

Verification & Certification Courses

No	Date	Day	Location	Venue
65	4th & 5th July	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
66	6th & 7th July	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
67	5th & 6th July	Tuesday & Wednesday	Sligo Sligo	Park Hotel
68	7th & 8th July	Thursday & Friday	Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel
69	13th & 14th July	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
70	18th & 19th July	Monday & Tuesday	Portlaoise	Madron Hotel
71	20th & 21st July	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
72	20th & 21st July	Wednesday & Thursday	Portlaoise	Madron Hotel
73	27th & 28th July	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
74	2nd & 3rd August	Tuesday & Wednesday	Galway	Clayton Hotel
75	3rd & 4th August	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
76	4th & 5th August	Thursday & Friday	Galway	Clayton Hotel
77	8th & 9th August	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
78	10th & 11th August	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
79	15th & 16th August	Monday & Tuesday	Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel
80	15th & 16th August	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
81	17th & 18th August	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
82	17th & 18th August	Wednesday & Thursday	Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel
83	22nd & 23rd August	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
84	24th & 25th August	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
85	29th & 30th August	Monday & Tuesday	Tullamore	Tullamore Court Hotel
86	29th & 30th August	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
87	31st Aug & 1st Sept	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
88	31st Aug & 1st Sept	Wednesday & Thursday	Tullamore	Tullamore Court Hotel
89	4th & 5th September	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
90	6th & 7th September	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
91	12th & 13th September	Monday & Tuesday	Cavan	Cavan Crystal Hotel
92	12th & 13th September	Monday & Tuesday	DUBLIN	Red Cow Hotel
93	14th & 15th September	Wednesday & Thursday	Killarney	ECSSA
94	14th & 15th September	Wednesday & Thursday	Cavan	Cavan Crystal Hotel

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)

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



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016

Dear Contractor, Welcome to the Summer 2016 ECSSA Newsletter!

We are pleased to note that ECSSA Membership continues to grow as more and more of our former Members and indeed some who were never Members of ECSSA in the past, come to realise that they need an organisation to turn to for support, information and advice.

Technical advice given in a helpful and non-judgemental manner has always been a feature of ECSSA and will continue to be so.

It is vital that ECSSA continues to grow in numbers as it is only through the combined strength in numbers that Electrical Contractors can have a strong and powerful voice in the industry.

ETCI, the Body which creates and publishes the National Wiring Rules has served the electrical industry Ireland for almost half a century but CER, in its 'wisdom' have decided that they no longer want ETCI to fill that role.

Already the printing of completion certs has been moved from ETCI to Safe Electric thereby depriving ETCI of its most important source of income and it would appear that CER are determined that the role of ETCI in relation to the National Wiring Rules should be transferred to NSAI, allegedly on the grounds that the funding model of ETCI is not as stable as CER would want it to be.

One has to wonder how the funding model of ETCI has allowed the company to survive for the past 50 years, even through a number of severe recessions!

What is currently unfolding has the potential to set the electrical contracting industry in Ireland back by 50 years.

With the future of ETCI still uncertain as we go to print, many contractors have expressed the fear that technical rule changes will be made without any input from the stakeholders in the industry and that they will find themselves penalised for alleged non-compliance with the requirements of new rules which have not been published or do not form part of the National Wiring Rules.

In the absence of an independent body to create and publish rule changes, there is a danger that technical requirements can be changed unilaterally at the whim of a small number of individuals who have never had significant exposure to the electrical contracting industry.

Above all it is not a healthy situation where those who are tasked with enforcing the rules, should also be the author of those rules.

Mike Marshall
General Manager



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1. Final Circuit – Information

The following should be supplied by individual circuits:

1. Socket outlets with a rating greater than 16 Amps.
2. Permanently connected heating appliances (e.g. storage heaters / immersion heaters etc.) with a rating greater than 10 Amps.

Lighting

Lighting Radial circuits may also supply small items of equipment which do not have a rating greater than 300 Watts.

Freezer Circuits

Reliability of supply should be a consideration when installing circuits for freezers or similar appliances (e.g. combined fridge / freezer units).

The options are as follows:

1. An outlet that is not protected by an RCD. This could be a non-standard socket in order to prevent its use for any other purpose.
2. A dedicated circuit protected by an RCD / MCB or an RCBO.

***Option No.2 would be the safest option.**

Sockets solely used for the connection of table / standard lamps

Rule 554.5.1

Such sockets must be RCD / RCBO protected.

5 Amp sockets are normally used for the above circuits. A commonly used circuit consists of an RCBO (usually 10 Amp), a switch and the 5 Amp sockets.

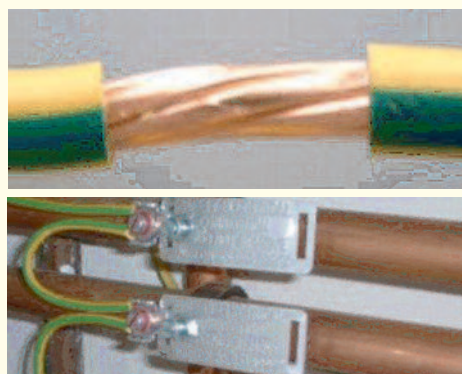
Other socket types may be used provided they are controlled by a switch and are RCD / RCBO protected.

Cross bonding

When looping a bonding conductor across adjacent pipes etc. the conductor should be kept continuous.

This may be undertaken by either of the following methods:

1. Strip back the insulation and loop the exposed conductor over the screw on the "bonding strap".
2. Insert two conductors into a suitable single lug.



2. Fire Alarm & Emergency Lighting Certs

ECSSA produces the only Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting Certs currently available.

These can be purchased by any contractor irrespective of whether or not they are current members of ECSSA and are accepted by Fire Officers throughout the country.

At the present moment there is no requirement that Contractors who wish to install Fire Alarm or Emergency Lighting have completed any Course in these areas but of course one should not attempt such installations unless one has the competence to do so.

NSAI has produced the Code of Practice for Emergency Lighting (IS3217:2013) and the Code of Practice for Fire Alarm Systems (IS3218:2013). Both of these publications which are priced at €53 each are available from ECSSA and Contractors are strongly advised to acquire a copy of the relevant code before undertaking this work.

A number of Courses in both Emergency Lighting and Fire Alarm Installations were run by ECSSA in conjunction with PCCE at various venues around the country.

Contractors who attended these Courses have indicated that they found them very good and gave them a good insight into the current standard by IS3217 and IS3218.

Any Contractor interested in attending one of these Courses should contact the office in relation to dates and venues and details will be posted on the website.

3. V & C Courses

A full list of V & C Courses up to September is included in this Newsletter.

Contractors should ensure that they book a space in good time if their current Qualified Certifier Number is coming to the end of its term.

Results are generally available within a week of completion of the Course and successful participants are notified by letter from ECSSA.

A Copy of this letter should be forwarded to Safe Electric in order to obtain a new QCN which will be valid for 5 years from the date of issue.

It is therefore vital that contractors do not find themselves in a position where their existing QCN has expired before they can get a place on a Course.

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LANESGATE ELECTRICAL
7th June 2016

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Gerard O'Shea Director

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9. Domestic Fire Detection

All Fire Detection systems in a Domestic Installation should comply with I.S. 3218:2013. (the Irish Standard for Fire detection systems) and be based on a risk assessment. REC's should be familiar with Section 10 (Fire Alarm systems in residential buildings) and in particular 10.2.2 (Individual Dwellings).

When issuing a Cert for the Fire detection system in a Domestic installation the Cert should be as per the template shown in **Annex K of I.S. 3218 :2013.**

The Cert **should be on the REC's own headed paper.**

The minimum level of protection for a dwelling house (up to three storeys) an individual apartment /flat or maisonette shall be provided by a Category LD 2, which means mains powered with battery backup and interconnected detectors covering the following locations within a dwelling:

1. All circulation areas forming part of an escape route within the dwelling.
2. All high risk areas /rooms e.g. kitchen / living room / garage (examples not exhaustive).
3. All bedrooms.

The ETCI National Wiring Rules are applicable to the fixed wiring of installations only. Chapter 56 of the Wiring Rules refers to safety services which includes "Fire detection and alarm equipment complying with I.S. 3218:2013 however the following two rules specifically refer to "Domestic installations" and "Mains" operated smoke detectors.

Rule No. 560.2

"This chapter (56) does not apply to Domestic and similar installations"

Rule No. 560.3

"Mains operated smoke alarms are not in the scope of this chapter".

Wiring

Paragraph 10.4 of Section 10 of the I.S. 3218:2013 states "Any cables suitable for domestic mains wiring are acceptable for interconnecting Grade D devices in dwellings but should be readily distinguishable from other mains cables e.g. by colour coding".

The reference to colour coding, while being the most practical method, does not exclude other means of identification.

Use of markers or insulation tape is not an acceptable means of distinguishing such cables.

An example of "Readily distinguishable" would be where there are a number of cables in an area the Fire Detection cable should be instantly recognisable.



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4. Use of the ECSSA Logo

Until recently the RECI website carried an instruction to contractors that the ECSSA and RECI Logos are no longer valid and should be removed and replaced by the Safe Electric Logo.

This claim was blatantly incorrect and misleading in that whatever RECI want to say about their own Logo, the ECSSA Logo remains the registered logo of the Electrical Contractors Safety and Standards Association (Ireland) Ltd and any contractor who is a current member of that Association has, if he wishes to do so, the right to display the logo on his vehicles, business cards and stationery.

ECSSA makes no claim to be a Register of Electrical Contractors or a Safety Supervisory Body, but simply a Trade Association just as the Association of Electrical Contractors of Ireland (AECI), the Electrical Contractors Association (ECA) and the National Electrical Contractors of Ireland (NECI) are Trade Associations, the members of each of which are quite entitled to display their associations logos on their vehicles and stationery.

We cannot for one moment believe that RECI would demand that ECA or AECI members cease and desist from displaying their association's logos yet they currently categorise as invalid the logo of an association which has a greater number of members than the AECI and ECA combined!

Just as electrical contractors are entitled to display the logos of their Trade Association or other logos such as the Guild of Master Craftsmen, they are equally entitled to refuse to display any logos at all on their vehicles.

5. One Day Courses

A number of contractors have expressed interest in a One Day Training Course which would familiarise their employees with the format and content of the Accredited Course before undertaking that Course.

With all work, however small, now needing certification, the question arises as to whether it would be practical for a contractor who has a number of employees to have a Qualified Certifier following these employees around to the various jobs which they do in order to test and certify the installation.

Some of these installations could be as small as the wiring of a shower, a cooker or a few extra sockets and there is no way that such a job can justify two separate electricians being involved from a cost point of view.

On the other hand it is not acceptable that the Qualified Certifier employed by the firm should merely sign the Certs

6. Calibration

ECSSA in conjunction with Amps & Ohms offers a Calibration Service to Members and Non-Members alike.

All that is required from the Contractor is a single phone call giving details of the Instrument and the location at which it can be collected by Courier.

It is an unfortunate fact of life that there are areas where parking a van which carries any indication of the trade of its owner will attract the wrong type of attention and will be a strong motivating factor for those who have no qualms about breaking into and robbing the contents of a vehicle if they have any reason to believe that it contains electric cable, tools and other saleable goods.

If an electrical contractor decides that it is prudent not to put any sign writing or logos on his van then he is quite entitled to refuse to do otherwise, irrespective of what instructions may be issued by RECI, Safe Electric or anybody else.

In fairness to the Manager of RECI, he immediately arranged for the removal of the misleading information once we brought it to his attention but unfortunately we have had reports from ECSSA Members that Safe Electric Inspectors have demanded that they remove ECSSA logos from their vehicles.

Some contractors removed the logos as they felt that they would be targeted for increased attention by the Inspectors should they continue to display the ECSSA logo.

The Inspectors have no authority to act in this manner and any contractor who has such an instruction issued to him by an Inspector should inform ECSSA, who will take the necessary steps to end this unauthorised and damaging conduct in relation to ECSSA.



based on information returned on a Test Record Sheet by the electrician who carries out the work.

The sensible approach would be for every electrician to attend a One Day Course at which they could gain experience of practical hands on testing and that they should be entitled to test and certify work using a Number 3 Cert where there is no ESB involvement required.

Such a Course would not need instructions on Controlled and Restricted Works or ESB Interface requirements and therefore could be condensed into a One Day intensive Course of theory and practice on the testing of installations.

If properly structured this One Day Course could become the first Module of the Full Two Day V & C Course and would enable an electrician who had successfully completed the One Day Course to go on afterwards and complete the additional Modules which enable him/her to obtain a Qualified Certifier Number and to sign Completion Certs for new ESB connections.

ECSSA will do the rest and the instrument will be returned to the Contractor with its Calibration within 5 working days of the initial collection.

The service has to date proved highly efficient and both ECSSA and Amps & Ohms continue to find tune the service to offer maximum value and minimum turnaround time for Contractors.

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7. No 3 Cert

The "Non DSO" Completion Cert for Electrical Work where there is no ESB involvement required has finally arrived in the form of the No 3 Cert, created by ETCI but now taken over by Safe Electric.

While the document is far from ideal it is to be welcomed as for the first time it provides an facility whereby the electrical contractor who goes into a premises to do a job does not find himself having to accept responsibility for the entire installation, including that which was there long before he became involved and in the construction of which he played no part.

The Contractor can now describe in detail the extent of the work which he has carried out and it would appear that his only responsibility, apart from ensuring that his own work complies in full with the National Wiring Rules, is to ensure that the addition of the new work does not impair the Safety of the existing installation.

It would not, for example, be acceptable that a Contractor wires and installs an electric shower in an installation where the Customer Tails are a mere 4sq mm which would be quite incapable of safely carrying the current required for a shower which could be up to 10 Kw.

Likewise it would be unacceptable that a Contractor should replace the original Bakelite Switches with stainless steel or brass plated switches if, as was common in older installations, a protective conductor had not been brought to the switch points.

Many of these new certs will be used for installations of a single additional circuit and it appears to be an overkill to demand that a Test Record Sheet be completed and returned to Safe Electric with the Cert in such cases.

The Cert itself has provision for the recording of all the measurements needed for testing a single circuit and therefore entering these same measurements for the same single circuit on a Test Record Sheet is merely adding to the cost of the job without providing a single iota of additional information in relation to the installation.

The Cert is poorly laid out, with considerable waste of space which could more sensibly be used to provide for 3 or four circuits, thereby making it a useful document for the majority of small non DSO work and avoiding the additional expense of a Test Record Sheet which merely replicates information already on the cert and adds to the ultimate cost to the Customer.

The aspiration of universal certification of all electrical work would be far more likely to be achieved by making it as simple and cost effective as possible to certify rather than demanding the use of Test Record Sheets where they serve no practical purpose other than an additional revenue stream for Safe Electric/CER.

8. Advertising on the ECSSA Website

The facility on our website to advertise for subcontract work or to advertise your availability to do sub-contract work has proved very successful for the majority of contractors who used it.

We would like to see more Contractors avail of this service and we remind them that this is a free advertising service for ECSSA Members.

Likewise access to the Stock Exchange Section is also free and allows Members to post details of items which they wish to dispose of or alternatively to locate equipment which might otherwise be difficult to source through normal supply channels.

Remember that for every piece of surplus stock or equipment which you have, there is somebody out there who is looking for precisely that item and for every item which you are seeking, there may be somebody in the trade who has exactly what you need and who would be willing to sell it, generally at a very competitive price.

Therefore we would urge all Members to make maximum use of these facilities and we are confident that the results will speak for themselves.

Price List

2016 Membership	€100.00
V & C Course	€350.00
	(Non Mem €380)
Calibration	€113.50
ET101 National Wiring Rules	€97.50
Amendment No 1	€13.00
ECSSA Guide to National Wiring Rules	€20.00
ECSSA Brief Guide to Certification	€18.00
& Verification	€18.00
IS3217:2013 Code of Practice for Emergency Lighting	€53.00
IS3218:2013 Code of Practice for Fire Alarms	€53.00
Seals	€25.00
CF1 Quotation Book (x10)	€30.00
CF2 Contract Forms (x10)	€30.00
CF3 Order for Variations & Extras (x10)	€20.00
CF4 Notice of Assignment of Work (x10)	€20.00
CF5 Receipt for Stage Payments (x10)	€20.00