

# Inspector Changes

Please note the following changes to Inspectors and the areas assigned to them:

Tony Murray <i>Chief Inspector</i>	Mobile: 087 699 3730	Louth, Meath, Westmeath, Cavan, Monaghan, Northern Ireland (where applicable)
Jack Gleeson	Mobile: 087 6993736	Limerick, Tipperary, Laois, Offaly, Kilkenny, Carlow
Jimmy Batten	Mobile: 087 2067117	Dublin City & County, Kildare
Neil Gordon	Mobile: 087 2197050	Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim (North) Northern Ireland (where applicable)
Michael Guerin	Mobile: 087 1221234	Kerry, & (West Limerick) & Clare
Paul Keane	Mobile: 087 1221235	Cork, & Waterford
Denis Crone	Mobile: 087 2650896	Dublin City & County
Brendan O'Brien	Mobile: 087 9885438	Wicklow, Wexford
John Loughlin	Mobile: 087 7553530	Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Leitrim (Stn), Longford

## 2008 Courses

Day	Date	Time	Location	Venue
Wednesday	23rd January '08	10am-1pm	Dublin	Legrand Offices
Friday	25th January '08	7-10pm	Thurles	Horse & Jockey
Friday	25th January '08	7-10pm	Wexford	The Quality
Saturday	26th January '08	12noon - 3pm	Cork	Doughcloyne
Saturday	26th January '08	10am - 1pm	Dublin	Legrand Offices
Wednesday	30th January '08	10am -1pm	Dublin	Legrand Offices
Friday	8th February '08	7-10pm	Galway	The Clayton
Friday	8th February '08	7-10pm	Sligo	Sligo Park
Saturday	9th February '08	12noon - 3pm	Ennis	West County
Saturday	9th February '08	12-3pm	Dublin	Legrand Offices
Friday	22nd February '08	7-10pm	Limerick	Kilmurry Lodge
Friday	22nd February '08	7-10pm	Kilkenny	New Park
Saturday	23rd February '08	12noon - 3pm	Kerry	ECSSA
Saturday	23rd February '08	10am - 1pm	Kildare	The Glenroyal Hotel
Friday	7th March '08	7-10pm	Navan	The Ardboyne
Friday	7th March '08	7-10pm	Waterford	Ramada
Saturday	8th March '08	10am - 1pm	Dublin	Legrand Offices
Saturday	8th March '08	12noon - 3pm	Mitchelstown	The Firgrove Hotel

Members are reminded to bring:- **Test Instruments - check Batteries & leads in particular 3 leads for loop impedance shower testing. (New leads can be purchased from ECSSA)**

**Cost : €120 per person**

A Booking Form for Courses is enclosed with this Newsletter

# ECSSA news

Christmas 2007



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### HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS:

ECSSA Offices will close at 4pm on Friday, Dec. 21st, and will reopen at 9am on Thursday, 3rd Jan. 2008.

### ECSSA OFFICE HOURS:

**Monday to Friday:**  
9am to 1pm and  
2pm to 5pm

**CLOSED FOR LUNCH**  
1pm to 2pm

## Chairman's Comments

As we approach the end of 2007, it is time to reflect on the past year and the changes it has brought to the industry.

While the year started on a high note, with construction activity at an all time level, there can be no doubt but that this has slowed significantly in the latter half of the year, to a point where some would say that it has now virtually stopped.

There are of course knock on effects on the Electrical Contracting Industry, but not all these should be regarded as negative. Freed from the pressures of trying to be in several places at one time, and trying to keep a multiplicity of customers happy, perhaps contractors will now have the opportunity to critically review their activities, and, more importantly, their profitability, during that hectic period of economic boom. Put simply, prices have fallen to an unsustainable low level, and while this may appear to benefit the customer, the end result is in fact a lowering of standards in terms of workmanship, materials, and attention to detail. This is not good for either the customer or the industry.

As we face into a new year, I would appeal to all members to consider the true cost of your work, to maintain standards, and in the final analysis, while you may have less turnover, it could well prove to be a more profitable way of doing business.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your loyal support during 2007, and to wish you and yours a Happy Christmas, and a safe and profitable year's trading in the 2008.

*John O'Loughlin*  
Chairman of ECSSA

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Chairman of ECSSA





# Wally Forde retires as Chief Inspector

Wally Forde joined ECSSA in 1998, having spent the previous forty years with ESB in Galway.

From the outset he proved popular and was held in high regard by his fellow inspectors, by the directors and staff of ECSSA, and by those contractors with whom he came into contact in the ECSSA Western Region

On Jimmy Leahy's retirement as Chief Inspector two years ago, Wally was the unanimous choice as his successor.

When contractors became aware that Wally intended to retire at the end of 2007 the expressions of loss and regret were both genuine and universal. To contractors, Wally had become a patient listener, a much valued source of advice and, above all, a good friend. A perfectionist in his attention to detail, Wally never tolerated a dilution of standards, yet he possessed that very human quality of realising that you can more effectively improve performance by advice and encouragement, rather than by criticism and sanctions.

His unfailing courtesy to contractors, inspectors and staff at ECSSA will always be remembered.

A presentation to mark his retirement was made by his fellow inspectors at their meeting in Killarney on November 23rd and, on the following day, at the annual get together of Inspectors, Directors and Staff a further presentation was made to thank Wally for his nine years of dedicated service to the ECSSA.

We wish Wally and Carmel many years of healthy and happy retirement and look forward to welcoming them to ECSSA whenever they find themselves in the Killarney area in the years ahead.

## Notice to Members

### 1. Temporary Supplies

From the 1st January 2008, it will no longer be possible to obtain a temporary supply for a domestic installation.

In future, if there is genuine need for a supply on site, a separate application must be made to ESB, a separate connection charge paid, and facilities must be provided to house the ESB meter in a location other than that which will be the location for the permanent supply to the house.

Once the supply is no longer needed by the builder, it will be removed. It is also likely that a higher commercial rate may apply to the

cost of electricity used by these builder supplies.

While this change will undoubtedly cause some inconvenience, it will serve to close a loop-hole which has long been a source of abuse by unscrupulous builders and householders. A practice had grown up whereby a registered contractor would be employed to certify for a temporary supply, and once that supply was in place, anybody could wire and connect the installation as the builder/customer saw no need for further certification.

Likewise, if the electrical contractor was having difficulty collecting payment for his work, he could easily be ejected from the site as the

absence of final certification would not prevent the ongoing availability of supply.

### 2. Reminder about Agri Certs

The recent availability of substantial Grant Aid for farm buildings has seen a considerable increase in the amount of Agri Installations being carried out by contractors. A normal Domestic Completion Cert must be issued for each of these installations. If a new connection is required, the Cert obviously has to go be sent directly to ECSSA, for onward transmission to ESN. If the supply is being taken from an existing meter, the Cert, including post connection tests, should be given to the farmer. In addition to the normal Cert, a Supplementary Agri Cert must



## Notice to Members

be issued, so that the farmer can claim his grant.

The Supplementary Agricultural Cert is purely an undertaking by the electrical contractor that the work has been carried out in accordance with ETCI National Wiring Rules and the number of the Domestic Cert issued should be inserted on the Agri Cert. The Agri Cert should then be given directly to the farmer. There is no need to send the Agri Cert to ECSSA with the Completion Cert, even if a new connection is required.

### 3. Downlighters

The level of complaint which now exists in relation to overheating and damage caused by downlighters has reached a level where serious consideration has to be given to having this type of lighting banned completely.

On a regular basis we hear of lights overheating, scorching of adjacent ceilings, and other potentially hazardous occurrences.

Downlighters in their own right may not be inherently dangerous, but the problem arises when the downlighters are fitted, and the householder subsequently decides, in the interests of energy conservation, to blow, or pump, insulation into every available cavity in floor and roof spaces, with no regard for the fact that they are smothering downlighters in the insulation material.

The problem is that when the downlighter overheats and causes a fire, as it naturally will do if covered up in this manner, the first person who gets blamed is the unfortunate electrical contractor who fitted the downlighter, notwithstanding the fact that at the time when he fitted the

lights and left the job, there was no insulation in place, or no proposals to put it in place.

Contractors should make every effort at the planning stage to discourage the use of downlighters and, if the client insists on fitting them, it should be made very clear that if there is any subsequent addition of insulating material over and above that which is known at the time of the installation, the electrical contractor will be excluded from any liability for loss or damage.

### 4. Return of Certs to ECSSA

Contractors should be aware that once a Completion Cert is sent to the ECSSA Office, it will either be sent onwards to ESB, or returned to the Contractor on the same day.

We cannot continue to operate a system where the Contractor's customers are constantly ringing to trace the whereabouts of their Cert. If the Cert has gone back to the Contractor, we cannot inform the customer that the Cert has gone back for a particular reason such as, for example, the contractor has no proof of insurance, or is not a current member. Neither are we prepared to mislead the customer by pretending that a Cert has arrived from a contractor, when in fact no such Cert has reached the office.

Contractors should not attempt to buy time by transferring the blame for the delay in getting a connection from themselves to ECSSA or to the ESB.

**If the contractor sends a valid Cert in good time, it will be forwarded on the same day as it is received by ECSSA to ESB.**

Any delay thereafter is purely an ESB matter, and if the customer is to contact anybody, it should be their local ESB office, who will be able to inform them right away whether or not a valid Cert has been posted on the ESB System for the particular installation.

By way of exception, ECSSA has facilitated a number of contractors in the past by accepting a faxed version of the Cert to speed up an urgent connection.

However, we now note that the same contractors always seem to have the same urgency and to request this exceptional treatment.

Should this continue, we will have no option but to drop that service, particularly in view of the fact that once a Cert has been sent to ESB for these contractors, they become notoriously careless about sending on the actual Cert to us.

### 5. 2008 Price Changes

A new price list which applies from 1st January 2008, is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Apart from an increase in the cost of NSAI publications, I.S.3217 & I.S.3218, all other items have remained at 2007 prices, or had very minimal increases.

We are happy that we have been able to hold Completion Certs which constitute the main item of use for contractors, at last year's prices, and we do not envisage any price change for the remainder of 2008.

