

Verification & Certification Courses

No	Date	Day	Location	Venue
95	19th & 20th September	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
96	21st & 22nd September	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
97	26th & 27th September	Monday & Tuesday	Maynooth	Glenroyal
98	26th & 27th September	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
99	28th & 29th September	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
100	28th & 29th September	Wednesday & Thursday	Maynooth	Glenroyal
101	10th & 11th October	Monday & Tuesday	Portlaoise	Maldron Hotel
102	12th & 13th October	Wednesday & Thursday	Portlaoise	Maldron Hotel
103	17th & 18th October	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
104	24th & 25th October	Monday & Tuesday	Galway	Clayton Hotel
105	24th & 25th October	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
106	26th & 27th October	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
107	26th & 27th October	Wednesday & Thursday	Galway	Clayton Hotel
108	2nd & 3rd November	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
109	7th & 8th November	Monday & Tuesday	Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel
110	7th & 8th November	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
111	9th & 10th November	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
112	9th & 10th November	Wednesday & Thursday	Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel
113	16th & 17th November	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
114	21st & 22nd November	Monday & Tuesday	Tullamore	Tullamore Court Hotel
115	21st & 22nd November	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
116	23rd & 24th November	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
117	23rd & 24th November	Wednesday & Thursday	Tullamore	Tullamore Court Hotel
118	28th & 29th November	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
119	30th Nov & 1st Dec	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
120	5th & 6th December	Monday & Tuesday	Cavan	Cavan Crystal Hotel
121	5th & 6th December	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
122	7th & 8th December	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
123	7th & 8th December	Wednesday & Thursday	Cavan	Cavan Crystal Hotel
124	12th & 13th December	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
125	14th & 15th December	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA

This is a TWO DAY Course and will run from 9.30am to 6pm on DAY 1 and from 9am to 5pm on DAY 2

PLEASE BRING:

1. Current Edition of ET101 & Amendments
2. Calibrated Test Instruments (You must be familiar with your own Test Instruments)
3. Notebook and Pen

NOTE: Notification of Non Attendance at a Course received by ECSSA less than 36 hours before the Course Date will entail the loss of 50% of the Course Fee



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2016

Dear Contractor, Welcome to the Autumn 2016 ECSSA Newsletter!

When ECSSA's appointment as a Safety Supervisory Body ended in December 2015 we decided that we would continue as a Trade and Training Association.

One of the primary reasons for this decision was that we knew well that Electrical Contractors would face serious challenges in the years ahead and that it was vital that they have a strong and united voice to face such challenges.

One such challenge is about to reach a point where it has to be resisted if contractors are not going to find themselves back in a situation where they will be dictated to in relation to wages, pensions and other costs which the sector of work in which they are involved may not be able to afford.

Such unviable requirements could come in the form of a new Registered Employment Agreement which the TEEU and the major contracting firms are anxious to put in place and enforce on everybody in the industry, irrespective of whether a contractor agrees with, or is party to, the Agreement.

Electrical Contractors throughout the country suffered enough harassment, cost and bullying from the previous REA and its enforcing agencies, Epace and the Labour Court.

The Labour Court has published its intention to conduct an examination of the pay, pensions and other issues related to those employed in the Electrical Contracting Industry.

This is in effect a step towards creating a new REA.

Submissions from interest parties are invited before September 14th.

Have no doubt about it but YOU are an interested party.

You cannot leave it to others to defend your interests.

ECSSA will be making a submission on behalf of its Members and the Labour Court is obliged by legislation to take into account the views expressed by or on behalf of those who would be unwillingly pulled in under the terms of an REA.

Remember that even if you currently do not have employees, the moment you take on an Apprentice or an Electrician, or perhaps even a General Worker, you will be deemed to be bound by an REA if one is in place.

ECSSA is already the largest Electrical Trade Association in the country but we need to reach a membership where over half of all Registered Contractors in Ireland are ECSSA Members.

Please read the enclosed letter which sets out the manner in which the previous REA operated and by joining ECSSA create such strength in numbers that you will never again be subjected to such harassment, bullying and cost.

Mike Marshall
General Manager

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Protection of Customer Tails
- Restricted Works Order
- Lack of a Forum at which to Address problems in the Industry
- Switch Heights
- Autumn Schedule of V & C Courses
- Resignation of Tony Doherty of ETCL

**Coolmore House
Park Road,
Killarney,
County Kerry**

1. Protection of Customer Tails

Some time ago we were informed by a Registered Electrical Contractor at a V&C Training Course that his RECI Inspector had pointed out to him that he did not have to put an MCB in the Meter Cabinet as a Main Protective Device if he used SWA cable for the Customers Supply Cable (The "Tails").

Initially we felt that this information was so ridiculous that the Contractor must have misunderstood the message but on numerous occasions since we have heard the same story from different contractors, presumably all of whom had been inspected and advised by the same RECI Inspector.

It is frightening to think that an Inspector, whose function should be to monitor and enforce compliance with the requirements of the National Wiring Rules, should be allowed to go around giving out information which is blatantly at odds with the regulatory requirements.

The purpose of the MCB in the Meter Cabinet is to provide protection for the Customers Tails against Overload or Short Circuit.

An SWA Cable is equally capable of being overloaded as any other type of cable.

If that overloading were to continue over a sustained period of time it could reach the stage where the insulation of the current carrying conductors would deteriorate and short.

What then would provide protection against the consequences of such a short if a Main Protective Device is not fitted in the meter Cabinet?

Only the 80 or 100A HRC Fuse in the ESB End Box or Cut Out would be available to break the link between the shorted cables and a supply which could be fused at a much higher amperage at the ESB Transformer.

It was to avoid such a scenario that ESB, through its representatives at ETCL, demanded that the Customer should provide appropriate Overload and Short Circuit protection for the Customers own Supply Cables.

The only exception to the requirement is that where the Customer Tails are less than 3 Metres in Length, this MCB does not have to be fitted.

Such an arrangement is often found in older installations where the ESB Meter is mounted adjacent to the customer's distribution board, generally over the door of the premises.

ESB has not changed its position on this matter and neither have the National Wiring Rules been amended to allow the use of Unprotected SWA cable as Customers Tails.

Is it a situation where the Inspector involved lacks even basic understanding of the fundamental reasons why such protection of Customer Tails has to be provided, irrespective of cable type utilised?

Or more alarmingly, is it possible that since TC2, the Wiring Rules Committee of ETCL, has been arbitrarily abolished by CER, that RECI Inspectors are now entitled to make up the rules as they go along?

2. Restricted Works Order

The Restricted Works Order of October 2013 makes it an offence for anybody other than a Registered Electrical Contractor (REC) to carry out electrical work in a domestic premises.

What is difficult to understand is why the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), in drafting the Statutory Instrument, chose to concentrate solely on domestic electrical work, leaving it wide open to anybody, qualified or otherwise to carry out electrical work in any Industrial, Commercial, Agricultural or indeed any other type of premises outside of a domestic setting.

While the CER recommends that RECs be employed to do this non-domestic electrical work there is no legal obligation to do so.

The CER freely admits this in its own documentation on Controlled and Restricted Works and therefore it is open to any person, even somebody who has no training or competence in electrical work, to take on and carry out electrical work in a shop, garage, hotel, milking parlour, factory, sports club, gym, marina or any of the countless other areas which fall outside the narrow confines of the Restricted Works order.

There is a general consensus that there is far greater danger to the users of these type of premises than that which exists in the home, yet all can be wired by unregulated individuals whose competence is unknown and who are not required to test or certify the finished installation.

Creating and condoning such a scenario would, from any logical viewpoint, appear to be a dereliction of its duty by the CER, which has been given statutory powers to regulate the activities of electrical contractors in respect of safety.

It is also deeply resented by those contractors who have registered and subjected themselves to the cost and hassle of membership fees, instrument calibration, inspection, attendance at courses and all the other implications which registration brings with it, while at the same time they have to tolerate a situation where unregistered and possibly unqualified persons, free from all of the above costs, can undercut them in tendering for what is generally more profitable work than house wiring.

Such an "a la carte" approach to its statutory responsibility on the part of CER is both irrational and irresponsible.



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6. Lack of a Forum at which to Address problems in the Industry

The irrational decision by CER to effectively wind up the operation of ETCI and its Technical Committees has left the Electrical Industry in a situation where there is no independent forum available where problems in the industry or proposals to reflect technical innovation within the trade, can be debated.

Unfortunately, the CER has been vested in such power that it does not have to provide supporting evidence or justification for its decisions irrespective of how irrational these may be.

One has to wonder if the Politicians who grant such powers to quangos fully realise the damage which the abuse of these powers can do to the wellbeing of industry.

The growing level of incorporation of sensitive electronic equipment into installations is making it increasingly difficult to carry out insulation tests without risking costly and disruptive damage to the installation. Such reality needs to be recognized in the Wiring Rules, but who can now debate and formulate amendments to deal with such situations?

It has long ceased to be practical to safely carry out Insulation Tests in the course of carrying out a Periodic Inspection Report on a live working premises, yet such a scenario cannot now be addressed and legislated for. Likewise, modern domestic kitchen design does not always provide space for the provision over the worktop for switches for inaccessible sockets.

Where, for example, does one put the switch for an appliance located under a granite top on an island work station in the centre of a kitchen?

There is perhaps a solution to that particular problem in that it might be possible to follow the lead of industrial kitchens where a common lock off stop button cuts the power to all appliances in the kitchen in the event of a fire, burst water pipe or similar emergency.

Such a strategically located Stop Button could switch off a number of individual modular contactors at the distribution board and so remove the need for a plethora of unsightly switches which the customer invariably objects to but which the current regulations demand. But where is the Forum at which this proposal could be democratically debated and from where an Amendment to the Rules might emerge?

We understand that ETCI Ltd, as a company, retains copyright of ET101, but if the Technical Committees, which hitherto debated and drafted the contents of ET101, have been put out of existence, then holding the copyright is as useless as owning a helicopter but without a pilot to fly it. The indecent haste with which CER and its 'friends' contrived the demise of ETCI has left the industry in a situation similar to that of the man who demolishes his house before he has built a new house to live in!



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3. Switch Heights

In response to queries from some of our members re customers objecting to the lower switch heights in the case of rewires in old dwellings we wish to offer some clarification.

Rule No. 530.6 of ET 101:2008, requires that wall mounted switches for control of permanently connected appliances and lighting equipment should be mounted at a height between 400mm and 1200mm in domestic dwellings.

A note immediately following the Rule refers to account having been taken to the adherence of the requirements of Technical Guidance Document Part M of the Building Regulations also.

All new electrical installation work, alterations and extensions are required to comply with the current wiring rules.

In some instances, where a rewire of a dwelling is being undertaken, the customer objects to the new switch heights. The objection is raised on the basis that there is no material change to the use of the dwelling (e.g. converting part of it for use as a hostel etc.), also there are no occupants that are wheel chair bound or otherwise suffering from a disability residing in the dwelling.

We sought advice from the Dept. of Housing, Planning, Community, and Local Government on the application of the **Building Regulations TGD (Technical Guidance Document) Part M perspective.**

We are grateful for a very detailed response to our request. The following is a brief synopsis where Part M should apply:

Works in connection with new buildings and new dwellings;

Works in connection with extensions to existing buildings.

Works in connection with material alterations of existing buildings.

If the rewire is being done where the dwelling is being extended or altered or converted for "change of use" then Part M must be fully complied with along with other Building Regulation requirements.

In the case of a rewire only the following direct quote from the Dept. response may apply.

"Application of Part M – Access and Use to existing dwellings

The Requirements of Part M do not apply to works in connection with extensions to and the material alterations of existing dwellings, provided that such works do not create a new dwelling. However, an extension or a material alteration of a dwelling must not make the building, as a whole, less satisfactory in relation to Part M than it was before. This means an extension or a material alteration of a dwelling need not itself comply with Part M, but it must not result in the dwelling being less compliant than it previously was.

Assuming that the proposed new light switches are reinstated in the original position, this should not make the situation less satisfactory than it was before."

We (ECSSA) recommend that in cases where there is an objection by the customer that the REC requests a written declaration from the customer stating their request to have switches left at the original height, and also there is no change to the use of the dwelling. The REC should also inform RECI /Safe Electric of the situation.

If there is no objection by the customer the REC should rewire totally in accordance with ET101:2008.

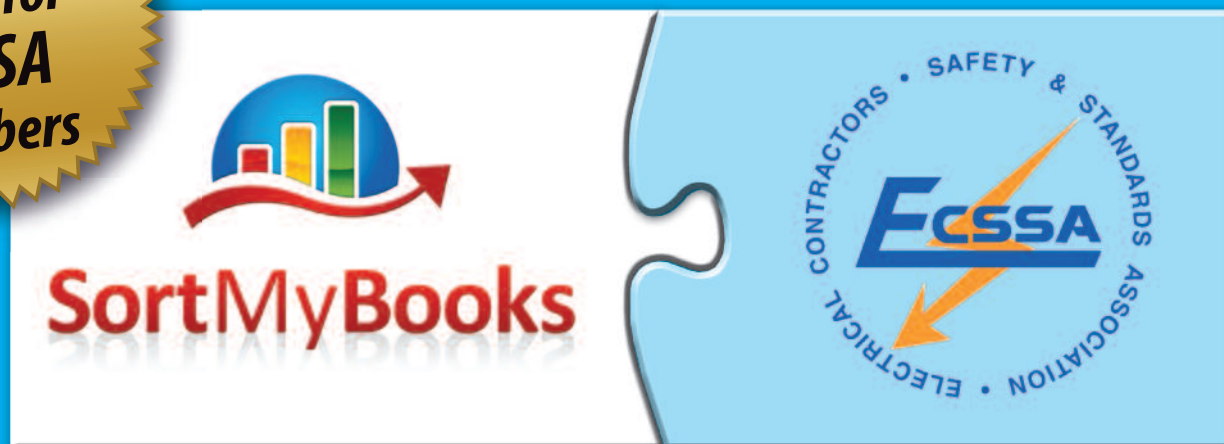
Technical Guidance Document (TGD) Part M and all other TGDs are available to view / download free from the Dept. web-site www.housing.gov.ie/housing/housing and would encourage REC's to consult these documents when deemed necessary.

Price List

2016 Membership	€100.00	IS3217:2013 Code of Practice	€56.00
V & C Course	€350.00	for Emergency Lighting	
	(Non Mem €380)	IS3218:2013 Code of Practice	€56.00
Calibration	€113.50	for Fire Alarms	
Emergency Lighting Certs	€60.00	Seals	€25.00
Fire Alarm Certs	€50.00	CF1 Quotation Book (x10)	€30.00
ET101 National Wiring Rules	€100.00	CF2 Contract Forms (x10)	€30.00
Amendment No 1	€13.00	CF3 Order for Variations & Extras (x10)	€20.00
ECSSA Guide to National Wiring Rules	€20.00	CF4 Notice of Assignment of Work (x10)	€20.00
ECSSA Brief Guide to	€18.00	CF5 Receipt for Stage Payments (x10)	€20.00
Certification & Verification			

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**What our
Clients say
about us**

LANESGATE ELECTRICAL
7th June 2016

We in Lanesgate Electrical use an accounts software package called SortMyBooks. We love everything about the package. It has features like the creation of quotations and then very simply turning those into invoices. The reporting features lets us know how our business is doing at any given time. The software makes VAT very easy to do. We have no hesitation in recommending SortMyBooks for the Electrical Industry.

Sincerely,
Gerard O'Shea
Gerard O'Shea Director

4. Resignation of Tony O'Doherty of ETCl

It is with great regret we have become aware of the resignation of Tony O'Doherty, founder and former Secretary of ETCl and the man who was instrumental in bringing order to the creation of electrical standards in Ireland, when, in partnership with the late Keane Harley, he organised the coming together of a group of dedicated people to set up ETCl in 1971

At the time the Irish Government had entrusted the creation of electrical standards to the Institute of Industrial Research and Standards, but the IIRS, despite being a Government Body, lacked the powers or the representative structures to function as a normal standards setting body should.

Following visits abroad to similar bodies he realised that what was needed was a representative structure where the input and experience of a wide spectrum of stakeholders would be represented and where proposals could be debated and decided in a democratic and sensible way which would represent the reality of the dangers, problems and practicalities of the electrical industry and which would take into account the advances of technology and the corresponding evolution of regulations.

For almost half a century the ETCl, through its various Technical Committees, has served the country and the industry in an admirable fashion and has been recognized internationally as one of the world's best in its field **and all this was delivered at absolutely no cost to the Government.**

Following Ireland's accession to the EEC in 1973 Tony was appointed Technical Advisor to the Department of Industry and Commerce on the transposition of The Low Voltage Directive (LVD) into Irish Law.

Once again his in-depth knowledge of the industry proved invaluable and helped to ensure that the LVD was implemented in this jurisdiction far more smoothly than happened in the UK for example.

The manner in which the ETCl and its Technical Committees have now been dismembered by the CER and the NSAI, with

the gutless compliance of many whose real agenda one has to question, is something from which the industry will reap a disastrous harvest in the years ahead.

It is the mistaken belief of the CER that all the accumulated experience and wisdom of those who gave voluntarily of their time on the various Technical Committees of ETCl would automatically transfer to NSAI.

Our personal experience of NSAI was of its' ham-fisted efforts to create a Training Course for Emergency Lighting and a Register of Electrical Contractors deemed competent to install and service Emergency Lighting.

After two years of inconclusive meetings the whole idea was abandoned to die a natural death.

If NSAI could not handle Emergency Lighting, which is a relatively small sector of the Electrical Industry, it does not instil any great confidence in their ability to take on the role which ETCl has filled so efficiently for almost fifty years.

Unfortunately, the structure within most quangos is that persons with little or no practical experience can rise through the ranks to a point where their personal opinions become virtually the law of the land.

Bad decisions are made and the perpetrators are never blamed but merely promoted upwards or sideways leaving the resulting damage and mess behind them.

Never more than now does the Industry need people of the calibre of Tony O'Doherty, but sadly his departure, along with that of many of the most experienced people in ETCl, will set the industry back to an extent not yet realised by those who are currently celebrating a victory for blind stubborn bureaucracy over common sense.

What we are witnessing in the industry is the arbitrary replacement of a democratic and representative rule formulation body with a centrist dictatorship akin to that which existed in the old Soviet bloc.

It is of little consolation to those in the industry that such dictatorships ultimately fail, since the damage they do, however long or short their lifespan may be, remains as a cancer in the industry long after the regime itself has met its inevitable demise.

5. Familiarity with ET 101: The National Rules for Electrical Installations

Electrical Contractors are expected to have a good working knowledge of the requirements of the National Rules for Electrical Installations, often referred to as "The Wiring Rules". This does not mean that you are expected to be able to quote every rule in the book.

What is important is that you know what section of the book to go to when you require guidance on some aspect of an electrical installation.

There is not a solicitor or barrister in the country who could repeat verbatim all the legislation on the statute book, but

most know where to get the information when they need it. Electrical Contractors should not be treated like school children by being asked to recite, from memory, the acceptable fault loop impedance values for various types and ratings of MCB's, the current carrying capacities of various size cables or the voltage drop calculations for cable runs.

All this information is in ET101 when required and most, if not all, is also contained in the various guides published by both ECSSA and RECI and there can be very few contractors in the country who does not have one or other of these Guides. Always be conscious of the fact that ET101 is a reference document to be consulted when needed and you are not required to memorise that which can be found be merely opening the book.