

FOR YOUR DIARY

CERTIFICATION & VERIFICATION COURSES

DATES	LOCATION	HOTEL	
October 29th & 30th	Dublin	Sheldon Park	01-4601055
November 5th & 6th 19th & 20th	Sligo Mullingar	Yeats County Inn Bloomfield House Hotel	094 9255050 044 40894
December 3rd & 4th	Kildare	Glenroyal Hotel	01-6290909
January 7th & 8th 21st & 22nd	Cork Kerry	Doughcloyne Hotel Gleneagle Hotel	021 4312535 064 36000
February 4th & 5th 18th & 19th	Waterford Limerick	Dooleys Hotel Kilmurry Lodge Hotel	051 873531 061 331133
March 11th & 12th	Galway	Quality Hotel	091 792244
April 1st & 2nd 8th & 9th	Dublin Portlaoise	Sheldon Park Hotel The Killeshin Hotel	01-4601055 0502 21663
May 6th & 7th	Navan	The Ardboyne Hotel	046 9023119

All courses consist of Lecture on Friday from 7pm - 9pm and on Saturday a Practical Session 9 - 12 (Morning Session) OR 12 - 3pm (Afternoon Session)

Participants should indicate at the time of Booking whether they wish to be on the morning or afternoon Practical Session. Each Contractor should bring his Test Instruments with him to the Course.

Places will be filled on first come first served basis and booking will only be confirmed on Receipt of full payment of €80.00.

In the event of places remaining unfilled on any course, Contractors who are not shown on our records to have completed a course in the last 3 years, will have these remaining places allocated to them.

Electrical Contractors Safety and Standards Association

Coolmore House, Park Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 37266 Fax: 064 37269 Email: info@ecssa.ie

ECSSA NEWSLETTER

Issue 17

Autumn 2004

WELCOME

Welcome to the Autumn 2004 ECSSA Newsletter!

The past 3 months have been ones of continuous growth in ECSSA Membership and the milestone figure of 2000 has now been achieved. We are still receiving regular requests for Membership Application Forms and no doubt our Membership will continue to grow steadily in the months ahead. We have also seen the finalisation of the Criteria for the Issue of a Licence by the CER to Regulatory Bodies, and this Document was formally launched by Minister Dermot Ahern in Dublin on Thursday, 23rd September. It is hoped to have legislation enacted shortly, which will give statutory powers to the provisions of this document. The Criteria imposes a number of requirements on the Regulatory Bodies, which will in turn have a knock on effect for individual contractors. One of these is the specific requirement to have all test instruments calibrated on an annual basis and the calibration certificates for each instrument must be available for examination by the Inspector in the course of his visit to a Contractor. The document also provides for an Independent Auditor to visit any Contractors installation either in the company of the Inspector or unaccompanied.

The ECSSA / AON Insurance Scheme continues to attract over 80% support from our members. Its success augers well for even greater savings in 2005 and we are grateful for this level of support.

**Your chairperson
John O'Loughlin**

IN THIS ISSUE

- Chairman's Comments
- Notice to Members
- Certification & Verification Course
- Industry News
- Submitting Completion Certs through ECSSA
- Annual General Meeting
- Looking Forward



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The Power of Affinity



Aon has a history of providing efficient, effective service, support and tailored insurance products to various affinity groups and was a natural choice for ECSSA (Electrical Contractors Safety and Standards Association) when it set out to achieve a better all-round insurance deal for its two thousand plus members around Ireland.

ECSSA was established in 1997 as a regulatory body for those in the electrical trade strongly committed to the highest standards of workmanship, safety and competence. They offer the buying public peace of mind in choosing a contractor who meets the association's rigorous standards, such as holding adequate qualifications, being properly insured and passing regular workmanship inspections.

Bright Sparks - Pictured above at the launch of the Aon / Eagle Star Ecssa Combined Liability Insurance Product are (l-r) Kieran Murphy, Head of Sales & Marketing, Eagle Star; John O'Loughlin, Chairman, ECSSA and Richard Enderson, CEO, Aon. Aon was selected by ECSSA to provide insurance services to its members. Eagle Star underwrites a specially tailored commercial liability insurance package that is delivered via a dedicated service team.

ECSSA offers strong representation for its members and seeks to gain advantages wherever possible by harnessing the strength of their numbers. In addition, the association builds consumer confidence by providing an important point of contact for Customers before, during and/or after electrical installation work.

The commercial liability insurance product, specifically tailored to the needs of the electrical services providers, is delivered via dedicated underwriting and claims service teams in both Aon and Eagle Star. Contact is by a free-phone telephone number and a service charter is in place to ensure prompt delivery of advice, quotations and documentation. Eagle Star are among the main providers of commercial and personal insurance in Ireland and the strength of their relationship with Aon enabled them to participate in this innovative venture with confidence.

This has been a highly successful initiative for all three parties concerned and serves to illustrate to any group the benefits of a well-managed affinity programme.



EAGLE STAR

For immediate quotation contact:
1800 - 201 - 062

AON Insurances, 1-2 Clanwilliam Court, Lower Mount St., Dublin 2

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THE STOCK EXCHANGE

To get details of the Advertisers or to place your own ad please
contact the ECSSA OFFICE on 064 37266

FOR SALE

Omron 22kw 3 phase
Drives with Filters.
Bought for cancelled project.
Reasonable to Clear.
REF:S3041

FOR SALE

KSA 12V4 Tap Units for
Canalis Trunking.
Variety of Sizes

REF:S3042

FOR SALE

Selection of ABB variable
speed drives from 4kw to 22kw

REF:S3043

FOR SALE

150 KVA FG Wilson Skid
Mounted Generator.
Only 13 hrs. from new.

REF:S3044

WANTED

Tap Off Units for
Normbarre 400amp buss
bar trunking.

REF:W3041

WANTED

20 meter Cherry Picker,
Diesel or Gas on rough
terrain wheels. Unit needing repair
might suit.

REF:W3042

MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE
TO BUSINESS ENERGY COSTS

Special offers now available on energy efficient lighting at your local wholesaler until December 31st 2004.

ESB Customer Supply, in association with PHILIPS SYLVANIA GE OSRAM AEW

ESB Customer Supply www.esb.ie/business

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Wire-Free Radio Fire Detection



5000 FirePoint is an analogue addressable fire detection system with a range of fully featured controllers from 4-zone to 96-zone with radio based networking and paging.

The Wire-Free environment eliminates expensive fire-rated cable and all faults and false alarms associated with wired systems.



Fire sensors can be installed in less than 10 mins and are based on industry standard devices, they have no visible aerials and aesthetically pleasing low profile designs. Each sensor has an integral energy pack that has a typical, field-proven life of 5 years. Sensors include optical smoke, heat and multisensor - combining both smoke and heat.



VoicePoint is the award winning combined wire-free fire sensor/voice evacuation sounder that provides the ideal solution for applications such as hotels and hospitals where a fire detector and sounder are required in every room.

5000 FirePoint is supported with a range of wire-free ancillaries. As with the fire sensors all ancillaries can be quickly and simply installed without damaging the fabric of the building or disrupting business operation.



EMS Radio Fire & Security Systems

For further information, support and service throughout Ireland contact:

Vision Radio Fire and Security
Tel/Fax: 01-493 6101
Mobile: 067-7971898
E-mail: sales@visionsecurity.ie
www.visionradiofire.com



EMS Group - A world of protection without cable

LOOKING FORWARD

For 2005 in conjunction with our various partners, we hope to roll out the following services for ECSSA Members:

- Cost saving telephone deal with Open Communications (see enclosed brochure)
- Special Fleet Discount deal on all Ford Commercial Vehicles
- Flexible Retirement Scheme designed by AON for ECSSA Members
- Mortgage Facilities with reduced valuation and legal fees
- Improved Vehicle Cover at ultra competitive rates
- Contract bond facilities

ECSSA protecting the customer and the Contractor

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS

1. Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting Certs

In response to widespread demand from our Members, ECSSA has now produced a suitable Certificate for the Certification of Emergency Lighting in Domestic & Commercial premises and also a Certificate for the testing and certification of Fire Detection & Alarm Systems. These are available from the Office at the cost of €10 per Cert (including VAT & Postage).

2. Existing Installation Certs

ETCI have produced a new Certificate for use where a premises, which is already connected, has to have the electrical installation checked and certified at the request of a Fire Officer, Insurance Company or Mortgage Provider. These Certs, known as ETCI Cert No. 4, are available in books of 10 at the same cost as books of Domestic Certs (Cert No.1) but Cert No. 4 cannot be used to obtain a connection from the ESB.

3. Fire Courses

We are currently in discussion with an Engineer from a leading Fire Alarm Equipment Supplier, whose is willing to set up courses on the commissioning and certification of Fire Detection & Alarm Systems. If we find that there is sufficient interest among contractors, we will set up these courses on a Regional basis in the new year.

4. CER

The final draft of the CER Document under which Regulatory Bodies are to be licensed, has now been agreed and launched. One of the more onerous conditions which it places on Contractors, is in relation to the calibration of their Test Instruments. Inspectors will need to see current Calibration Certs for all the instruments used by a Contractor in the course of the Inspectors visit. Given that each Contractor will have at least one full set of Instruments, this represents 6,000 units held by ECSSA Members alone. At least as many more will be owned by RECI and Non- Registered Contractors. We are not at all certain that there is sufficient capacity in the existing Calibration Houses to deal with this volume of instruments on an annual basis but Contractors must be warned against calibration services offered at cut price rates but which may not have proper traceability to known standards. These back street and on-site calibrations were a problem in the UK when the requirement for calibration was first rigidly enforced. We are currently evaluating the available services and will have further news in the next Edition of the Newsletter.

5. Publications Out of Print

Please note that ET101A (Amendment to National Rules for Electrical Installations) is no longer available as all the Amendments are now incorporated in the latest edition of the main ET101 book. Also the Supplementary Certificate for Agricultural Electrical Installations are no longer produced in books of 25 but books of 50 are available at €15.

6. Interim Certificates

ESB now require an Interim Certificate for the connection of supply to the Main Board in an Industrial Installation where only the Main Board may be installed. These Interim Industrial Certs are available from the Office at a cost of €62 (including VAT & Postage). A further Industrial Completion Cert must be submitted when the Installation has been completed and tested.

7. Industrial Certs

Industrial Certs are only required for installations which will have CT Metering. The normal Domestic / Small Installation Cert (Cert No.1) is adequate for all Whole Current Metered Installations even if these are 3 Phase Installations.

8. REMINDER

Once again we ask all Members to ensure that their membership number is quoted on order forms and all other correspondence with the Office. Please ensure also that your Insurance Policy is up to date and that if you are not insured with AON/ Eagle Star under the ECSSA Group Scheme, that ECSSA has been provided with a copy of the Certificate before submitting your order. **Orders will not be processed if we do not have evidence of ongoing insurance cover** so avoid delays by ensuring that we are sent a copy of your insurance certificate immediately on renewal.

9. INSURANCE

Contractors who have signed on to the Aon / Eagle Star scheme are reminded that all documentation should be returned to Aon without delay. Premium payment should also be made within 30 days of the start up date of the policy unless stage payment facilities have been availed of. Contractors are asked to co-operate in insuring the efficient operation of the scheme.

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Seals

Contractors who use wire seals for sealing the consumer's side of the new ESB Meter which incorporates the isolator, should exercise extreme caution when passing the wire through the sealing screw. Tests have shown that it is possible for the end of the wire to be deflected in to the connection block, which will of course be live at this stage. The use of plastic and nylon seals is to be recommended where at all possible.

Generator Connections

The large amount of ESB Network renewal going on in the country at the moment has led to frequent switch outs of homes and commercial premises. Customers who cannot operate without a power supply generally hire in generators to provide power during these switch outs. Contractors who are asked to connect these generators should exercise extreme caution in doing so. In an ideal situation all installations would have changeover switches to which the generator could be connected but in real life very few have such changeover facilities. If a generator is connected to a customer's installation, great care must be taken to ensure that the voltage does not back feed to the ESB Network, thereby putting the lives of those working on the lines at risk. This can be achieved by switching off the main isolator, if fitted, and securely locking it in the off position. This lock should be under the control of the person who connected the generator and the lock should not be removed or the isolator re-closed until the generator connections have been removed. In cases where there is no safe way of ensuring the isolation of the customer's installation from the ESB Networks, contact should be made with the local ESB Office to arrange for the removal of ESB main fuses while the generator is powering the installation. In 3 phase installations, it is important to ensure that the phase rotation from the generator is the same as that of the ESB main supply. Failure to check this could result in serious damage to 3 phase machinery.

RCD's

Table A 61C-1 of the ETCI Regulations (pages 245 & 246 of the current edition) show the maximum values allowable for each type of MCB, fuse or RCBO.

You will note from this table that the max value for RCBO - 40A - C Type is .57ohm. In some situations this may be achieved but in the vast majority of installations, the use of the C type would result in a failed test. In the majority of cases the maximum values allowable for a B type RCBO can be met and contractors should therefore ensure that the correct type of RCBO is fitted and that the test results fall within the limits for that particular type.

New Public Lighting Requirements

The new requirements for Public Lighting Installations have just been issued by ESB Networks. Details can be found on our website (www.ecssa.ie). It is hoped that a printed version will be available from the ESB for circulation with the December newsletter.

Remember ... to look up our website

www.ecssa.ie

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Pilot Scheme

Since August 1st, Contractors in County Kerry have been sending their Completion Certs directly to the ECSSA Office rather than to the ESB. In the early days of the scheme a number of Certs were returned to Contractors because of incorrect measurements, lack of reference numbers ie. MPRN / SAID / or Customer Account Numbers. Various other discrepancies also came to light but we are now happy to report that there has been a great improvement in the quality of certs being submitted. Subject to reaching agreement with the CER and the ESB on the funding of the additional work this entails for ECSSA, it is hoped that the Scheme will be operated on a countrywide basis from early in 2005. We want to assure Contractors that once a Cert is received at the ECSSA Office before 2.30pm on any day, that Cert will have been verified and the details transmitted to the ESB before 3pm on the same day unless there is some reason why the Cert has to be returned to the Contractor. Contractors should also realise that there may be a significant delay between the arrival of the information in the ESB Office and the actual connection of the installation. It is therefore important that once the installation is completed and tested, that no further time be lost before the Cert is sent on to ECSSA.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of ECSSA took place in the Montague Hotel, Portlaoise on Saturday, July 4th. This move to the Midlands from our traditional venue in Scott's Hotel, Killarney was in response to the suggestion that a more central venue would ensure the attendance of a greater number of members. Unfortunately, this proved to be a fallacy and apart from the Directors, very few other members attended. We can only assume that either all our members are too busy to take time out for the AGM or alternatively that they have no problems with the way the organisation is being run. There were no nominations for any change of Directors and accordingly the existing Board Members were returned unopposed. Once the formal business of the AGM had been dispensed with, there was an open forum on any perceived problems within the industry. The recurring theme seems to be the low level of pricing which prevails in some sectors of the trade. Concern was also expressed at the number of part time operators who are carrying out electrical work at unrealistic prices and who were obviously operating without the normal overheads faced by full time Contractors. While we recognise that these practices exist, there is unfortunately very little that we can do within the remit of our licence, constrained as we are to regulating the technical aspects of the industry only. Future AGM's will in all probability revert to our former venue.

ECSSA OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 9am - 1pm 2pm - 5pm

Closed for lunch from 1pm to 2pm

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