

## HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS:

*The ECSSA Office will close at  
4pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
and will re-open at  
9am on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>*

### 7. Register of Emergency Lighting Commissioners

A sub committee of NSAI is currently working on proposals for the creation of a Register of persons competent to sign off Emergency Lighting Certificates for compliances with IS3217. Nothing has been decided as yet, but the idea seems to have circulated that electrical contractors may no longer install Emergency Lights. This is not correct in that the installation of Emergency Lights is no different from any other form of electrical work covered by the ETCI Regulations and therefore falls within the remit of any Registered Electrical Contractor. What was originally proposed that a Register of Designers would be created, but this has now been dropped as it is accepted that Electrical Engineers and Consultants are adequately trained and regulated by their own professional Associations and a further Register is superfluous. What the Fire Officers, who are the main driving force behind the proposed change, are seeking is a Register of persons who have demonstrated their competence to inspect and certify installations as being in compliance with IS3217, thereby enabling the Fire Officers to place reliance on the Emergency Lighting Certificates submitted to them. Unfortunately there is reason to believe that many of the Certificates currently submitted to Fire Officers, and in particular for the renewal of licences for pubs, clubs and other places of entertainment, cannot be relied on as many are issued in respect of premises which have either not been tested at all, or have had inadequate testing carried out. The requirements of IS3217:2008 are more stringent than those called for in IS3217:1989 and it is important that anybody signing a Cert should be aware of the new requirements. In the meantime however the idea that an electrical contractor cannot install Emergency Lights has no basis in fact.

### 8. Alternative Sources of Work

With little sign of an upturn in the construction industry, contractors should examine every potential source of work outside of mainstream domestic or commercial installations. One such area is that of periodic inspections where much more could be done by the relevant authorities and the insurance companies to enforce periodic inspection of domestic installations, and in particular of houses where the wiring may 30 or 40 years old. The law currently requires that commercial premises have

such an inspection carried out every five years, and were this to be enforced; a considerable amount of work would become available for contractors. Portable Appliance Testing is also an area which could prove fruitful for contractors who are prepared to make the initial investment in the test equipment and up-skill themselves on Portable Appliance Testing. Again this is an area which is legislated for, but apart from public bodies and some major companies, the law is more ignored than honoured at the present moment. Energy audits are yet another area where a contractor can generate work which in turn can save his customer money. There are countless commercial firms around the country who are needlessly paying either capacity charges or penalty charges on their electricity bills simply because they have not matched their contracted level of supply to the actual needs of their business. There are also hundreds of companies who are paying ongoing charges for wattless current when a relatively inexpensive power factor correction installation would remove this charge and give a short payback period for the money invested. All these areas, and others besides, could be profitably investigated by the contractor who realises that sitting still and waiting for the boom times to return is not really a viable option.

### 9. Downlighters

Once again we need to bring to contractors attention the dangers posed by Downlighters and the almost inevitable laying of the blame on the electrical contractor, which follows when one of these Downlighters either goes on fire itself, or causes fire in an adjacent beam or other building material. The fact remains that unless there is adequate pre-planning at the building stage it is virtually impossible to safely install these fitting, particularly in spaces between ceilings and the floor above. Installing a Downlighter in such a location involves cutting a hole of perhaps 100mm diameter in the ceiling into which the light is pushed, and unless there has been co-ordination between the builder and the person who decides on the position of these lights, it is almost certain that no insulation-free space will have been left for the Downlighter. Neither is it possible to insert a fire cap through the hole in the ceiling, and in many cases, once the holes are drilled in the ceiling, it is found that one or more of the light fittings end up in close proximity to a joist. At that stage it is too late to do anything in that the joist cannot be moved and moving one or more of the light fittings to a safer location, not only leaves redundant holes in the ceiling which have to be patched, but also the idea of one or more of the lights completely out of line with the others is visually unacceptable.

Contractors would be well advised to do all in their power to dissuade their customers from fitting these Downlighters, as even the best of them invariably become a source of trouble, inconvenience, expense and in extreme cases, fire and destruction.

### Verification & Certification Courses

It is likely that full enforcement of the requirement for each Certifier to show evidence of having successfully completed a Verification & Certification Course within the previous three years will come into force on April 1st next. Contractors should be aware that this requirement has formed part of the CER Criteria for quite some time but that practical considerations had made it difficult to enforce full compliance.

**However, from April 1st next, if the Certifier's Training Record does not show that he has completed a Course within the previous 3 years, the Cert will be rejected and sent back to the contractor.**

Unfortunately many contractors choose not to avail of the Courses which have been put on at various locations around the country during the past few years. These will

## Spring 2010 Verification & Certification Courses

	Date	Location	Venue
1	13/01/2010	Dublin	Legrand Office
2	13/01/2010	Galway	Clayton
3	13/01/2010	Limerick	Kilmurray Lodge

4	20/01/2010	Dublin	Legrand Office
5	20/01/2010	Sligo	Sligo Park
6	20/01/2010	Cork	Silver Springs

7	27/01/2010	Dublin	Legrand Office
8	27/01/2010	Tullamore	Tullamore Court
9	27/01/2010	Killarney	ECSSA

10	03/02/2010	Kildare	Glenroyal
11	03/02/2010	Cavan	Cavan Crystal
12	03/02/2010	Cork	Silversprings

13	10/02/2010	Dublin	Legrand Offices
14	10/02/2010	Galway	Clayton
15	10/02/2010	Limerick	Kilmurray Lodge

**All Courses run from 2.00pm to 5.00pm**

**Cost : €150 per person**

**\* 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)**

A Booking Form is included in this Newsletter and is also available for download on our website at [www.ecssa.ie](http://www.ecssa.ie)

now have to make up this deficiency between now and April 1st. Having reviewed the pattern of attendance at Courses over the past number of years, it is obvious that some of the venues did not attract sufficient attendance to warrant the cost involved. The Board have therefore decided that in future a reduced number of venues, strategically located throughout the country will be used for Courses and hopefully a full attendance will be available for each Course.

Contractors who have not yet attended, or do not have among their staff a Qualified Certifier who has attended a Course, should inform ECSSA without delay of their choice of venue so that the Courses can be arranged to meet demand and ensure that everybody has an opportunity to put their situation in order before the April 1st deadline.

	Date	Location	Venue
16	17/02/2010	Dublin	Legrand Offices
17	17/02/2010	Sligo	Sligo Park
18	17/02/2010	Cork	Silver Springs

19	24/02/2010	Dublin	Legrand Offices
20	24/02/2010	Tullamore	Tullamore Court
21	24/02/2010	Killarney	ECSSA

22	03/03/2010	Kildare	Glenroyal
23	03/03/2010	Cavan	Cavan Crystal
24	03/03/2010	Cork	Silversprings

25	10/03/2010	Dublin	Legrand Offices
26	10/03/2010	Galway	Clayton
27	10/03/2010	Limerick	Kilmurray Lodge

# ECSSA news

## Dear Member,

### Welcome of the final Newsletter of 2009.

As we look back over the year since the commencement of ECSSA's role as a statutory Body on January 5th last, we note the huge changes that have taken place in the industry and in the country as a whole.

The economic downturn which was evident at the end of 2008 really became a harsh reality very early in 2009, and each passing month seemed to bring even more depressing news.

Lack of work is being compounded by the inability of customers to pay for work already done, and the reluctance of potential customers to spend any money as we face into uncertain times. Despite all this doom and gloom there are some hopeful signs on the horizon.

Contractors who are prepared to diversify and explore new areas of activity will find that there is an untapped source of work out there waiting to be availed of. Energy audits, thermal imaging, portable appliance testing, periodic inspections, and emergency lighting compliance are all areas where there is much work to be picked up if the authorities insist on the application of existing legislation and if the contractor is prepared to gear up in terms of skill and equipment to avail of the opportunities.

Looking forward to the New Year, we note changes in the processing of Certificates, a possible tightening up of Emergency Lighting Regulations, and the more rigid enforcement of the requirement to have all Completion Certs signed by a Qualified Certifier.

The New Year will bring changes in relation to Completion Certs and will strengthen the monitoring of Post Connection Testing, though we are not yet certain whether this will involve any additional costs for the contractor. Hopefully any increases involved will be minimal.

Finally, we want to take this opportunity to thank our loyal members who have supported us throughout the year and to wish each and every one of them and their families a Happy Christmas and a New Year where more positive signs of an improving economy will hopefully become apparent.

*Breeda Moynihan Cronin*  
Breeda Moynihan Cronin  
Chairperson

**ECSSA OFFICE HOURS:**  
**Monday to Friday: 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm**  
**CLOSED FOR LUNCH 1pm to 2pm**

**Please Read  
Carefully –  
Important Changes  
which effect You.**

### In this Issue:

- New Completion Certs
- New Inspector Zones
- Smoke Detector Alert
- Immersion Heater Alert Notice
- Gas Appliance Recall
- ETCI 4th Edition

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*Breeda Moynihan Cronin*  
Chairperson of ECSSA







## 1. New Inspector Zones

A new Inspector, Jimmy Glynn, has been appointed to the Western Region to be responsible for much of the territory which Wally Forde formerly looked after. This has resulted in a realignment of the areas of the various Inspectors and full details of this realignment will appear on our website early in the new year. The following regions will apply from January 1st.

**Zone 1** – Donegal North, consisting of the areas north of Lifford will be looked after by **Neil Gordon (087-2197050)**.

**Zone 2** – Donegal South, North Leitrim, North West Cavan, the extreme North of Roscommon, all of Sligo and those areas of Mayo north of a line running from Charlestown via Ballyhaunis, Claremorris, Westport and Achill will be allocated to **Charlie Carr (087-0658091)**.

**Zone 3** - South Mayo, Galway, and those areas of Clare in a line north of Ennis to Ennistymon to Lough Derg will be allocated to **Jimmy Glynn (087-2275969)**.

**Zone 4** - South Clare, West Limerick, all of Kerry, and the section of Cork in the Beara Peninsula will remain with **Michael Guerin (087-1221234)**.

**Zone 5** - The remainder of Cork, and a section of Waterford west of Dungarvan will be the territory of Inspector **Paul Keane (087-1221235)**.

**Zone 6** - The remainder of Waterford, all of Kilkenny, a small section of Carlow west of the river, most of Co. Laois, the southern tip of Offaly, all of Tipperary and East Limerick will be inspected by **Jack Gleeson (087-6993736)**.

**Zone 7** - Roscommon apart from the extreme North, will go to **John Loughlin (087-7553530)**, along with South Leitrim, most of Cavan apart from the North Western tip, all of Longford, Westmeath, and most of Offaly apart from the Southern Section north of Roscrea. A section of Laois north of Portlaoise will also be included in this region.

**Zone 8** - All of Louth, Monaghan, Meath and a section of Dublin north of Swords are allocated to Chief Inspector **Tony Murray (087-6993730)**

**Zone 9** - The remainder of Dublin City and County, and Co. Kildare will be looked after by **Jimmy Batten (087-2067117)** and **Denis Crone (087-2560896)**.

**Zone 10** - Counties Wicklow, Wexford and most of Carlow will remain as the south eastern territory which will be the responsibility of **Brendan O'Brien (087-9885438)**.

# Notice to Members

## 2. New Certification Process

CER has directed that new four part Completion Certs be prepared by ETCI and used by contractors when certifying electrical installations. The procedure to be followed is that the contractor will submit the first part of the Cert with pre-connection test results to ECSSA in the normal way. This Cert will then be processed and transmitted to ESB and should result in supply being made available within a short period of time.

Within 35 days of the transmission of Part 1 (Pre-Connection) onto ESB, the contractor should have connected the customer tails, carried out the post connection tests and submitted Part 2 (Post Connection) onto ECSSA, who will then complete the process of logging the Post Connection tests as received and accepted.

**A contractor who fails to submit a valid Post Connection Cert within the**

**35 day period will be contacted by ECSSA and given a further 5 days to carry out the Post Connections tests and submit the results to ECSSA. Should the contractor fail to do so within that time, the matter is then passed to an Authorised Officer appointed by the CER, who will formally notify both the contractor and his customer of the need to regularise the situation. Failing compliance, the matter then goes to the ESB who will arrange for the Disconnection of Supply.**

**The system will come into operation from January 1st 2010 and contractors who have stocks of existing three part Certs will need to make a photo copy of the Post Connection Cert for submission to ECSSA not more than 35 days after the Pre-Connection Cert is submitted to ECSSA.**

The new four part Certs should be available from January 18th onwards

but it will of course take a number of months before the three part Certs are washed out of the system, particularly given the low level of new connections likely to be made in the New Year.

There are a number of changes to the layout of the new Cert and hopefully these will not create difficulty or confusion for contractors using them.

**Contractors are now required to fit a Seal on the cover of the meter connections and should note the seal number in the Comments Box of the Post Connection Cert when sending to ECSSA.**

Contractors are also encouraged to seal the Customer's Isolator enclosure in the Meter Cabinet.

**A Surcharge Stamp will not be required on the Post Connection Cert but must still be placed on the Pre-Connection Cert.**

## 3. Caution Notice on Smoke Detectors

A member has brought to our attention a Caution Notice which comes in the box with EI mains powered smoke detectors. The Notice reads as outlined on the right:

We have circulated this Caution Notice to CER, ESB, NSAI, SEI, and RECI and sought their opinions on the issue but none of the Standards Bodies appear to have done any research or investigation on the potential hazard identified.

Given the encouragement towards renewable energy such as wind and solar power, it is important that the matter be addressed and dealt with in fact a real danger exists.

### 1. Alternative energy sources (Wind, Solar, UPS, etc)

This product must be connected to a Pure or True Sine Wave 230 Vac supply.

It must not be connected to devices giving a "Modified Sine Wave" or "Quasi Sine Wave" 230 Vac such as most inverters connected to Solar Panels, Wind Turbines, Water Turbines or Batteries.

This also applies to battery powered UPS (uninterruptible power supply) inverters

### 2. Light Dimmer Circuits

This product must not be powered from a light dimmer circuit

**Either of these power sources will cause overheating which will damage the product.**

## 4. Safety Alert in relation to Gas Cookers

Your attention is drawn to the Safety Alert Notice circulated with this Newsletter on behalf of Beko, the manufacturers of a number of models of gas appliances in which a potential fault has been detected.

## 5. Alert Notice on Geminox Immersion Heaters

We have been requested by the National Consumer Agency to assist in locating Geminox Immersion Heaters which were imported by Aquatech in Cork since 2001 and sold to various retailers, plumbers and electricians, particularly in the Munster area. A fault has been identified in these heaters which could in certain circumstances lead to overheating and fire. Geminox, the French manufacturers, have appointed a company, VCS Ltd., to carry out modification on all these heaters, but to date only approximately 150 of the 700 units sold have been located.

The National Consumer Agency has asked that any electrical contractor who may have purchased one of these immersions, or who is aware of their presence in any installation, should contact : Stephen Daly, VCS Ltd, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath Contact No:(01) 8258081

The modification is carried out free of charge and customer who have one of these units are advised that it should not be used until modified.

## 6. ETCI 4th Edition

The 4th Edition of the ETCI National Wiring Rules has been in force since September 1st last, but a very considerable amount of errors and omissions have already come to light in the publication. There are currently six pages of corrections and amendments issued by ETCI and it is important that on receipt of a new book of Wiring Rules, contractors who will receive the list of Amendments with the book should make all the alterations in the various pages rather than have to constantly refer to the separate sheets of Amendments.

It is regrettable that such an important publication was not properly checked before issue, and unfortunately we may not have seen the last of the errors as yet, so contractors should check the ETCI website (www.etcie.ie) to ensure that other Amendments are noted as they are identified and published.

## Confirmation of Legrand Address

For some unknown reason the idea seems to have circulated that Legrand were no longer based in Dublin or had changed address. No such change has occurred and Legrand Offices are, as always, at :

**Legrand, 15/16 Holly Avenue, Stillorgan Industrial Park, Stillorgan, Co Dublin Tel: 01-2954465**

ECSSA Verification & Certification Courses for the Dublin area are held in the Legrand Training Room at the above address.

## Death of ECSSA Member Michael Collins

### RIP

It is with great sadness and shock that we learned of the death of ECSSA member, Michael Collins of Carrig Na Bhfear, Co. Cork on November 7th last. Mr. Collins, who had been a member of ECSSA since 1999 was involved in a freak accident while playing football in Whitechurch Community Hall and struck his head against a wall. He was pronounced dead 48 hours later at Cork University Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Veronica, and by his daughter Claire (18) and son Michael (16).

Michael, who was 51, served his apprenticeship with Michael F. Jefferies, and worked afterwards with Sean Ahearn for five years, followed by three years as a Foreman in IIF and seven years as the Maintenance Electricians in Acton's Hotel in Kinsale.

To his immediate and extended family, and his wide circle of friends, the Directors, Staff and Members of ECSSA extend their sympathies.



# Battery Recycling Ltd.

T/A Cable & Copper Recycling

**Battery Recycling Limited** T/A Cable & Copper Recycling are a Recycling Company based in Tipperary that service's all 26 Counties throughout Ireland.

We are now taking orders from contractors for a 240 litre recycling wheelie bin for any of the products listed on the right and we pay you by the kilo. **This service is free of charge with no cost to you whatsoever.**

The only thing you have to do is place a call to us when our bin is full and we will arrange a driver to collect it and

**Ballyduff, Thurles, Co. Tipperary Tel: 0504 34946 Fax: 0504 34555 kevin@batteryrecycling.ie www.batteryrecycling.ie**

leave you an empty bin in exchange.

Payment will then be sent out at the end of that month or we will send payment directly into your bank account and we can also add 21.5% Vat on your payment if registered.

To avail of a wheelie bin or if you have any questions regarding our services, please call our office on **0504 34946** where a member of staff will be happy to assist you.

We purchase all of the following materials for recycling so please think and consider our environment before disposing of any scrap.

- Scrap Copper Cable
- Copper Piping
- Copper Tanks
- Mixed Brass
- Electrical Motors
- Roofing Lead
- Sealed Alarm batteries

