



# ECSSA news

Christmas, 2006

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### ECSSA OFFICES

will close at 1pm on Fri. Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>

and reopen on Wed. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri.

9am - 5pm

Lunch 1pm - 2pm

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## Season's Greetings

Welcome to the Christmas 2006 Edition of the ECSSA Newsletter!

As we reach the end of our 10th year of operations, we can take pride in the fact that, since our foundation, we have been able to report increased membership, increased turnover, and increased profitability at the end of each year. While all these things are important, perhaps the greatest source of satisfaction is the fact that there is growing evidence that many contractors, who are not members of ECSSA, turn to us for advice when faced with problems throughout the year.

Membership of ECSSA has now exceeded 2,500 and it is amazing to find that, even in the month of December, new applications are received on a daily basis. This increased membership has in turn led to a need for an increase in Inspector coverage and we welcome two new Inspectors, Denis Crone and Brendan O'Brien, who joined us in the Autumn. Our present Dublin Regional Inspector, Brian Moran, retired at the end of the month but will continue to represent ECSSA at ETCI Meetings and other functions in the Dublin area. Brian has contributed enormously to the growth of the Company since he first joined us, when ECSSA was in its infancy. We wish him a long and enjoyable retirement, while at the same time looking forward to his continued support and input.

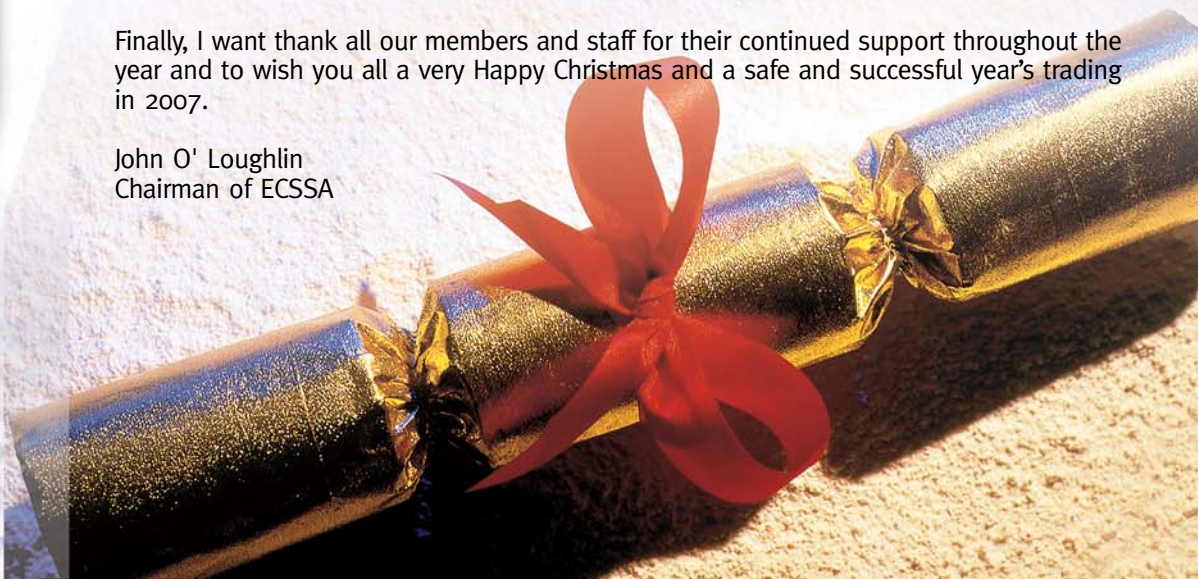
2007 will present many new challenges to Regulatory Bodies and Contractors alike. The whole procedure for obtaining a connection from ESB will change in that Certs will no longer be submitted, by contractors or their customers, to their local ESB office, but will, instead, be sent to the contractor's Regulatory Body for onward transmission to ESB. Further details are contained elsewhere in this Newsletter and I strongly recommend that Members familiarise themselves with the changes.

The implementation of the Private Security Services Act last August has also had an effect on our members and it will be interesting to observe, during the coming year, how successfully the provisions of this Act will be enforced.

Despite various predictions of a downturn in the construction industry, members continue to report plenty of work in the sector and, hopefully, this will continue throughout 2007.

Finally, I want to thank all our members and staff for their continued support throughout the year and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and successful year's trading in 2007.

John O' Loughlin  
Chairman of ECSSA





# Notice to Members

## 1. Taking over jobs

The whole question of taking over a job which has been started by another contractor has long been a bone of contention between ECSSA and RECI. Everybody recognises that there are certain instances where another contractor has to take over and complete an installation which he did not start. Examples of such instances are where the original contractor has died, emigrated, ceased trading or is unable to continue by virtue of injury, illness or some other factor over which he has no control.

There is an agreed procedure whereby a customer can seek clearance from the Regulatory Bodies for a change of contractor but it is our belief that avoiding paying one's bills does not constitute a valid reason for a Regulatory Body to give clearance for a change of contractor.

ESB Networks would also appear to support the view that a change of contractor should be permitted regardless of whether the first contractor has been paid or not. It should be pointed out to ESB Networks, however, that these issues are none of their business, and that they themselves will not make any move to bring supply to a new customer until they have been paid in full and in advance. This whole idea that there is an agreement between ESB and the Regulatory Bodies regarding certification in the interest of public safety is pure bunkum when applied to these situations. There is no danger to public safety while the installation remains un-energised and if the contractor has not been paid, it should remain un-energised until such time as negotiations between the parties, or a decision of the Courts, resolves the commercial dispute. For a Regulatory Body to authorise a change of contractor to facilitate the customer who simply does not want to pay, is weakening the position of the contractor, and pre-empting the decision of any Court to which the dispute may ultimately be referred. If the Court finds that the contractor is due the amount claimed, he should be awarded the amount plus interest, while if his claim was ill-founded and vexatious, the customer should be entitled to seek damages from the contractor for delay and disruption. This is the normal manner in which commercial disputes are resolved and it is totally out of order for a Regulatory Body to facilitate or permit any short cutting of due process.

In the event of a change being permitted, there is an onus on the incoming contractor to ensure, in as far as possible, that the amount of installation already carried out complies fully with ETCI Regulations and that any non-conformity detected is rectified before continuing to complete the job. On the other hand, there are far more instances where a request to

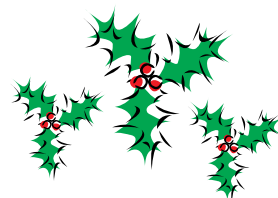
replace a contractor is based on the customers desire to avoid paying his bills. It is reprehensible that any contractor should facilitate a person who does not want to pay the contractor who has already inputted time and materials into the customer's job. The whole idea that the first contractor should walk away and resort to Court action to recover his money, does not make sense in the real world. If the contractor can be expected to wait for the Courts to make an award to him, then the customer can equally be expected to wait for his job to be completed. The realisation that he is not going to be facilitated by another contractor who is willing to get involved in what amounts to strike breaking, might concentrate the customer's mind on resolving his differences with the initial contractor, rather than running away and employing a second contractor. This issue has yet to be resolved between the Regulatory Bodies and the final solution written into the CER Criteria.

ECSSA will continue to hold its line which is based on the fact that no Accountant or Solicitor would take on the affairs of a new client until assurance is received that the fees of the previous Accountant or Solicitor have been paid. If this is recognised practice in those professions, why should a lesser standard apply to the profession of an electrical contractor?

There may be a downturn in the construction industry but we doubt that it so severe that it leaves contractors so short of work that they are forced to take over other contractors unfinished work, thereby facilitating customers who simply want to avoid paying.

## 2. Copies of Certs

We have been informed by the Fire Officers that photo copies of Emergency Lighting Certs or Fire Alarm Certs are not acceptable. Furthermore, if such documents are to be produced in Court for renewal of license of a bar, club, etc., they must be original documents or certified copies. The practical result of this is that it is a pointless exercise for contractors to ask ECSSA to fax copies of these Certs to them when they suddenly realise that their customer needs them for the Licensing Court the following morning and the contractor does not have a supply of the Certs. It makes common sense for a contractor who is likely to be asked to provide such a service, to keep a supply of Emergency Lighting and Fire Alarm Certs in stock at all times. They are not expensive, do not go out of date, and having them will avoid a lot of last minute frustration.





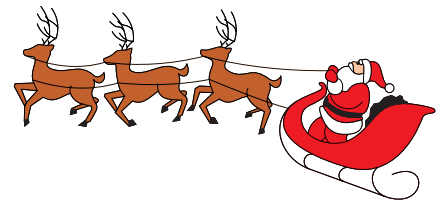
### 3. Immersion Heater Thermal Reset

Problems continue to arise on a daily basis with contractors being called out to reset the thermal cut outs on Immersion Heaters. The problem is not an electrical problem but a plumbing problem created by the fact that most householders run their main boiler at a temperature in excess of that at which the thermal reset on the Immersion is set. We have heard of customers who are now removing the Immersion Heater cover entirely to reset the cut out on a daily basis, while others have drilled holes in the covers and are using nails to press the reset. Both these practices are highly dangerous and one wonders where the responsibility will lie when somebody is killed or seriously injured while engaged in such practice. One manufacturer, Elemex, have indicated that they will shortly have a resetting facility from the outside of the cover, while Thermtec UK already have such a facility. Hopefully, these products will appear in the wholesalers shortly but the problem will continue to remain with the older units for many years to come. It is important from an electrical contractor's point of view to point out to the customer that the problem of a non functioning immersion is not created by anything which the electrical contractor has done, but by the inability of the manufacturers cut-out setting to sustain the temperature at which most household boilers are run in Ireland. One possible solution would be for the manufacturers to make replacement covers available with external resetting devices fitted so that the householder could safely reset the trip when it goes out.

### 4. Shower Switches

In the previous issue we highlighted the fact that a number of contractors have reported burn outs on pull cord switches controlling showers. It now seems that similar problems are being encountered in the normal wall mounted 40amp switches. Some contractors are so worried about this that they have taken to fitting the larger cooker type switches as shower controls, but, in some instances, customers are not happy to have such a large switch on the wall outside the bathroom. However, if the normal size switches continue to give trouble and manufacturers do not take steps to rectify the problem, customers will be left with no choice but to accept the use of a more robust switch rather than tolerate the existence of a potential fire hazard. Contractors should be particularly careful and should select switches from reputable manufacturers and it goes without saying that particular attention should be paid in ensuring that all terminations are tight and secure.

There is a theory that the problem is not being helped by the fact that some people, having selected the temperature at which they would like the shower to run, leave the rotary switch on the shower set at that position and use the isolating switch to turn the shower on and off. The isolating switch has not been designed as an on-load switch.



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Merrion Fire + Safety supply top quality, tried and trusted brands of professional fire equipment at competitive prices, nationwide.

We support the installer by providing technical support second to none. We will support you at every stage of fire system implementation, including:

- Design • Testing • Commissioning
- Maintenance • Training

Proven Fire Alarm Equipment  
Unbeatable Project Pricing  
Unrivalled Technical Support

**GUARANTEED**







## 5. Avoiding Inspections

We have reached the time of year when our Inspectors lose patience with contractors who have persistently avoided inspections throughout the year. Lists of these have now been submitted and disciplinary action will have to be put in place against the defaulters. Some contractors seem to labour under a misapprehension that they can continue to give the Inspectors the runabout and continually break appointments without any valid excuse. The most unacceptable thing about all this is that these are generally contractors who are most in need of inspection by virtue of poor ratings in the past, or relatively short time as independent contractors. If in the past twelve months you have been notified by your local inspector of an appointment for an inspection and have failed to keep that appointment, please make immediate contact with the Inspector concerned so that the situation can be regularised. Under CER Rules, there is no provision for a contractor continuing as a member of a Regulatory Body unless the contractor has had an inspection at least once a year.

## 6. Expanding Foam

One of our members has recently contacted us regarding what he feels could become a very dangerous practice. He was called in to replace a light switch in an installation which he had completed some time previously. Apparently the painters had found that the plastering was not complete to the edge of the switch box and had pumped in expanding foam to fill the gaps. This expanding foam had made it's way into the switch box and had completely surrounded and attached itself to the switch. It was probably the cause of the switch failure in the first place and could well have lead to a fire if overheating persisted. The contractor concerned cut out the expanding foam, and applied a match to it and found that it was highly flammable and burned to a cinder. It may well be that it is easier for painters to fill gaps and voids with this foam, but it is certainly creating a new problem which electrical contractors should be aware of and take steps to avoid.

## 7. Periodic Inspection Reports

Periodic Inspection Report Forms, produced by the ETCL, are now in stock by ECSSA and are available in books of 10 at cost of €50. These Reports were specifically produced to enable contractors report on the condition of an electrical installation on a periodic basis. It is recommended that every installation be inspected once every five years and in premises where there is a high usage by the public, such as clubs, pubs and hotels, more frequent inspections are recommended. Some Fire Officers are now demanding an Electrical Inspection Report in addition to Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting Certs for license renewal for pubs and places of entertainment. It is likely also, that the

Incorporated Law Society may specify that an Electrical Inspection Report forms part of the documentation which must be included in the conveyancing paperwork of any change of ownership. Mortgage providers and insurance companies are also likely to seek the comfort of such a report when financing or insuring premises in the future. We expect these periodic inspections will be a substantial growth area in electrical contractors work going forward.

## 8. Top 10

ECSSA registered it's first member on 20th May 1997. Looking back through the records we find that nine contractors were registered on that day, with the tenth contractor coming on board five days later.

The original ten members were as follows; (1) James Dowling, Blackpool, Cork, (2) Simon Trow, Charleville, Cork, (3) Dermot McMahon, O'Callaghan's Mills, Clare (4) Richard Tierney, Caherconlish, Limerick, (5) Cathal Cronin, Cloyne, Cork, (6) Denis Lane, Millstreet, Cork (7) Brian Hart, Mayorstone Park, Limerick, (8) William McGrath, Shandon Street, Cork, (9) Dominic Lawlor, Millstreet, Cork, (10) Patrick Solon, Ennis, Clare.

At the end of ten years, all, apart from Billy McGrath who retired from the trade some time ago, are still members of ECSSA.

We thank them for their loyalty over the years, as indeed we thank all those who have joined ECSSA since 1997.

## 9. Attendance at Courses

If one were to strictly apply the CER Criteria for the Registration of New Members, a contractor should have completed a Course in Verification & Certification before that person can be allowed to self certify work. In practice this would be almost unworkable in that it would require Verification & Certification Courses to be available throughout the year and throughout the country. In the absence of sufficient numbers to make such Courses financially viable, the cost to individual applicants would be prohibitive. In practice, ECSSA has permitted contractors to become Provisional Members until such time that they successfully complete a Verification & Certification Course. On his first visit to meet such a contractor, their local Inspector tries to ensure that the New Member is fully conversant with the tests required and the procedures for carrying them out. However, we have an unacceptable number of new members who do not avail of the Courses in their areas within their first year of membership. This has now reached a level of seriousness where Provisional Members who do not complete a Course in the Winter/Spring following their initial joining, will have the facility to self certify withdrawn until such time as the situation is regularised.

We must therefore insist that all New Members who joined in 2006 attend one of the remaining Courses before February 24th.





*Chairman, John O'Loughlin makes a presentation to Brian Moran on his retirement after almost 10 years service as Dublin Regional Inspector.*

*Right: John O'Loughlin makes a presentation to Padraig Burke, Solicitor, in recognition of his service to ECSSA over the past 14 years. Padraig, has been appointed County Register for Kerry*



*Below: Chief Inspector, Wally Forde makes a presentation to Brian Moran on behalf of his fellow ECSSA Inspectors.*

*From left to right, Michael Guerin, Brendan O'Brien, Jimmy Batten, Paul Keane, Neil Gordon, Brian Moran, Jack Gleeson, Wally Forde Denis Crone, Tony Murray.*







# ***A Level Playing Field***

ECSSA has recently been visited by Officers of the Competition Authority who are conducting a Criminal Investigation into the existence of a Cartel or Cartels in the Electrical Contracting Industry.

They are particularly concerned about the practice whereby major electrical contracts are shared out between small groups of electrical contractors, who agree amongst themselves who should get a particular job, and having calculated their prices, then arrange for at least two more of the cartel members to submit a higher price for that particular contract.

Obviously the favour would be returned at a later stage and Contractor B and Contractor C will in turn be facilitated in successfully tendering for a job where the others will agree to back off and provide cover prices.

Most people in the industry suspect that this has been going on for years, but very few have taken the trouble to establish with any degree of accuracy what contractors are involved in these golden circles.

One thing that is clear however, is that major abuses are taking place in the upper end of the market, where there is a relatively small number of firms big enough to tender for the most lucrative major installations.

There have been, and still are, instances where the electrical contract was known to be earmarked for a particular contractor, long before the plans were drawn, or the tender documents circulated.

There are several adverse effects which arise from this sort of conduct.

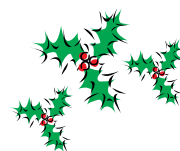
Firstly, there is no real competitive pricing involved in that the designated “winner” prices the job, and since he is not going to be undercut, he can arrive at a price well above that which would be prudent to submit in an open competitive race.


The figures are then circulated to the other cartel members who merely add and subtract from the various sections of the tender, but ultimately end up with a higher total figure than that submitted by the designated “winner”.

All this is of little interest to the majority of the smaller players in the contracting industry since they would never be asked to price such a job in the first place, and would probably not be able to finance or run the project even if it were handed to them. The only real losers from the price fixing exercise are the clients, who invariably end up paying far more for the job than would have been the case if there had been bona fide competition among the various contractors tendering.

What does, however, concern the smaller contractors is the unsustainable cost structures which have resulted directly from the activities of the major players, who have ring fenced the large electrical projects in this anti competitive manner. One of the prerequisites for the smooth operation of a price fixing regime is to be able to avoid industrial unrest and thereby rule out the danger of strikes, stoppages or disruption, which could delay the progress of the work and so inconvenience the client, who, unknown to himself, is paying way over the odds for his installation. This danger was averted by negotiating an Agreement on such favourable terms that it is most unlikely that even the most militant workers would ask for more. Rates and conditions were agreed which could only be sustained in a closed shop environment where the contractor could virtually decide his own price. Nothing wrong with that, one might say if it suited all sides!

The problem arose when this Agreement, known as the ENJIC Agreement, was registered with the Labour Court and therefore deemed to be binding, not only on the small number of major contractors who were party to, or supportive of, the Agreement, but on every contractor in the country who employs even a single individual over the age of 20 years. The nett result of sixteen years of increases and adjustments, in line with the terms initially negotiated in 1990, is that the true cost of an electrician to his employer is €33.03 per hour before the electrician ever leaves base in the morning.





The small rural contractor, who employs a staff of three or four, is pricing domestic electrical work against the sole operator who is not bound by the terms of the ENJIC Agreement and who can price house wiring at €25 per hour, or even less in many cases.

An employer who wants to be fully compliant, will also be idle and will shortly be insolvent.

Not long ago, it was estimated that up to 80% of small contractors in the country were non compliant. Very few of these people had, or have, any desire to breach the law of the land, but the harsh financial reality is that the terms of the ENJIC Agreement are nowadays putting the employing contractor in a totally uncompetitive position.

It is sickening to watch the bigger players whinging about a level playing field in the industry. It is equally repulsive to see the two Associations which represented them ie. AECl and ECA, come together with the TEEU, to set up EPACE, a private limited company, with no statutory powers whatsoever, which is going around the country pretending to contractors that they have the right to examine their books, payrolls, and records and to bring complaints to the Labour Court when the contractor rebuffs the aggressive and intrusive approach of EPACE.

The basic problem in the trade was caused by the major players and their outcry for a level playing field at this stage may be little more than a diversionary tactic to distract attention from their own far more questionable tactics. In other words, are they making issue about the molehill on the goal line at one end, to draw attention away from the manure heap at the other end? These major contractors are, of course, fully compliant with the ENJIC Agreement - in respect of their own (often quite small) core staff, but they have no qualms about employing subcontractors by the hundred and have no interest whatsoever whether these subbies have pensions, sickness cover, or proper rates of pay for their electricians. Hopefully, the spectacle of the small family owned firms being hauled before the Labour Court will shortly be replaced by the sight of at least a dozen of the major contractors, along with some Directors of these Companies, being charged before the High Court in relation to serious breaches of Competition Law. Hopefully too some contractor will take the initiative and apply to the Labour Court to have Section 29.2 of the 1946 Industrial Relations Act implemented, thereby cancelling the registration of

an Agreement which is no longer sustainable and which is causing enormous worry and financial hardship to small contractors.

It should be fairly obvious at this stage that while the major players were urging their Associations (AECl & ECA) to level the playing field, or at least one end of the playing field, they were blatantly ignoring their own illegal activities. It is said that **he who breaks the law through need, is far less guilty than he who breaks it through greed**, and the one sided lip service being paid to a level playing field gives every independent contractor in the country the motive and incentive to co-operate in every possible way with the Competitions Authority in ensuring that both ends of the field are level. The AECl and ECA were so anxious that the law of the land, in the shape the ENJIC Agreement, should be complied with, that they willingly co-operated with the TEEU to set up EPACE. It would not be unreasonable to suggest that they should be equally concerned that the law of the land in the shape of the Competitions Act be enforced and that they should co-operate fully with the Competitions Authority in ridding the industry of illegal cartels. Or would that becoming too close to the bone for some of their influential members?

The Competitions Authority currently have over one hundred cases under investigation and the first of these will be coming before the Central Criminal Courts early in the new year.

A Criminal Cartel Immunity Programme has been agreed with the Director of Public Prosecutions so that anybody who wants to come clean can ring a Hotline at 087-7631378, where they can speak in confidence with an investigating officer without exposing themselves to prosecution.

**If any of our members have ever been subjected to unfair competition or have evidence of the operation of such cartels, they should not hesitate to contact Ray Leonard, Manager of the Cartels Division at the Competition Authority, Parnell House, 14 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Tel. (01) 8045440 or, email rl@tca.ie.**





# Returning of Completion Certs to ECSSA

Over two years ago, ESB Networks indicated to the CER that they no longer wished to be involved in the checking of Completion Certs submitted by contractors directly to ESB offices. They argued that ESB Networks have no practical way of checking whether the contractor who issued the Cert, is a member of a Regulatory Body, or whether he has current Public Liability Insurance.

It is fair to say that there have been quite a few instances where connections were made on foot of Certs which were invalid because the person who issued them had ceased to be a member of a Regulatory Body or did not have insurance at the time when the Cert was issued.

ESB are then faced with the problem of either allowing an uninsured installation to remain live, or alternatively, to cut off supply on grounds of safety, and even in doing this, they face significant legal obstacles.

ESB Networks suggested that Certs should be returned initially to the Regulatory Body to which the contractor belonged and that the Body, should be responsible for ensuring that the Cert is valid and that the contractor concerned is fully compliant in terms of insurance and membership.

CER agreed that this was the way forward for the verification of Completion Certs. Over the past two years, the practicalities of implementing such a scheme has been investigated and tested. Much disagreement centred around who was to pay for the extra work which the Regulatory Bodies would incur in the operation of the Scheme.

Eventually ESB Networks agreed to pay a set fee for each Cert processed during a trial period involving the direct return of Certs to the Regulatory Bodies from two counties, Kerry and Wexford. This pilot has now operated for two years and has proved very successful.

The IT Systems to enable the Scheme go nationwide has now been put in place and the new arrangements could go live from January 1st. However, it has been agreed that the beginning of the year would be an unsuitable time to start as many Certs would be returned to members whose renewal of membership had not yet reached the Regulatory Bodies.

For the start of 2007, Kerry and Wexford Certs will continue to be returned directly to ECSSA for at least two months with March 1st being the likely date for nationwide implementation of the new system.

ESB continues to cover the costs of the Kerry & Wexford Certs up to the date of the nationwide

start-up, but thereafter, the CER have ruled out ESB continued involvement and the costs will have to be borne by the contractors submitting the Certs.

Various options were looked at for recovering these costs with an increase in membership fee being ruled out as being unfair to the person who uses very few Certs in the course of the year and unviable in respect of a contractor who submits a large amount of Certs. Likewise, a substantial increase in the price of Certs was found to be inequitable in that, not all Certs are used to certify jobs requiring a connection and it would be unfair to ask contractors to pay a processing charge on Certs which would never find their way back to ECSSA.

We have therefore opted for a system of Surcharge Stamps which can be purchased by the Contractor and affixed to Certs forwarded to ECSSA for onward transmission to ESB Networks. ECSSA expects to handle approximately 200 Certs per day once the Scheme goes nationwide. Our aim is that every valid Cert which reaches the office will be processed and forwarded to ESB on the same day. The smooth operation of the System will however depend on the co-operation of contractors if delays are to be avoided.

## **There are a few simple Rules to be followed:**

- (1) Contractors should ensure that their membership and insurance are up to date before sending in Certs as, in the absence of both being in order, the Cert can go no further.
- (2) It is vital that the Cert is properly filled out, with the Test Results within the acceptable parameters.
- (3) It is vital that the correct MPRN is clearly and legibly written on the Cert.
- (4) It is equally important that the contractor's membership number is correctly and legibly entered.
- (5) A Surcharge Stamp must be affixed on top right hand corner of the Cert ( over the words 'ECSSA Registered')

The cost of Surcharge Stamps will initially be €3 each and these are available in Sheets of 10 Stamps. The cost is based on that paid by ESB Networks for the present Kerry and Wexford Certs, but it is hoped that if the System runs smoothly and efficiently, it may be possible to reduce the Surcharge in the future.



Sheets of Address Labels are being sent out with all Certs ordered from January 1st 2007 and it is important that these labels be used when returning Certs as it will enable them to be separated from other post and sent directly to the Certification Department which is in a different part of the ECSSA building. Orders or Membership Renewal should not be included with Certs as doing so will lead to delay of both the Order and the processing of the Cert.

Because our new scanning equipment can handle only Original Certs, there is no point in sending photocopies of Certs or in faxing Certs to ECSSA.

The ESB website will not accept SAID in place of MPRN Numbers so please ensure that the number filled in the MPRN box is a genuine 11 digit MPRN number and that SAID job numbers or any other is not used instead.

ECSSA does not have any means of cross checking between SAID and MPRN Numbers so it is vital that you get the correct number from your Customer, otherwise the Cert will be returned unprocessed.

**Finally, to avoid confusion, please note that apart from Counties Kerry and Wexford, Contractors will continue to send their Certs to their local ESB Office until such time as the date of the nationwide start up is confirmed in News Bulletin from ECSSA to all members.**

**COPY OF ETGI CERT NO. 1**

**National Rules for Electrical Installations**  
**Completion Certificate for Domestic & Small Commercial Installation**

**EMPRN No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTRACT NAME** (Short Description) \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS OF INSTALLATION** (Full Details) \_\_\_\_\_

**PREMISES DESCRIPTION** (e.g. Shop, Domestic, Agricultural, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Installation** \_\_\_\_\_

☒ This basis as appropriate:  
**THIS CERTIFICATE IS IN RESPECT OF:** CONSTRUCTION & TEST OF INSTALLATION ☐ OR TEST ONLY OF THE EXISTING INSTALLATION ☐

**TYPE OF INSTALLATION:** New ☒ Alterations ☐ Temporary supply ☐ Other ☐

**NUMBER OF:** Lighting Points \_\_\_\_\_ Socket Outlets \_\_\_\_\_ Fixed Appliance Outlets \_\_\_\_\_

**TEST RESULTS:** POLARITY AND GROUNDING OF ALL OUTLETS VERIFIED ☒ **WIRING IS IDENTICAL TO THE ASSOCIATED PROTECTIVE DEVICE** ☒

**TESTS SPECIFIED BY:** RESISTANCE OF PROTECTIVE CONDUCTORS ☒ ISOLATION RESISTANCE ☒

**MAXIMUM LOOP IMPEDANCE** \_\_\_\_\_ **RATING & TYPE OF THE ASSOCIATED PROTECTIVE DEVICE** \_\_\_\_\_

**OPERATION OF RCD IS VERIFIED** ☐ **33 mA RCD TEST TIME** ☐ 30ms ☐ 100ms ☐ 300ms ☐ 500ms ☐ 1s ☐ 3s ☐ 10s ☐ 30s ☐ 60s ☐ 120s ☐ 180s ☐ 240s ☐ 300s ☐ 360s ☐ 420s ☐ 480s ☐ 540s ☐ 600s ☐ 660s ☐ 720s ☐ 780s ☐ 840s ☐ 900s ☐ 960s ☐ 1020s ☐ 1080s ☐ 1140s ☐ 1200s ☐ 1260s ☐ 1320s ☐ 1380s ☐ 1440s ☐ 1500s ☐ 1560s ☐ 1620s ☐ 1680s ☐ 1740s ☐ 1800s ☐ 1860s ☐ 1920s ☐ 1980s ☐ 2040s ☐ 2100s ☐ 2160s ☐ 2220s ☐ 2280s ☐ 2340s ☐ 2400s ☐ 2460s ☐ 2520s ☐ 2580s ☐ 2640s ☐ 2700s ☐ 2760s ☐ 2820s ☐ 2880s ☐ 2940s ☐ 3000s ☐ 3060s ☐ 3120s ☐ 3180s ☐ 3240s ☐ 3300s ☐ 3360s ☐ 3420s ☐ 3480s ☐ 3540s ☐ 3600s ☐ 3660s ☐ 3720s ☐ 3780s ☐ 3840s ☐ 3900s ☐ 3960s ☐ 4020s ☐ 4080s ☐ 4140s ☐ 4200s ☐ 4260s ☐ 4320s ☐ 4380s ☐ 4440s ☐ 4500s ☐ 4560s ☐ 4620s ☐ 4680s ☐ 4740s ☐ 4800s ☐ 4860s ☐ 4920s ☐ 4980s ☐ 5040s ☐ 5100s ☐ 5160s ☐ 5220s ☐ 5280s ☐ 5340s ☐ 5400s ☐ 5460s ☐ 5520s ☐ 5580s ☐ 5640s ☐ 5700s ☐ 5760s ☐ 5820s ☐ 5880s ☐ 5940s ☐ 6000s ☐ 6060s ☐ 6120s ☐ 6180s ☐ 6240s ☐ 6300s ☐ 6360s ☐ 6420s ☐ 6480s ☐ 6540s ☐ 6600s ☐ 6660s ☐ 6720s ☐ 6780s ☐ 6840s ☐ 6900s ☐ 6960s ☐ 7020s ☐ 7080s ☐ 7140s ☐ 7200s ☐ 7260s ☐ 7320s ☐ 7380s ☐ 7440s ☐ 7500s ☐ 7560s ☐ 7620s ☐ 7680s ☐ 7740s ☐ 7800s ☐ 7860s ☐ 7920s ☐ 7980s ☐ 8040s ☐ 8100s ☐ 8160s ☐ 8220s ☐ 8280s ☐ 8340s ☐ 8400s ☐ 8460s ☐ 8520s ☐ 8580s ☐ 8640s ☐ 8700s ☐ 8760s ☐ 8820s ☐ 8880s ☐ 8940s ☐ 9000s ☐ 9060s ☐ 9120s ☐ 9180s ☐ 9240s ☐ 9300s ☐ 9360s ☐ 9420s ☐ 9480s ☐ 9540s ☐ 9600s ☐ 9660s ☐ 9720s ☐ 9780s ☐ 9840s ☐ 9900s ☐ 9960s ☐ 10020s ☐ 10080s ☐ 10140s ☐ 10200s ☐ 10260s ☐ 10320s ☐ 10380s ☐ 10440s ☐ 10500s ☐ 10560s ☐ 10620s ☐ 10680s ☐ 10740s ☐ 10800s ☐ 10860s ☐ 10920s ☐ 10980s ☐ 11040s ☐ 11100s ☐ 11160s ☐ 11220s ☐ 11280s ☐ 11340s ☐ 11400s ☐ 11460s ☐ 11520s ☐ 11580s ☐ 11640s ☐ 11700s ☐ 11760s ☐ 11820s ☐ 11880s ☐ 11940s ☐ 12000s ☐ 12060s ☐ 12120s ☐ 12180s ☐ 12240s ☐ 12300s ☐ 12360s ☐ 12420s ☐ 12480s ☐ 12540s ☐ 12600s ☐ 12660s ☐ 12720s ☐ 12780s ☐ 12840s ☐ 12900s ☐ 12960s ☐ 13020s ☐ 13080s ☐ 13140s ☐ 13200s ☐ 13260s ☐ 13320s ☐ 13380s ☐ 13440s ☐ 13500s ☐ 13560s ☐ 13620s ☐ 13680s ☐ 13740s ☐ 13800s ☐ 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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 Group - A world of protection without cable**

### 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: 087-7971898  
E-mail: [sales@visionsecurity.ie](mailto:sales@visionsecurity.ie)  
[www.visionradiofire.com](http://www.visionradiofire.com)



## Missing Sub System Certs

Following the collapse of Delta Offsite Solutions in Macroom a few months back, it appears that there are a big number of bathroom pods which have made their way to development sites without Subsystem Certs for the electrical work. The electrical installation in these Pods was carried out by A.V.E.C., Waterfront Business Park, Little Island, Cork.

All the Pods have been tested, but the Certs remain with A.V.E.C.

Developers who have Delta Pods on site without Subsystem Certs, should contact:

**John Murphy or Maurice McIlwraith of AVEC at 021 4355192 or fax Number 021 4355193 or [sales@avecork.com](mailto:sales@avecork.com)**

## Membership Renewal

After three years in which there has been no increase in membership fees, we find that rising wage costs, travel costs, and general expenses leaves us with no option but to increase both the first time membership and the renewal of membership.

From January 1st 2007, New Members will pay €275, while the Renewal figure is €250.

We would hope that by controlling costs throughout the year, we will be in a position to donate €10 per member from the membership fee to the Irish Electrical Benevolent Association Fund (IEBA).

## Test Record Sheets

Inspectors have noted that contractors still continue to use a wide variety of Test Record Sheets. Many of these are poorly laid out and do not follow the natural sequence of tests. The present ECSSA Test Record Sheet has been designed in conjunction with the verification and certification DVD and is far better both from a practical and from the point of view of information recorded.

In order to speed up the renewal of membership, we earnestly request contractors not to send Orders with Membership Renewal as both are handled by different people within the Office and combining both will lead to delay in the renewal of membership, and in the dispatch of materials ordered.

We would also stress that on no account should either Orders or Renewal of Membership be included with Completion Certs being returned to ECSSA for transmission to ESB (See separate article Return of Certs).



# Temporary Supplies

The whole issue of Temporary Supplies is one which continues to cause problems for ESB and contractors alike. The main problem for contractors is that the existence of a supply creates an opportunity for an unscrupulous builder or householder to dispense with the services of the electrical contractor at any stage of the installation generally without paying for the work already done.

No importance is attached to the fact that the entire installation then continues to remain live on foot of a Cert which covers only one Temporary Supply socket.

Several contractors, finding themselves in this position, have notified ESB Networks of the situation but, to date, we have not heard of any instance of the supply being disconnected, even when the contractor has formally notified ESB that he is no longer responsible for the installation and that his insurance will not cover the risk of the continued occupation of the premise in its uncertified condition. It now appears that ESB Networks may have been advised that they could not escape liability in the event of a claim from such an uncertified installation. Various suggestions, such as smaller ESB fuses, time limits on Temporary Supplies, double charges for Temporary Supplies, and other proposals, have all been found to be impractical for one reason or another.

At present, it appears that the most likely solution will be that ESB will no longer make Temporary Supplies available, except in the case of a genuine site supply, which will be installed in a separate meter cabinet, on a structure away from the new building, and for which the builder will have to pay the normal charges for a new supply.

While no final decision has been reached as yet, there is every indication that in the near future the idea of having a permanent supply installed as soon as the walls of the house are high enough to accommodate a meter cabinet will become a thing of the past.

# Checking of Test Instruments

Members are reminded to take the opportunity during their annual inspection of checking the accuracy of their test instruments against those of the Inspector.

Inspector's instruments are calibrated on a regular basis and if a significant difference of reading is obtained between the member's instruments and those of the Inspector, the instrument should be sent for checking and re-calibration. There is a requirement that instruments be calibrated on a yearly basis, but this is not always practical as there are only a limited number of certified calibration facilities operating in the country. Even following re-calibration, we have found instruments which have been either inaccurate, or have failed to give any readings, possibly as a result of damage in transit.

## Big savings on energy savers

ESB Customer Supply, in conjunction with manufacturers Philips, Osram, GE and Sylvania and the trade associations ECSSA, RECI, AECI and ECA, are delighted to offer a 25% reduction in the price of lighting and automatic control products. For participating wholesalers, please visit [www.esb.ie/business](http://www.esb.ie/business)

### IRC Halogen

- Uses 30% less electricity than standard halogen lamps
- Gives better light output than standard halogen lamp
- Average lifespan: 5,000 hours



Save €11.96 over the lifetime of an average lamp\*.

### Automatic controls

By only switching on lights as required, automatic controls can:

- Save up to 30% on running costs
- Control multiple lighting fixtures
- Facilitate dimming and daylight linking
- Provide increased security



### Professional Long-life CFL\*\*

- Uses 80% less electricity
- Lasts 15 times longer than traditional bulb
- Lasts 5 times longer than domestic CFL
- Saves on replacement and maintenance costs



Save €143.55 over the lifetime of the average domestic 15W Long-life CFL (compared with a 100W ordinary bulb)\*

### Softone 'bulb look-alike' CFL\*\*

- Uses 80% less electricity
- Lasts 6 times longer than traditional bulb



Save €76.55 over the lifetime of an average 20W CFL

### Electronic Control Gear for Fluorescent Tubes

- Reduces electricity use by 22%
- Increases tube lifespan to 20,000hrs – 6yrs in average office
- Gives flicker-free start-up
- Comes with 3yr guarantee

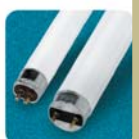


Available from Osram wholesalers only. ECGear requires installation by electrical staff.

Gives €11.50 a year saving when installed on a twin 1.5m(5ft) fluorescent light fitting

### Triphosphor Fluorescent Tubes

- 12% more light for same wattage
- Improved display of merchandise



Save €3.85 a year with a 28mm (1in) Triphosphor instead of 38mm (1.5in) standard tube.





# 2007 Certification & Verification Course



NO.	DAY	DATE	LOCATION	VENUE
17	Friday	12th January '07	Cork	The Doughcloyne Hotel
18	Friday	12th January '07	Sligo	The Sligo Park Hotel
19	Saturday	13th January '07	Kerry	ECSSA Training Centre
20	Saturday	13th January '07	Longford	The Longford Arms Hotel
21	Friday	26th January '07	Portlaois	The Comfort Inn Hotel
22	Friday	26th January '07	Dundalk	The Fairways Hotel
23	Saturday	27th January '07	Cahir	Cahir House Hotel
24	Saturday	27th January '07	Dublin	Red Cow Morans Hotel
25	Friday	9th February '07	Galway	The Quality Hotel Oranmore
26	Friday	9th February '07	Kilkenny	The New Park Hotel
27	Saturday	10th February '07	Limerick	The Woodlands Hotel, Adare
28	Saturday	10th February '07	Kildare	The Glenroyal Hotel
29	Friday	23rd February '07	Navan	The Ardboyne Hotel
30	Friday	23rd February '07	Cork	The Doughcloyne Hotel
31	Saturday	24th February '07	Dublin	The Red Cow Morans Hotel
32	Saturday	24th February '07	Kerry	ECSSA Training Centre

**Friday / Wednesday**  
**Saturday**

**7pm to 10pm (Break mid way)**  
**12 noon to 3pm (Break mid way)**

**PRICE €120 per person**

**Electrical Contractors, would you like to**

**add to your existing business?**

SACH Central Vacuum Systems **provide high quality vacuum solutions** to the construction industry nationwide. Our vacuum systems are considered 'must have' items for all new construction, and as such are being installed as standard in many new houses; both one off and developments, apartments, existing houses, nursing homes, hotels, B&Bs, pubs, restaurants, etc.

We can provide self install kits to electrical contractors at great prices. Our kits include all material needed to complete the entire installation and come with full, easy to follow installation instructions (installation training can also be provided).

Also due continued demand for our systems, we are now looking to appoint 'Authorised Dealers' in certain areas. If you would like to expand and diversify your business, this could be for you. Some of the many advantages include: No costly additional power tools required, Easy to install/minimal training required, No need to hire additional staff and quick turn around of work means you get paid faster.

Full details from sole Irish & UK importer; SACH Central Vacuum Systems, Danganmore, Dunnamaggin, Co. Kilkenny.



**Tel** 1890 822 886 / 087 2355 753

**Fax** 056 7766 809 **Web** [www.sach.ie](http://www.sach.ie)

**E-mail** [info@sach.ie](mailto:info@sach.ie)