



Q&A With Mike Doherty,
Chairman of The Canadian
Standards Association's
(CSA) Z462 Technical
Committee on Workplace
Electrical Safety.

ES: What are the general areas of difference between NFPA 70e 2004 version and NFPA 70e 2009 version?

MD: Chapter 4 has been completely deleted. As well there have been many, many improvements and clarifications. Task Tables have been updated and improved. It will be one of the most significant upgrades in the cycles of NFPA 70E.

ES: Why is there a CSA Z462?

MD: There was a need expressed by different stakeholders across Canada to have a Standard that was more suited to the Canadian workplace in regards to referencing applicable Canadian Standards, etc.

ES: What are the main areas of difference between CSA Z642 and NFPA 70e?

MD: Basically as follows:

a) CSA formatting and style guide will give CSA Z462 a different look and feel than 70E.;

b) Article 120 on Lockout (OSHA) in 70E will be replaced by Clause 4.2 (Establishing an Electrically Safe Work Condition) in CSA Z462 based on CSA Z460 (Control of Hazardous Energy - Lockout & Other Methods);

c) 5 new Annexes (for information only) added to CSA Z462 that will not be in 70E.;

CSA-Z462: CANADA'S NEW ARC FLASH STANDARD IS YOUR ELECTRICAL SAFETY PROGRAM READY?

Basic CSA Z462 Arc Flash Awareness Tutorial 1-Day Course Dates

September 8, 2008 - Toronto, ON
September 8, 2008 - Richmond, BC
September 9, 2008 - Victoria, BC
September 10, 2008 - Ottawa, ON
September 11, 2008 - Edmonton, AB
September 15, 2008 - Calgary, AB
September 16, 2008 - Saskatoon, SK
September 17, 2008 - Regina, SK
September 18, 2008 - Winnipeg, MB
September 22, 2008 - Dartmouth, NS
September 23, 2008 - St. John's, NL
October 15, 2008 - Toronto, ON
November 13, 2008 - Toronto, ON
December 8, 2008 - Toronto, ON

CSA Z462 Arc Flash/Electrical Safety Training 1-Day Course Dates

September 8-9, 2008 - Toronto, ON
September 10-11, 2008 - Ottawa, ON
September 11-12, 2008 - Edmonton, AB
September 16-17, 2008 - Saskatoon, SK
September 18-19, 2008 - Winnipeg, MB

<http://www.electricityforum.com/forums/one-day-csa-z462.html>

<http://www.electricityforum.com/forums/two-day-csa-z462.html>

d) Many references to Canadian Standards are now included in CSA Z462;

e) The CEC will be referenced in CSA Z462.

ES: What will the impact of CSA Z462 be on Canadian electrical workers and their work practices?

MD: An increased awareness of the importance and rigor required for "Electrical Safe Work Practices" in Canada. It will be heightened and strengthened for those that have been using 70E and may in fact be something new for those that weren't using 70E.

ES: Will CSA Z462 become "law" in Canada. Many companies are confused about what CSA Z462 will mean to them.

MD: CSA Z462 is clearly a "national voluntary standard of Canada". Regulators in

individual provinces will decide how to apply it across their jurisdictions as time progresses. Legislation is the "shall", CSA Z462 is really the "how". Due diligence and best case practices are the expectations for companies who perform electrical work. CSA Z462 offers a comprehensive "template" to accomplish that.

ES: Why should companies who have already been trained on NFPA70e also receive training on CSA Z462?? What will they learn that is new?

MD: They will receive all of the new NFPA 70E - 2009 changes which are substantial and impactful. Even without Z462 it would be critical to get this information. Z462 will impart the Canadian standards and references required to fully implement leading edge and comprehensive "Electrical Safe Work Practices" in a neat, organized and important package within the concepts of Canadian culture.

