

# Utility Work Protection Code

## Important changes coming in 2024



The Utility Work Protection Code (UWPC) is part of a strict set of rules governing work that takes place in and around high-voltage electrical plants. The Code's extensive system of permits and tags helps create an environment where electrical hazards are reduced or eliminated, by showing when it is safe to work on lines or equipment.

### **An updated version of the UWPC will be released in 2024, with the following major changes:**

All **tags and forms** have been updated with new wording and layouts, and all colour references have been removed from the Code.

The UWPC's **Glossary of Terms** has updated definitions that explain how the rules are to be read and applied. Various notes, bullets and numerical requirements have also been adjusted.

**Rule 1.013** no longer defines what a work permit is. (This information has moved to the Glossary.) Instead, the new rule deals with elements of a work permit and what the permit must include.

**Rule 1.092** outlines new non-series numbered PC3 tags. A new tag has been added for the Establishing Authority to record the permit number or unique identifier on the tag to be applied to a guaranteed device.

**Rule 1.101** specifies a longer time period for the retention of prepared work protection forms and tags. They must now be kept for a minimum of two years.

**Rule 1.102** requires that printed names must accompany all signatures on work protection forms. Previously, the rule stated that printed names were required for signatures that were not "clear and legible."

**Rule 1.151 and 1.152** are new additions to the UWPC. They specify that any departure from the Code must be documented and approved by Hydro One, the Power Worker's Union, and the Society of United Professionals. Any foreign organization outside Hydro One must contact IHSA to initiate the departure process. (IHSA will then engage Hydro One.)

**Rule 1.161** is another new rule, noting that all workplaces must review how they use and apply the Code at least once a year. The review must be shared with the organization's Joint Health and Safety Committee or Health and Safety Representative.

**Rule 5.016 and 6.011** include new notes about using temporary nomenclature to identify a device's designation, in cases where nomenclature does not exist.

Keep an eye on [ihsa.ca](https://www.ihsa.ca) for more news on the updated Utility Work Protection Code as we prepare for its publication in 2024.