



Certification & Verification Courses

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.

Ecssa Office Hours

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

Closed for Lunch
1pm to 2pm

Christmas Holidays

The ECSSA Office will close for Christmas Holidays at 5pm on Wednesday December 22nd and will reopen at 9am on Tuesday 4th January 2005.

Please ensure that you do not find yourself in urgent need of Completion Certs during this period. Check your Stock and Order now if necessary.

Bearing in mind the present uncertainty about possible industrial action in the postal service, you should ensure that Orders and other correspondence with the Office are sent in good time to allow for possible delays.



For Your Diary

Certification & Verification Courses

DATES	LOCATION	HOTEL	TELEPHONE
January			
7th & 8th	Cork	Doughcloyne Hotel	021 4312535
21st & 22nd	Kerry	Gleneagle Hotel	064 36000
February			
4th & 5th	Waterford	Dooleys Hotel	051 873531
18th & 19th	Limerick	Kilmurry Lodge Hotel	061 331133
March			
11th & 12th	Galway	Quality Hotel	091 792244
April			
1st & 2nd	Dublin	Sheldon Park Hotel	01-4601055
8th & 9th	Portlaoise	The Killeshin Hotel	0502 21663
May			
6th & 7th	Navan	The Ardboyne Hotel	046 9023119



Seasons Greetings!

Welcome to the Christmas 2004 Edition of the ECSSA Newsletter!

2004 has been ECSSA's most successful year to date and has seen the achievement of many important landmarks. Our current membership now exceeds 2000 and continues to grow on a daily basis.

In March we launched, in conjunction with AON and Eagle Star, a highly competitive insurance package for Electrical Contractors. After years of ever increasing premiums, we suddenly have a situation where, as a direct result of the launch of our Scheme, Contractors have seen their insurance costs fall by an average of over 40%.

In June we acquired the premises adjoining Coolmore House and have completed its refurbishment as additional office space. A further programme of building is planned for the New Year. This new building will include a lecture room and we intend to make available a series of Courses on specialised subjects requested by our members.

We continue to seek favourable commercial deals for our members in such diverse areas as Pensions, Mortgages, Purchase of Commercial Vehicles and Health Insurance.

The past year has also seen the launch of the framework whereby the CER will be the overall Regulator of the Electrical Industry in Ireland. ECSSA is already operating a Pilot Scheme under which Completion Certs are returned to the Regulatory Bodies rather than to the ESB. We look forward to the countrywide implementation of this scheme early in the New Year and feel that once initial teething problems have been overcome, the new arrangement will prove far more efficient and should lead to quicker connections of Customer Installations.

I would like to thank all the Contractors who have been members of ECSSA since its foundation and to look forward to your continuing support in 2005. I appreciate also the ongoing efforts of my fellow Directors, our Inspectors and Staff, whose commitment throughout the year have contributed so much to our success.

Finally I want to take this opportunity to wish all our Members, their Families and Employees a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year in 2005.

John O' Loughlin
Chairman of ECSSA

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Notice to Members

1. Membership Renewal

The cost of membership for 2005 remains unchanged at €220.

Please ensure that Cheque/Draft/Postal Order for Membership Renewal is sent separately from any Order for Certs or Publications, as Sales and Membership Administration are handled by different sections within ECSSA.

Combining Membership and Orders in one Cheque will lead to delays in having your Order sent out.

In the case of Kerry and Wexford, where, as part of the Pilot Scheme, Certs are returned to ECSSA rather than to the local ESB Office, on no account should Cheques for Membership or Orders be enclosed with these Certs.

Obviously the same will apply to other counties as soon as the Scheme is extended nationwide.

2. Diary and Yearbook

ECSSA has produced a Yearbook which incorporates a 2005 Diary, Directory of Members, technical and other useful Information.

A copy of the Yearbook will be sent to each member along with their 2005 Membership Card as soon as the 2005 Membership Fee is received.

3. Orders

An updated Order Form, which incorporates additional items available from ECSSA, is included with this Newsletter.

Please note that Fire Alarm Certs are available individually at a cost of €10 and not €16 as shown on the Order Form. Please use this Order Form when ordering Stock Items from ECSSA and always ensure that your Registration Number is shown in the space provided.

Again we want to stress that it is most unhelpful when we get Cheques in the Post with no indication as to who they come from or what goods are required.

4. Insurance

Members who had renewed their insurance prior to the launch of the AON/ Eagle Star Scheme last March, should now avail of the opportunity to get a quotation when their policies fall due for renewal.

The AON Free Phone Number is 1800 201 062

5. Ford Price Concessions

From the 1st January 2005 a Discount of €384 is available to Members who purchase any of the Ford Range of Passenger Cars or any of the Ford Commercials up to 4 tonnes.

This Fleet Discount Deal is available from all Ford Dealers on production of your ECSSA Membership Card.

The Fleet Discount Number which you should quote to your Dealer is **9000800**

6. New Cert Colours

Contractors should note the revised colour code of Completion Certs.

This colour code applies to Domestic Certs from Number **226151** onwards.

In the case of these Certs the **White** Copy goes to the ESB, or, in the case of **those counties where Certs are returned directly to ECSSA (Pilot Scheme)**, despite distribution list printed on contract, only Kerry and Wexford should return their certs to Ecssa until further notice, the **White** Copy is returned to ECSSA for onward transmission to the ESB. The **Green** Copy goes to the Customer once Post Connection tests have been completed while the **Yellow** Copy is retained for the Contractors own Records.

7. Photos

Members who have been requested to submit photos for their identity card and who have not yet done so, should attend to this matter immediately.

8. Return of Certs to ECSSA (Pilot Scheme)

Before returning a Completion Certs to ECSSA for onward transmission to the ESB, please ensure that your membership fee has been paid and that your insurance is up to date, as we are obliged under the CER Agreement to verify that both are in place before we can notify the ESB that the installation is ready for connection.

Failure to attend to the above will result in delay in having your clients installation connected.

9. ESB Contacts

A List of telephone numbers for all ESB Offices will be included in the ECSSA Yearbook.

This should help alleviate the problems which Contractors have been experiencing in making contact with their local offices.



Industry News

Smoke Detectors in Houses

Normally two Detectors are required for a two storey house. They must be mains voltage type with battery back up and must have an interconnecting signal wire. Care should be taken not to connect voltage to the interconnecting signal wire as this can cause irreparable damage to the Detectors. It is recommended that wiring for smoke Detectors comes directly from the Distribution Board to the first Detector and from there to the next Detector.

Note: A blue or green/yellow core must not be sleeved or used as a signal wire.

Contractors should familiarise themselves with the provisions of Section 1.5.5 of the 1997 Dept of Environment Building Regulations. These set out in greater detail the requirements for Fire Alarm Systems in Dwelling Houses. It is particularly important in the case of Local Authority Housing Schemes, that the contractor is fully aware of what type of Detectors the Authority requires in the houses, as in some cases there may be a requirement for an optical type on the ground floor and an ionisation type on the upper floor. There is a considerable price difference between both types of Detectors so the exact specification should be established at the tendering stage.

Training Courses

Under the new CER Criteria, attendance at Verification & Certification Courses is now compulsory. Contractors who have not attended such a course in the past 3 years should now do so. The remaining dates and venues are listed on the back page of this News letter.

The Friday night session (7.30pm) covers theoretical discussion and explanation of new regulations, while Saturday (9am OR 12 noon) covers Practical Testing and further discussion on relevant problems.

Course Fee is €80 and booking should be made through the ECSSA Office.

Cat 5 Cabling

Legrand Ireland Ltd are offering free one day courses on the installation and termination of Cat 5 Cables. Interested Contractors should contact their local Inspector, the ECSSA Office or Legrand on 01 2954671

ESB Gold Shield Design

Please note that the Gold Shield Design Service formerly available from ESB is being discontinued.

Height of Switch Boxes

Your attention is drawn to the Building Regulations which require switch boxes, brake glass units and bell pushes to be located between 900mm (36 inches) and 1200mm (48 inches) from finished floor level on floors to which wheelchair users have access. However, room stats should continue to be fitted at the normal height as fitting these at a lower level will upset the balance of the heating system in the premises.



**Are your books getting you down?
Get Sorted for the New Year!**

ECSSA has negotiated a deal on your behalf with Aisling Software Ltd, makers of the easy-to-use Irish bookkeeping software SortMyBooks.

Your ECSSA membership gives you 10% off the software and training, plus a FREE customised invoice and statement layout with your own logo and the ECSSA logo, valued at €100.



Free Bookkeeping Information Evenings will be held around the country giving details of the upcoming training classes in the New Year. See enclosed flyer for more details or

**CALL AISLING SOFTWARE ON
064-32112**