

Verification & Certification Courses

Spring 2012 Schedule

Date	Location	Venue	Date	Location	Venue
11/01/2012	Dublin	Red Cow Hotel	29/02/2012	Dublin	Red Cow Hotel
11/01/2012	Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel	29/02/2012	Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel
12/01/2012	Limerick	Kilmurry Lodge	01/03/2012	Killarney	ECSSA
18/01/2012	Kildare	Glenroyal Hotel	14/03/2012	Kildare	Glenroyal Hotel
18/01/2012	Cavan	Cavan Crystal Hotel	14/03/2012	Cavan	Cavan Crystal Hotel
19/01/2012	Killarney	ECSSA	15/03/2012	Cork	Silver Springs Hotel
01/02/2012	Dublin	Red Cow Hotel	21/03/2012	Dublin	Red Cow Hotel
01/02/2012	Tullamore	Tullamore Court Hotel	21/03/2012	Tullamore	Tullamore Court Hotel
02/02/2012	Cork	Silver Springs Hotel	22/03/2012	Waterford	Remada Hotel
08/02/2012	Navan	Ardboyne Hotel	11/04/2012	Navan	Ardboyne Hotel
08/02/2012	Galway	Clayton Hotel	11/04/2012	Galway	Clayton Hotel
09/02/2012	Waterford	Remada Hotel	12/04/2012	Limerick	Kilmurry Lodge
22/02/2012	Wexford	Maldron Hotel	18/04/2012	Wexford	Maldron Hotel
22/02/2012	Portlaoise	Maldorn Portlaoise	18/04/2012	Portlaoise	Maldorn Portlaoise
23/02/2012	Limerick	Kilmurry Lodge	19/04/2012	Cork	Silver Springs Hotel

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

Win A Test Instrument

Contractors who renew their 2012 Membership before March 31st 2012 will be entered in a Free Draw where the Winner will have a choice between a

Megger MFT1710 or a PAT320 Kit

kindly sponsored by
Powerpoint Engineering Ltd, Portlaoise
(www.powerpoint.ie)

AON

Aon Risk Solutions | Affinity
Electrical Contractors
Exclusive Products & Services

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS SCHEME

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new Electrical Contractors Scheme. We are working with a new underwriter, AIA Insurance, to provide ECI, and to partner this with them, creating to offer the best combination of ECI, cover and service available to Aon.

SUSTAINABLE PRICE SAVINGS

Although we all agree that cost is a major factor, it is important, prior to any bid, to budget for the most appropriate insurance programme. In 2011, price increases were charged with a view of offering a value.

- The price must be cheaper than the alternatives.
- We would like to see a new cover or service offered at the same price.
- That the price savings may be sustainable.

COVER

The main product is a standard liability cover, which has been customised to provide for the specific requirements of electrical contractors. It includes such features as:

- Public Products Liability (limit of indemnity) - €6,500,000
- Employers Liability (limit of €15,000,000)
- Professional Indemnity
- Scaffolding and welding cover

In addition, the cover has been extended to provide some very beneficial extensions that exceed the standard cover will depend on the market at any time.

- EFFICIENCY - Limit €2,000,000 in the period
- FINANCIAL LOSS - Limit €700,000 in the period
- CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY - Liability assumed under contract can prove very onerous, particularly in the light of exposures under G.D.A. and R.E.A. contracts and contracts with E.S.B. The policy extends to include liability assumed under such agreements.

SERVICE

Our dedicated team has been set up to provide a range of excellence for the management of our affinity business throughout Ireland. The aim of the unit is to provide a responsive service to our clients through the:

- Dedicated, trained staff prepared to assist with your insurance requirements.
- Automated systems to ensure the efficient issue of documentation to clients.
- Efficient claims handling and review / analysis of claims.

OTHER COVERS

In addition to the main covers, we offer a whole range of additional covers and services, and can deal with all of your insurance and risk management requirements.

In particular, the following are proving very popular amongst members:

- Goods in Transit policy. Items insured available of €5,000 or €10,000 per vehicle.
- Personal Accident Policy, 24-hour accidental injury cover.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support

CONTACT DETAILS
Electrical Contractors Club - 100, Newry Street, Millington, L3, Wexford
Free Phone: 1800 431 002
Fax: 053 933 6924
Web: www.aon.ie

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ECSSA news

Christmas 2011

Dear Member,

As we approach the end of what has been a most challenging year in the economy and in the electrical contracting industry, possibly since the foundation of the State, we could be forgiven for taking a gloomy outlook on the industry and on the prospects going forward into 2012.

However, we have to remain positive and seek to find new opportunities, which will bring contractors through the lean period until the economy starts to grow, as it inevitably will.

There are some helpful developments about to happen, all of which should contribute to a greater level of activity for registered electrical contractors.

A Decision Paper on Restricted Electrical Works is expected from the CER before Christmas. This should have the effect of curtailing the activities of those operators in the black economy who are currently making it virtually impossible for legitimate contractors to successfully tender for work.

A decision also has to be made as to whether the provision of a Third Party Certification Service is to continue. The provision of this service to people who are not registered electrical contractors is currently a legal obligation on both ECSSA and RECI, but one has to question whether there is justification for this retention.

The removal of uncertainty in relation to upward only rent reviews and the reduction of Stamp Duty on commercial transactions could also trigger some activity in the commercial sector and this would be reflected in an increase of activity in the electrical industry.

I believe that we have passed the worst of the high profile failures in the construction industry, all of which impacted on electrical sub contractors. Hopefully, there will be no further such failures in 2012 and that both the economy and the electrical contracting industry can start along the road to recovery.

Can I take this opportunity to thank our Members for their continued support and to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and opportunity.

Breda Moynihan Cronin MCC
Chairperson



Holiday Arrangements:

ECSSA Offices will close at 3pm on Thursday, December 22nd, and will reopen at 9am on Tuesday, 3rd January 2012
In case of Emergencies please contact the following: 087 2569547



In this Issue:

- Renewal of Membership
- Disclosure of Information Undertaking
- Newsletter Distribution
- Emergency Lighting
- Return of Post Connection Tests
- Claims of Defective Workmanship
- 2012 Spring Verification & Certification Courses

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Breda Moynihan Cronin
Chairperson of ECSSA



Notice to Members

1. Renewal of Membership

The Renewal Notice enclosed with this Newsletter should be completed and signed for return with your Membership Renewal Fee.

We have held the Membership Cost at the same level as the past number of years as we believe that there is neither the appetite nor the capacity in the industry to absorb any avoidable costs.

It is vital that the signature of the Member appears on the Form as this is now an annual requirement and is one of the items which external Auditors, acting on behalf of CER, thoroughly check for compliance.

Therefore, without a signature the Membership Renewal cannot be processed.

Contractors whose insurance expires at the end of the year should ensure that a copy of the new cover note is forwarded to ECSSA as early as possible in the New Year.

This happens automatically in the case of Members insured through AON or Arachas but contractors who are insured elsewhere should contact their Brokers or Insurers to obtain proof of ongoing cover.

The inclusion of a contractor's name on the ECSSA website is our guarantee to the public that the contractor concerned is both registered and insured and once the expiry date shown on the last cover note provided by the

contractor has passed, his name is automatically removed from the website, which is linked directly to the database which holds details of the contractor's membership and insurance.

If a contractor who has already paid his Renewal Fee does not find his name on the website, it is either because he has specifically asked that his contact details should not be published, or else that the expiry date of his latest insurance has passed without proof of renewal of cover having been sent to ECSSA.

Finally can we say, as we always do, please make the Renewal of your Insurance Cover a priority, even if renewal of membership has to wait a few extra weeks.

We are acutely aware of the financial pressures facing contractors, but once a person is involved in any level of work, no matter how small, it is irresponsible to do so without affording yourself and your family the vital protection of Public Liability Insurance.

2. Disclosure of Information Undertaking

The Renewal Notice contains a Disclosure of Information Undertaking which must be signed when membership is being renewed.

To allay the fears of anybody who thinks that the data held by ECSSA in relation to individual contractors may be passed to all and sundry, we want to assure everybody that such data may only be given to authorised persons such as the Commission for Energy Regulation and then only for the purpose of regulation of safety aspects of the industry.

No other Government Department or Agency can request, or will receive, any of this data from ECSSA, nor will any details other than those which are already on the website, be disclosed to the public.

Can we emphasise once again that we do not provide information to any commercial organisation over and above that which they could find on the website and we do not endorse any media promotions or expect our Members to provide support advertising for such promotions irrespective of any impression to the contrary which sales people, seeking advertising, may attempt to portray.

Contractors who do not wish any of their details to appear on the website should send a written request to this effect to ECSSA.

3. Newsletter Distribution

Facing into yet another challenging year, ECSSA, in common with everybody else, has to examine all options to increase income and cut costs. There are in reality very few avenues through which increased income can be generated. The industry is at a low ebb and far be it from

ECSSA to impose any additional costs on contractors who have gone through at least two horrendous years and who now face a further year of uncertainty.

One of the ongoing costs for ECSSA has been the printing and distribution of Quarterly Newsletters. For 2012 we propose to reduce this circulation to two Newsletters, one mid year and one at the year end. We will, however, make far greater use of the ECSSA website (www.ecssa.ie) to keep Members up to date with any new developments in the industry.

While it is regrettable that this decision should have been forced on us, we would hope that, along with other spending cuts, it will enable us to continue our level of service to our Members and to the Public without any reduction in the quality of that service.

4. Emergency Lighting - BESS Register

It is now accepted that the uptake of membership of the BESS Register of Emergency Lighting Certifiers has not been sufficient to warrant the continuation of the Scheme as currently structured.

The primary reason for this lack of participation has been the cost, both in monetary terms and in time away from work, of acquiring the FETAC Level 6 Qualification which was deemed to be the entry level qualification for the Register.

While nobody questions the Course content leading to the Level 6 Qualification, the question which should have been addressed, and which now has to be answered, is whether a FETAC Level 6 Award should be required to qualify a competent contractor to carry out a relatively simple exercise of checking an Emergency Lighting installation for compliance with IS3217.

Following a meeting of the BESS Steering Committee in late November, it appeared as if NSAI were evaluating alternative Courses which might be less expensive and more acceptable to contractors but in a surprising move NSAI indicated on December 9th that it was withdrawing from membership and secretariat of the BESS Scheme.

The primary reason for the creation of this Register was to enable the Fire Officers to have a degree of confidence in the veracity of Emergency Light Certs submitted in respect of pubs, clubs and other places of entertainment where licenses have to be obtained from the Courts.

The Fire Officers did not demand a FETAC Level 6 Award for those issuing these Certificates but obviously there must be some proof of competence. Neither does the law demand that a person certifying compliance with IS 3217 holds any particular level of qualification or has to be a member of any particular Register.

Much of the work in creating a Register of BESS Certifiers had already been done and the Register as

such was already in place. The obstacle which has brought the project to a standstill is the insistence on a FETAC Level 6 qualification for inclusion on the Register.

From the outset ECSSA argued that the Course leading to this qualification was way beyond what a competent electrician would need to test and certify an Emergency Lighting installation for compliance with IS3217. Contractors voted with their feet by not signing up to this expensive Course in sufficient numbers to create a viable Register and Regulatory Scheme. Since NSAI now appear to have taken the view that if the Scheme cannot proceed as originally envisaged, complete with Level 6 qualification, it will play no further part in it.

This is a less than acceptable situation in that there are installations which have to be certified on an ongoing basis, the Fire Officers need a level of comfort in their reliance on the Certs submitted and the hundred or so independent contractors who have obtained the qualification do not create a sufficient number either to service the needs of the industry countrywide or to enable the operation of a viable Register by the Regulatory Bodies.

The challenge now facing both ECSSA and RECI is to meet with the Fire Officers, find a suitable Course which will provide proof of an acceptable level of competence for Certifiers and continue to operate a Register of those contractors who will have to be available to service the needs of the Emergency Lighting sector of the electrical contracting industry.

5. Return of Post Connection Tests

To date in 2011 ECSSA has spend over €11,000 in postage alone sending out notices to contractors who have failed to return Post Connection Certs. This cost, which does not include the printing of notices, envelopes and administration time, is a totally avoidable outlay and need not be incurred if contractors either carried out the Post Connection Tests promptly and submitted the results within the 35 day period, or alternatively send a note or email explaining why the submission of these results has to be delayed beyond that deadline.

While there has been a marked improvement over the course of the year, there is still room for improvement.

As a company we cannot continue to sustain these avoidable costs on an ongoing basis and so we may have to take the decision that contractors who repeatedly ignore reminders of outstanding Post Connection Certs may find that future Pre-Connection Certs will not be processed while requests for outstanding Certs remain unanswered.

Please avoid finding yourself in the position of having an urgent Cert for a new installation held up because you have not finalised the certification of earlier installations.

6. Claims of Defective Workmanship

We have noticed a disturbing trend whereby customers, on being sued by contractors for money owed, suddenly seek to create a defence based on alleged faulty workmanship by the contractor.

Contractors should, at the first indication that such an allegation is included in the defence pleadings, or in some cases are the sole defence relied on, immediately contact ECSSA so that it can be established whether there ever was a complaint made by the customer in respect of the quality and safety of the installation.

The ECSSA Complaints Process is open to anybody who feels that their contractor is guilty of non-compliant or shoddy workmanship.

There is no charge to the customer who avails of inspection of the installation by an ECSSA Inspector even if the complaint is found to be unfounded. The facility to make a complaint is publicised on the ECSSA website and is also known to the National Consumer Association and ESB Networks.

Indeed contractors might be well advised to mention to their customer at the start of the job that if the customer is unhappy about any aspect of the work, they should seek an inspection at the earliest opportunity to allay their fears rather than seek to use these reservations as a defence when the contractor seeks to recover all or some of the contract price later.

It is not the function of ECSSA to look after the commercial interest of customers, the primary function

of the Regulatory Bodies being to promote and protect the safety of the public.

However, the public perception of the effectiveness of the protection offered to the public would be severely damaged if customers were seen to successfully plead that bad workmanship existed in their installations and that such bad workmanship had not been detected or dealt with by the contractors Regulatory Body.

London 2012 Calling...

Best Wishes to Niamh O'Sullivan, the young Killarney Swimmer who has been sponsored by ECSSA for the past number of years and who is currently competing in the Qualifiers for the London 2012 Olympics.

Niamh, whose main events are the 200m and 400m Freestyle, will also compete in the European Short Course Championships in Poland and the Irish Short Course Nationals in Belfast on December 16th to 18th. Between these two competitions, she returns to Dublin to sit her college exams before heading for Florida with the potential Olympic Team for a two week Training Camp.

Hopefully London 2012 will bring a reward for the dedication and hard work which Niamh has put in from a very early age.



IMPORTANT - FIRE HAZARD

Important safety warning on Grisoln CE7 electric water-heating timer

In 2005 a fault was identified with the back plate component of Grisoln CE7 electric water-heating timers, which could cause the timer to overheat and go on fire.

While significant efforts have been made since 2005 to replace or repair all affected timers, some affected timers in the house of this contractor will have not been replaced or repaired.

How to identify a faulty back plate

The correct back plate has a plastic cover over the insertion terminals ensuring the plugged in front timer has a good connection.

Before it is returned to Grisoln: To ensure the remaining timers are identified and repaired, you kindly will for your consideration to identify timers which may have been installed before 2005 and were not repaired after November 2005.

Please note that Grisoln CE7 timers which have the 'X' mark are part of the product range and unaffected by this recall.

We thank you for your cooperation and apologise for the inconvenience. If you have any questions about this recall, or if you wish to arrange for a free replacement or repair of any recalled products, please call Mr. Ebdels on telephone 1800 211 930 or email to info@ecssa.ie

Please quote your ECSSA Membership Number when ordering to secure these special offer prices.

ECSSA Member Offer

1000 Business Cards
Printed full colour both sides
€69+ VAT

A4 Docket Books
Duplicate or Triplicate (Sets of 50)
NCR printed black, numbered, perfed.
Proofs supplied for your approval pre press.

5 docket books @ €98+ VAT
Or 5 Books A5 size @ €85 + VAT

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