



**CITY OF EDMONTON**

**BYLAW 15894**

**SAFETY CODES PERMIT BYLAW**

**(CONSOLIDATED ON JANUARY 1, 2016)**

**THE CITY OF EDMONTON**  
**BYLAW 15894**  
**SAFETY CODES PERMIT BYLAW**

Whereas, pursuant to section 66 of the *Safety Codes Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. S-1 an accredited municipality may pass bylaws respecting minimum maintenance standards for buildings and structures, fees for anything issued or any material or service provided pursuant to the *Safety Codes Act*, and respecting the carrying out of the powers and duties of an accredited municipality;

And Whereas, pursuant to section 7 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, a council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;

And Whereas, pursuant to section 8 of the *Municipal Government Act*, a council may provide for a system of licences, permits or approvals including prohibiting any development, activity, industry, business or thing until a licence, permit, or approval has been granted, providing that conditions may be imposed on any licence, permit or approval, the nature of the terms and conditions and who may impose them, setting out the conditions that must be met before a licence, permit or approval is granted or renewed, the nature of the conditions and who may impose them, and providing for the duration of licences, permits and approvals and their suspension or cancellation for failure to comply with a term or condition or the bylaw or for any other reason specified in the bylaw;

Edmonton City Council enacts:

**PART I - PURPOSE, DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION**

<b>PURPOSE</b>	1	The purpose of this bylaw is to establish the application procedure and fees for permits issued pursuant to the Safety Codes Act, the Regulations and this bylaw.
<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	2	In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) “<b>alley</b>” means a narrow highway providing access to the rear of buildings and parcels of land;</li><li>(b) “<b>boulevard</b>” means that portion of a highway that is not a</li></ul>

sidewalk or roadway;

- (c) **“City”** means the Municipal Corporation of the City of Edmonton;
- (d) **“City Manager”** means the Chief Administrative Officer of the City or his delegate;
- (d.1) **“Fee”** means the amount, as determined by the City Manager, payable for:
  - (i) a permit required by this bylaw;
  - (ii) any additional inspection; or
  - (iii) any search, certificate, document or other service related to the administration of this bylaw.
- (e) **“highway”** means any street, lane, road, avenue, alley or other thoroughfare, including all of the land between the property lines adjacent to the street, lane, road, avenue, alley or other thoroughfare;
- (f) **“hoarding”** means any covered way, fence, railing, boarding, barricade, guard, timber buffer, temporary walkway or other structure, material or equipment;
- (g) **“municipal tag”** means a ticket alleging an offence issued pursuant to the authority of a bylaw of the City;
- (h) **“owner”** means a person who has care and control of an undertaking and includes a lessee, a person in charge, and a person who holds out that the person has the powers and authority of ownership or who the time being exercises the powers and authority of ownership;
- (i) **“person”** means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, organization, business, cooperative, trustee, executor, administrator or legal representative;
- (j) **“Quality Management Plan”** means the City quality management plan registered with the Alberta Safety Codes Council;
- (k) **“Regulations”** means any regulations passed pursuant to the Safety Codes Act including any codes adopted in such regulations;

- (l) **“roadway”** means that portion of a highway intended for use by vehicular traffic;
- (m) **“Safety Codes Act”** means the *Safety Codes Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. S-1, as amended;
- (n) **“sidewalk”** means that part of a highway especially adapted to the use of or ordinarily used by pedestrians;
- (o) **“undertaking”** means the construction of a thing or the control or operation of a thing, process or activity to which the Safety Codes Act or the Regulations applies;
- (p) **“violation ticket”** has the same meaning as in the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-34, as amended.

(S.2, Bylaw 17450, January 1, 2016)

#### **RULES FOR INTERPRETATION**

- 3 The marginal notes and headings in this bylaw are for reference purposes only.

### **PART II - PERMITS**

#### **PERMIT REQUIRED**

- 4 (1) Subject to subsection (2), a person shall not start any undertaking for which a permit is required pursuant to this bylaw unless a permit has been issued.
- (2) If there is imminent serious danger to persons or property because of any thing, process or activity to which the Safety Codes Act applies or because of a fire hazard or risk of an explosion, a person may, without a permit, start an undertaking for which a permit is required pursuant to this bylaw but that person must apply for a permit as soon as the danger, fire hazard or risk of explosion has been remedied.

#### **APPLICATION**

- 5 In addition to any other requirement, every person applying for a permit pursuant to the Safety Codes Act, the Regulations or this bylaw must provide to the City Manager:
  - (a) an application in a form approved by the City Manager;
  - (b) plans and specifications as required by the City Manager;

- (c) the value of the proposed undertaking;
- (d) any Fee required pursuant to this bylaw; and
- (e) any additional information required by the City Manager.

(S.3, Bylaw 17450, January 1, 2016)

#### **ISSUANCE OF PERMIT**

- 6 (1) The City Manager shall issue a permit pursuant to the Safety Codes Act, the Regulations or this bylaw only when:
- (a) the undertaking described in the application for the permits meets the requirements of the Safety Codes Act, the Regulations and this bylaw;
  - (b) the plans and specifications submitted in the application meet the requirements of the Safety Codes Act, the Regulations, this bylaw and any other legal requirements; and
  - (c) the Fee payable pursuant to this bylaw, any fees payable pursuant to the Safety Codes Act and any applicable taxes have been paid in full.

(S.4, Bylaw 17450, January 1, 2016)

- (2) The City Manager may impose any conditions on a permit as are deemed necessary to ensure compliance with the Safety Codes Act, the Regulations, this bylaw and any other legal requirements.

#### **TRANSFER**

- 7 A person shall not transfer a permit to any other person unless the transfer has been authorized in writing by the City Manager.

#### **REFUSAL TO ISSUE, SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION**

- 8 In addition to any powers pursuant to the Safety Codes Act or Regulations, the City Manager may refuse to issue a permit, or suspend or cancel a permit that has been issued if:
- (a) in the case of an addition or alteration, the existing undertaking is unsafe or will reduce the level of safety of the undertaking governed by the permit to below that which is intended by the Safety Codes Act, the Regulations or this bylaw;
  - (b) incorrect or insufficient information is submitted with respect to the permit or the undertaking to be governed by the permit;
  - (c) in the opinion of the City Manager, the undertaking for

which the permit would be or has been issued would or does contravene the Safety Codes Act, the Regulations or this bylaw;

- (d) the Fee for the permit has not been paid ;
- (e) there is a contravention of any condition under which the permit was issued; or
- (f) the permit was issued in error.

(S.5, Bylaw 17450, January 1, 2016)

#### **PERMIT HOLDER OBLIGATIONS**

- 9 A person to which a permit has been issued must:
- (a) have a copy of the examined plans and specifications for the undertaking at the site of the undertaking; and
  - (b) ensure that the municipal address of the parcel for which the permit was issued is clearly visible from the adjacent roadway.

#### **OCCUPANCY**

- 10 (1) No person shall occupy a building until the owner obtains written approval from the City Manager allowing that person to occupy that building.
- (2) No person shall occupy a building or portion of a building for which there has been a change in use or intended use until the owner obtains written approval from the City Manager allowing that person to occupy that building or portion of a building.
- (3) Written approval for occupancy is not required for a garage serving single detached housing.
- (4) The owner of building must permanently display written approval for occupancy for the building issued by the City Manager in a conspicuous location inside the building near the main entrance, except for single family residential buildings where it may be placed near the electrical panel serving the building.

#### **HEATING, VENTILATING AND AIR- CONDITIONING PERMIT**

- 11 (1) No person shall build, repair, or alter any heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning undertaking unless the person obtains a permit allowing that person to build, repair, or alter that heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning undertaking.
- (2) This section does not apply to repairs or alterations to a heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning undertaking that in the opinion of

the City Manager:

- (a) are minor in nature;
- (b) do not hinder the satisfactory operation of the undertaking; and
- (c) do not impact the health or safety of occupants of the building containing the undertaking.

(3) A permit issued pursuant to this section may only be issued to:

- (a) a journeyman sheet metal worker who is regularly employed for the installation, alteration, repair or addition to the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems by industrial institutions or similar establishments provided the work is performed on the property of the industrial institution or similar establishment;
- (b) a sheet metal mechanic; or
- (c) an owner who resides in a single family residential dwelling where the heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning system serves that dwelling.

#### **CRANE AGREEMENT**

- 12 No person shall erect any crane, hoist, or similar apparatus capable of projecting or swinging over a highway unless the person enters into an agreement with the City in a form acceptable to the City Manager.

#### **HOARDING PERMIT**

- 13 (1) No person shall place any hoarding on a highway unless the person obtains a permit allowing that person to place hoarding on a highway.
- (2) In addition to any other requirement, every person applying for a permit to place hoarding on a highway must submit to the City Manager, in a form acceptable to the City Manager:
- (a) the location at which the hoarding is proposed; and
  - (b) an executed agreement with the City relating to the hoarding in a form approved by the City Manager.

#### **HOARDING REGULATIONS**

- 14 (1) If any covered way, fence, railing, boarding or barricade is required pursuant to the Regulations and is to be located on a highway, then the owner shall provide protection for pedestrians as follows:

- (a) for undertakings of a height of 2.4 metres or less:
    - (i) a railing if the distance from the undertaking to the pedestrian walkway is less than 2.1 metres;
    - (ii) a railing if the distance from the undertaking to public property abutting a pedestrian walkway is less than 2.1 metres; and
    - (iii) no protection if the distance from the undertaking to the pedestrian walkway and any public property abutting the public walkway is 2.1 metres or more;
  - (b) for undertakings of a height greater than 2.4 metres:
    - (i) a fence and covered way if the distance from the undertaking to the pedestrian walkway is 2.1 metres or less;
    - (ii) a fence and covered way if the distance from the undertaking to the pedestrian walkway is less than one-fourth the height of the undertaking;
    - (iii) a fence if the distance from the undertaking to the pedestrian walkway is one-half the height of the undertaking or less; and
    - (iv) no protection if the distance from the undertaking to the pedestrian walkway is greater than one-half the height of the undertaking.
- (2) The owner of an undertaking for which hoarding on a highway is required shall ensure that:
- (a) the hoarding is securely anchored;
  - (b) the hoarding is lit during twilight hours; and
  - (c) protective framing and boarding is built around and over every tree, street lamp, utility box, fire or police alarm box, fire hydrant, catch basin and manhole that has the potential to be damaged by any work being done.
- (3) If there is any equipment stored on the roof of a covered way required by this section, the owner of the undertaking for which the covered way is required shall ensure that the ends of the roof are protected by:



- (a) a tight curb board not less than 300 millimetres high; and
  - (b) a railing not less than 1.07 metres high.
- WALKWAYS** 15 If a permit issued pursuant to the Safety Codes Act requires the permit holder to relocate a pedestrian walkway off of a sidewalk, the permit holder must provide a walking surface approved by the City Manager.
- ROADWAY PROTECTION** 16 If the railing of a walkway or covered way is located such that vehicles passing on the roadway may come into contact with the walkway or covered way then the owner of the undertaking shall:
  - (a) provide a guard without openings below 1.07 metres between the walkway or covered way and the roadway; and
  - (b) provide a timber buffer not less than 300 millimetres in width extending to a height of 200 millimetres above the lowest level of the walkway or covered way.
- EXCAVATION OF SIDEWALKS** 17 (1) If a permit issued pursuant to the Safety Codes Act requires the permit holder to excavate any portion of a public sidewalk, the permit holder must construct a substantial temporary walkway for pedestrians over the area.
  - (2) Any walkway required pursuant to this section must be:
    - (a) not less than 1.5 metres in width;
    - (b) designed for a uniform load of 7.2 KN per square metre;
    - (c) provided with suitable ramps or stairs at each end; and
    - (d) equipped with a railing not less than 1.07 metres high along each side.

### **PART III - INSPECTIONS**

- NOTIFICATION** 18 When an undertaking for which a permit has been issued is ready to be tested for compliance with the Safety Codes Act and Regulations the person holding the permit shall notify the City Manager.
- INSPECTIONS** 19 Any inspections conducted by or on behalf of the City shall be conducted in accordance with the governing Quality Management

Plan.

#### **PART IV - FEES AND BONDS**

##### **FEES**

- 20 (1) Every application for any permit required pursuant to this bylaw must be accompanied by the required Fee.
- (2) If an undertaking is commenced prior to a permit being issued pursuant to this bylaw the amount payable for the permit is twice the Fee.

(S.2, Bylaw 16517, January 1, 2014)

(S.6, Bylaw 17450, January 1, 2016)

##### **INSPECTION FEES**

- 21 (1) Unless otherwise specified, the Fee payable for a permit includes all mandatory inspections.
- (2) The Fee for an additional inspection is payable where:
- (a) the municipal address of the parcel for which the permit was issued is not displayed; or
  - (b) when an inspection has been previously arranged and:
    - (i) the inspector is unable to access the building;
    - (ii) the undertaking is not ready for an inspection; or
    - (iii) a previously identified deficiency has not been corrected.

(S.2, Bylaw 17000, January 1, 2015)

(S.7, Bylaw 17450, January 1, 2016)

##### **BONDS**

- 22 (1) The City Manager may require a person to file a bond prior to the issuance of any permit.
- (2) Any bond required pursuant to this section shall be in a form and amount satisfactory to the City Manager and shall be issued by a

licensed Alberta insurer.

## **PART V - OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

<b>OFFENCE</b>	23	A person who contravenes this bylaw is guilty of an offence.
<b>CONTINUING OFFENCE</b>	24	In the case of an offence that is of a continuing nature, a contravention constitutes an offence in respect of each day, or part of a day, on which it continues and a person guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than that established for each such day.
<b>VICARIOUS LIABILITY</b>	25	For the purposes of this bylaw, an act or omission by an employee or agent of a person is deemed also to be an act or omission of the person if the act or omission occurred in the course of the employee's employment with the person, or in the course of the agent's exercising the powers or performing the duties on behalf of the person under their agency relationship.
<b>CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS</b>	26	<p>(1) When a corporation commits an offence under this bylaw, every principal, director, manager, employee or agent of the corporation who authorized the act or omission that constitutes the offence or assented to or acquiesced or participated in the act or omission that constitutes the offence is guilty of the offence whether or not the corporation has been prosecuted for the offence.</p> <p>(2) If a partner in a partnership is guilty of an offence under this bylaw, each partner in that partnership who authorized the act or omission that constitutes the offence or assented to or acquiesced or participated in the act or omission that constitutes the offence is guilty of the offence.</p>
<b>FINES AND PENALTIES</b>	27	<p>(1) A person who is guilty of an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than established in this section, and not exceeding \$10,000, and to imprisonment for not more than six months for non-payment of a fine.</p> <p>(2) Without restricting the generality of subsection (1) the following fine amounts are established for use on municipal tags and violation tickets if a voluntary payment option is offered:</p> <p>(a) \$250 for any offence for which a fine is not otherwise established in this section; and</p>

- (b) \$400 or twice the Fee payable for a permit, whichever is greater, for an offence under section 4(1).

(S.8, Bylaw 17450, January 1. 2016)

<b>MUNICIPAL TAG</b>	28	If a municipal tag is issued in respect of an offence the municipal tag must specify the fine amount established in this bylaw for the offence.
<b>PAYMENT IN LIEU OF PROSECUTION</b>	29	A person who commits an offence may, if a municipal tag is issued in respect of the offence, pay the fine amount established by this bylaw for the offence and if the amount is paid on or before the required date, the person will not be prosecuted for the offence.
<b>VIOLATION TICKET</b>	30	<p>If a violation ticket is issued in respect of an offence, the violation ticket may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) specify the fine amount established by this bylaw for the offence; or</li> <li>(b) require a person to appear in court without the alternative of making a voluntary payment.</li> </ul>
<b>VOLUNTARY PAYMENT</b>	31	<p>A person who commits an offence may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) if a violation ticket is issued in respect of the offence; and</li> <li>(b) if the violation ticket specifies the fine amount established by this bylaw for the offence;</li> </ul> <p>make a voluntary payment equal to the specified fine.</p>
<b>OBSTRUCTION</b>	32	A person shall not obstruct or hinder any person in the exercise or performance of the person's powers pursuant to this bylaw.

## **PART VI - GENERAL**

<b>POWERS OF THE CITY MANAGER</b>	33	<p>Without restricting any other power, duty or function granted by this bylaw or the Safety Codes Act the City Manager may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) carry out any inspections to determine compliance with this bylaw;</li> <li>(b) take any steps or carry out any actions required to enforce this bylaw;</li> <li>(c) take any steps or carry out any actions required to remedy a</li> </ul>
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contravention of this bylaw;

- (d) establish forms and agreements for the purposes of this bylaw;
- (e) issue permits with such terms and conditions as are deemed appropriate;
- (f) establish the criteria to be met for a permit issued pursuant to this bylaw;
- (f.1) establish the amount payable for a permit required under this bylaw;
- (f.2) establish the amount payable for any additional inspection, search, certificate, document, or any other service related to the administration of this bylaw;
- (g) require an applicant to execute an agreement as a condition of granting a permit;
- (h) require an applicant to post a bond as a condition of granting a permit;
- (i) place a valuation on a project for the purpose of calculating any Fee for a permit;
- (j) waive all or a portion of any Fees payable; and
- (k) delegate any powers, duties or functions under this bylaw to an employee of the City.

(S.9-12, Bylaw 17450, January 1, 2016)

<b>PROOF OF PERMIT</b>	34	The onus of proving a permit has been issued in relation to any activity otherwise regulated, restricted or prohibited by this bylaw is on the person alleging the existence of such a permit on a balance of probabilities.
<b>PROOF OF EXEMPTION</b>	35	The onus of proving that a person is exempt from the provisions of this bylaw requiring a permit is on the person alleging the exemption on a balance of probabilities.
<b>CERTIFIED COPY OF RECORD</b>	36	A copy of a record of the City, certified by the City Manager as a true copy of the original, shall be admitted in evidence as <i>prima facie</i> proof of the facts stated in the record without proof of the appointment or signature of the person signing it.

<b>LEGAL DUTY</b>	37	Nothing in this bylaw, including the issuance of a permit, any approval, and any inspections conducted pursuant to this bylaw, relieves any person of their legal duty to comply with the Safety Codes Act, the Regulations and this bylaw.
<b>REPEALS</b>	38	<p>The following bylaws are repealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Bylaw 8664, The Edmonton Building Permit Bylaw; and</li><li>(b) Bylaw 11004, the Mechanical Permit Bylaw.</li></ul>
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	39	This bylaw takes effect beginning on September 1, 2012.

(NOTE: Consolidation made under Section 69 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c.L-21 and Bylaw No. 12005, and printed under the City Manager's authority)

Bylaw 15894, passed by Council September 1, 2012

Amendments

Bylaw 16305, January 1, 2013

Bylaw 16517, January 1, 2014

Bylaw 17000, January 1, 2015

Bylaw 17450, January 1, 2016

**SCHEDULE A – PERMIT FEES**

Repealed (S.13, Bylaw 17450, January 1, 2016)