDs must have recognized certification with a minimum FT-4 fire rating.
- All wiring inserted through exterior wall to be sleeved with certified protective liquid-tight raceway and connectors to the interior side of wall. (ie. a halo-lit channel letter would need a liquid-tight connector on the back of letter with a short length of compatible certified flex protecting wire through the exterior wall depth until emerging into interior building space).
- AC electrical connection to supply must be performed by a Licensed Saskatchewan Electrical Contractor under the authority of an electrical permit.
- An AC service disconnect switch is required on primary side of circuit hookup location.
- Extra-low voltage power supplies, remotely mounted on interior wall, do not need to be housed in a junction box. AC voltage (primary side) connection, however, must be in a junction box. Power supplies mounted on an exterior wall require appropriate rated weatherproof enclosures, wire conduit and connectors must be used. In instances where power supply is to be interior mounted in (ie: wet/category 1 location, such as a carwash) an appropriate weatherproof box is required. Power supplies mounted on an exterior wall require appropriate rated weatherproof enclosures, wire conduit and connectors must be used.

E. Internally-illuminated awnings

- Installation of certified self-contained fluorescent or LED fixtures by restricted journeyman is permitted. Installer may wire ("daisy-chain") multiple fixtures together within same awning structure pre- or post-installation to building.
- In the instance of an awning removal for the purpose of re-skinning and re-installation to same location — restricted journeyman may only DISCONNECT the AC power supply.
- AC electrical connection or re-connection to supply MUST be performed by a Licensed Saskatchewan Electrical Contractor under the authority of an electrical permit.
- An AC service disconnect switch is required on primary side of circuit hookup location.



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F. LED retrofits to existing self-contained: 1) fluorescent sign cabinets. 2) cabinets with no prior lighting. 3) fluorescent/neon-lit channel letters.

- Certification required.
- New certification label must be visible on the cabinet/sides of EACH letter or shape.
- If the sign is taken down and retrofitted in the shop, it needs to be re-certified, no permit. If the sign is retrofitted in the field it will need to be field certified by special inspection (third party) or under a field retrofit certification program, an electrical permit is required.
- Extra-low voltage wiring from LEDs must have recognized certification with a minimum FT-4 fire rating.
- AC electrical connection to supply must be performed by a Licensed Saskatchewan Electrical Contractor under the authority of an electrical permit. An AC service disconnect switch is required on primary side of circuit hookup location.
- Installation of wiring to secondary side of class II power supplies to be performed by person with restricted journeyman electrical license (for signs) or a journeyman electrician.

G. LED retrofits to existing remote-powered: 1) fluorescent sign cabinets. 2) cabinets with no prior lighting. 3) fluorescent/neon-lit channel letters.

- Certification required.
- New certification label must be visible on the cabinet, sides of each letter, shape, or raceway.
- SaskPower field wiring permit is required.
- Low voltage wiring from LEDs must have recognized certification with a minimum FT-4 fire rating.
- AC electrical connection to supply must be performed by a Licensed Saskatchewan Electrical Contractor under the authority of an electrical permit. An AC service disconnect switch is required on primary side of circuit hookup location.
- Installation of wiring to secondary side of class II power supplies to be performed by person with restricted journeyman electrical license (for signs) or a journeyman electrician.
- Extra-low voltage power supplies, remotely mounted on interior wall, do not need to be housed in a junction box. AC voltage (primary side) connection, however, must be in a junction box. Power supplies mounted on an exterior wall require appropriate rated weatherproof enclosures, wire conduit and connectors must be used. In instances where power supply is to be interior mounted in (ie: wet/category 1 location, such as a carwash) an appropriate weatherproof box is required. Power supplies mounted on an exterior wall require appropriate rated weatherproof enclosures, wire conduit and connectors must be used.
- Direct-mounted channel letters to have appropriate wire raceway/conduit from back of letter to interior space.
- Halo-lit channel letters would need a liquid-tight connector on the back of each letter with a short length of compatible certified flex protecting wire through the exterior wall depth until emerging into interior building space.

H. Removal / re-location of signs with missing certification labels (or originally un-certified signs, channel letters)

- Certification required.
- Certification label must be visible on the cabinet/sides of EACH letter or shape.
- All other guidelines shown in items in this document apply.



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Field Wiring Permit Fee Calculation

1. Calculate retail value of complete LED channel letters or sign cabinet, including all lighting components
2. Add: Retail value of your installation labour fee for job (do not include any travel time or extra equipment rental)
3. With this total, reference SaskPower Electrical Fee Schedule to attain field wiring permit fee.

Example:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Channel letter retail value to your customer... | \$4000.00 |
| Installation labour fee | \$1600.00 |
| Total value for fee calculation | \$5600.00 |

As per October 1/2013 schedule, \$5600.00 translates to a \$132.00 permit fee.

Fill out form as completely as possible. Note: Meter Number is no longer mandatory.
Duplicate form booklets available from SaskPower Electric Inspection Division.

For a copy of the Electrical Fee Schedule:

http://www.saskpower.com/wp-content/uploads/fee_schedule.pdf