

Information Bulletin

September 02, 2026

The information contained in this bulletin supercedes the requirements of all previous bulletins.

To: Electrical Contractors

Subject: Mandatory Inspection of Electrical Trenches before Backfilling

At the request of the Technical Inspectors, we wish to advise all registered electrical contractors of the requirement to have electrical trenches inspected prior to backfilling.

Recent inspections have identified instances where contractors have excavated trenches, installed NMWU cable, TECK cable and/or PVC conduit, and backfilled the trench without first requesting and receiving an inspection.

Contractors are reminded that, except for trenches under the jurisdiction of a utility, electrical trenches fall under the jurisdiction of the Government Electrical Inspection Program and must be inspected by a Technical Inspector II (Electrical) before being covered.

Required Process

The following process shall be followed for all applicable electrical trench installations:

1. **Obtain the required electrical permit** – The appropriate Installation and Repair Permit must be issued before electrical trench work commences.
2. **Excavate and install** – Excavate the trench and install the required sand, NMWU, TECK cable and/or PVC conduit in accordance with the approved installation.
3. **Request an inspection** – Complete and submit the Electrical Contractor Representative Report (Rep Report), specifically requesting an inspection of the trench.
4. **Inspection** – A Technical Inspector II (Electrical) will attend the site and inspect the trench installation, including the required sand, caution tape, protective planks where applicable, cable/conduit installation, and other applicable requirements.
5. **Backfill only after approval** – The trench shall **not be backfilled until the electrical inspector has completed the inspection and approved the installation.**

gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/licences/electrical/

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Important Reminder

Photographs are not a substitute for an inspection. Contractors must make the necessary arrangements with an Electrical Inspector to ensure that the trench is inspected before it is covered.

Contractors are also reminded that proceeding with backfilling without an inspection is not an acceptable practice. Where an electrical installation has been covered before the required inspection has been completed, the Authority Having Jurisdiction may require the contractor to **re-excavate the trench to allow the installation to be properly inspected.**

Contractors are expected to obtain the required **permission before proceeding**, rather than seeking forgiveness after the installation has been covered.

Failure to follow the required inspection process may result in delays, additional costs to the contractor, and further action by the AHJ where warranted.

Your cooperation in following this process is required to ensure electrical installations are inspected for compliance before they are concealed.

David Mayne

Chief Electrical Inspector

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