



Information Bulletin:

Released ES54 Section S Service Standards for BC Hydro-Owned Switchgear on Private Property

1.0 Items Covered

New standards

ES54	S0-06 R0	BC Hydro-Owned Equipment on Private Property General Notes
ES54	S6-01 R0	Over-Pad Above-Ground Outdoor Switchgear Installation
ES54	S6-02 R0	In-Vault Below-Ground Outdoor Switchgear Installation

Withdrawn standards

ES54	E3-04 R0	Below Ground Switchgear BC Hydro Vault on Private Property
ES54	E4-04 R1	Above Ground Switchgear BC Hydro Vault on Private Property

The new standards listed above can be found at bchydro.com/distributionstandards.

2.0 Overview

This bulletin introduces three new standards ES54 S0-06, S6-01, and S6-02 that provide guidance and requirements for electrical consultants and contractors working on BC Hydro-owned switchgear located on private property. These standards clarify and address requirements for civil and electrical work for both outdoor over-pad and below-ground subsurface switchgear and encompass the following key details:

- a. Installation options;
- b. Arrangement types;
- c. Equipment and vehicle specifications;
- d. Access;
- e. Clearance;
- f. Construction details;
- g. Ducting;
- h. Excavation;
- i. Grounding;
- j. Protective measures;

- k. Component assembly requirements; and
- l. Delineate responsibilities to ensure safety and regulatory compliance.

The newly released standards are intended to supplement ES55 B2-05 *Customer Guide: BC Hydro-Owned Switchgear Placement and Requirements* and shall be used in conjunction with ES54 S0-02 *Services General Notes*.

The standards ES54 E4-04 R1 and ES54 E3-04 R0, previously applicable to private property installations, have been obsoleted and withdrawn.

3.0 Action

The effective date for the changes presented in this advisory is 2026-06-01. Applications for work approved by the local BC Hydro design office on or after 2026-06-01 shall meet the requirements of ES54 S0-06 R0, ES54 S6-01 R0, ES54 S6-02 R0, and changes contained in this advisory.

Work approved prior to 2026-06-01 may comply with the changes presented in this advisory or choose to comply with previous revisions of the standards.

Designers, Engineers, and Civil Inspectors

Designers, engineers, and civil inspectors should familiarize themselves with changes presented in this advisory.

Customer and Customer Representatives

Customers and customer representatives, including electricians, project managers, consultants, and contractors, should familiarize themselves with changes presented in this advisory.

4.0 Contact

Customer and Customer Representatives

Please direct questions and concerns to your local BC Hydro representative.

BC Hydro Employees and Contractors

Please direct questions and concerns related to the standards to distribution.standards@bchydro.com.

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