

REMINDER: Qualified Certifier Requirements

The V & C Courses outlined below provide a further opportunity for contractors to obtain or renew QC Numbers which must now appear on all Certs submitted to ECSSA for on-going transmission to ESBN. Unlike 2012, when Courses ran throughout the Summer, it is not proposed to put on further Courses during the Summer of 2013 so anybody who has not yet obtained a QC Number or who holds a QC Numbers which expires before October 2013, should take the opportunity attend at one of the Courses listed below

2013 Spring Schedule of Verification & Certification Courses

No.	Date	Location	Venue	Time
1	09/01/2013	Dublin	Red Cow Hotel	2-5pm
2	09/01/2013	Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel	2-5pm
3	10/01/2013	Limerick	Kilmurry Lodge	2-5pm
4	16/01/2013	Kildare	Glenroyal Hotel	2-5pm
5	16/01/2013	Cavan	Cavan Crystal Hotel	2-5pm
6	17/01/2013	Killarney	ECSSA	2-5pm
7	30/01/2013	Dublin	Red Cow Hotel	2-5pm
8	30/01/2013	Tullamore	Tullamore Court Hotel	2-5pm
9	31/01/2013	Cork	Silver Springs Hotel	2-5pm
10	06/02/2013	Navan	Ardboyne Hotel	2-5pm
11	06/02/2013	Galway	Clayton Hotel	2-5pm
12	07/02/2013	Waterford	Ramada Hotel	2-5pm
13	20/02/2013	Wexford	Maldron Hotel	2-5pm
14	20/02/2013	Portlaoise	Maldorn Portlaoise	2-5pm
15	21/02/2013	Limerick	Kilmurry Lodge	2-5pm
16	27/02/2013	Dublin	Red Cow Hotel	2-5pm
17	27/02/2013	Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel	2-5pm
18	28/02/2013	Killarney	ECSSA	2-5pm
19	13/03/2013	Kildare	Glenroyal Hotel	2-5pm
20	13/03/2013	Cavan	Cavan Crystal Hotel	2-5pm
21	14/03/2013	Cork	Silver Springs Hotel	2-5pm
22	20/03/2013	Dublin	Red Cow Hotel	2-5pm
23	20/03/2013	Tullamore	Tullamore Court Hotel	2-5pm
24	21/03/2013	Waterford	Ramada Hotel	2-5pm
25	10/04/2013	Navan	Ardboyne Hotel	2-5pm
26	10/04/2013	Galway	Clayton Hotel	2-5pm
27	11/04/2013	Limerick	Kilmurry Lodge	2-5pm
28	17/04/2013	Dublin	Red Cow Hotel	2-5pm
29	17/04/2013	Portlaoise	Maldorn Portlaoise	2-5pm
30	18/04/2013	Cork	Silver Springs Hotel	2-5pm

All Courses Run From 2pm to 5pm

Cost: €150 per Person

Members are reminded to bring Test Instruments

*** Check batteries & leads in particular

3 leads for Loop Impedance Shower Testing ***

Holiday Arrangements:

ECSSA Office will close at 3pm on Friday, 21st December 2012
And will re-open at 9am on Wednesday 2nd January 2013
For Emergencies
(and we mean Emergencies!):
Ring 087 2569547

ECSSA news

Christmas 2012



A Message from the Directors

As we approach the end of 2012 we reflect on what has been yet another difficult year for the economy and the country.

In common with everybody else electrical contractors have seen the amount of available work drastically reduced, prices slashed and financial institutions adopting a decidedly unhelpful attitude towards individuals and firms who, in the good times, contributed to the enormous profits earned by these same banks.

Yet despite the doom and gloom which seems to pervade every sector of Irish life the electrical contracting industry has proved to be resilient and imaginative in identifying and diversifying into new areas of work, with the result that the overall number of contractors registered with ECSSA at year end has not fallen to the same extent as one would have expected at the beginning of the years.

The exclusion of registered electrical contractors from CCTV and Access Control work unless they obtain a license from the PSA is greatly resented by electrical contractors who feel that this is an unwarranted and unjust erosion of their work opportunities.

ECSSA too would be concerned, purely from a safety point of view, if this electrical work was to be completed by persons whose technical training, competence and experience of mains voltage electrical work may be minimal or non-existent, with neither ECSSA nor RECI being able to inspect or evaluate the risks posed by the involvement of these unregistered people. It is recommended that an REC should always be used to complete this work.

The on-going loyalty of our Members is greatly appreciated by the Directors, as is the exceptional service and commitment of our Staff and Inspectors who, against the odds, have once again succeeded in operating on diminishing resources without compromising the level of service to our Members and the Public.

To all involved may I, on behalf of my fellow Directors and on my own behalf, express our genuine gratitude and our best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with renewed hope and opportunity.

Breeda Moynihan Cronin MCC
Chairperson

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Coolmore House, Park Road,
Killarney, Co. Kerry
Tel 064 6637266
Fax 064 6637269
info@ecssa.ie

www.ecssa.ie

Breeda Moynihan Cronin
Chairperson of ECSSA



IMPORTANT Guidelines for Audits / Inspections

Audit/ Inspection of RECs under the Common Performance Evaluation Scheme requires that the REC produce the following at each inspection:

1. A Copy of the National Wiring Rules ET101:2008 4th Edition and all Amendments to ET101
2. Calibrated Test Equipment, together with the Calibration Certs for the instrument(s)
3. RECs copy of all Completion Certs issued since the last inspection and corresponding Test Record Sheets
4. The Qualified Certifier Number of the person who signs the Completion Cert on behalf of the REC

In addition:

Each REC is required to have valid Public Liability Insurance which specifically indemnifies ETCl/ ESB/ ECSSA and CER.

RECs should ensure that a Copy of the most recent cover note is made available to ECSSA as Certs cannot be transmitted to ESB unless ECSSA has proof of on-going insurance cover and that the Cert has been signed by a person who holds a valid Qualified Certifier Number.

Inspector Zone Changes

Neil Gordon retires as ECSSA Inspector for the Donegal region at the end of December 2012. Neil joined ECSSA at the beginning of 2004 and over the past nine years has proved himself efficient in his work and well respected by all contractors with whom he came into contact. He brought to the job with him 45 years of experience with ESB, all of that time spent in Letterkenny and there was scarcely a town land in Sligo or Donegal that Neil did not know or had not worked in. We wish him a long and happy retirement and in extending these good wishes we feel that we also do so on behalf of all ECSSA Members in the North West with whom he has come into contact over the past 9 years. At the moment it is proposed that Donegal will added to Sligo and North Mayo, thereby reverting to the original North Western region as it was up to a number of years ago. Any future change in zone boundaries or personnel will be flagged in future Newsletters and on the ECSSA website

Easy Pay Plus

An online facility to purchase Completion Certs and other publications will be available to ECSSA Members from January 2013. This will enable RECs to place their Orders at any time of day or night. Orders received overnight will be dealt with as a matter of priority each morning.

Payment can be made with any of the major Credit or Debit Cards and the security of payment is guaranteed since all information is encrypted when transmitted to ECSSA. The system does not retain Credit / Debit Card Numbers and is therefore secure.

The standard prices as published in the ECSSA 2013 Order Form will apply to online sales but there will be a €2 Processing Fee payable by the REC on each complete Order submitted.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! POST CONNECTION CERTS

Early in 2013 each contractor who has outstanding Post Connection Certs will receive a reminder listing the MPRNs for which Post Connection Certs have not been received. The onus is on the contractor to provide Post Connection Certs for as many of these as he can and in relation to others where he cannot provide PCTs, he must explain the reason why and provide the name of the Householder.

It is in the interest of every contractor to ensure that he co-operates with this effort to clear up outstanding PCTs as we are likely to see a situation arise where ECSSA will not have any choice but to reject future Certs submitted for transmission to ESB if the contractor concerned has not cleared the backlog of outstanding Post Connection Certs.

Please check your records and ensure that the certification has been completed with a Copy of the Post Connection Cert provided to both ECSSA and to your Customer



Safe Electric Logos are now available from ECSSA at a cost of €10 per pair, including postage. ECSSA Logos continue to be available Free of Charge.

Contractors are reminded that it is an offence to indicate to the public that they are Registered Electrical Contractors by continuing to display either the ECSSA or the Safe Electric logos on their vehicles, stationary or business cards if they are no longer members of ECSSA.

Emergency Lighting Courses

Two alternative One Day Emergency Lighting Courses have now been identified and are being evaluated to decide which will be more suitable for delivery to our Members. The remaining obstacle is the insistence of a number of Members of the BESS Steering Committee that participants in the One Day Course should be limited to small installations. This is unacceptable and further discussions are now on-going to ensure that this limitation is expanded or omitted; following which progress can be made on the roll out of the new Courses. In the meantime, in accordance with what was agreed at an earlier meeting of the BESS Steering Committee, the status quo remains, i.e. any registered contractor can certify Emergency Lighting installations but must use the NSAI approved Emergency Lighting Certs which are available from ECSSA.

RECs engaged in Emergency Lighting work should have a Copy the latest edition of IS3217.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION as an REC

We have found that an increasing number of Local Authorities and Consultants now request written confirmation that a tendering contractor is a Registered Electrical Contractor. Production of a Membership Card is not deemed sufficient proof of registration since the name and photo which appears on the Membership Card may be those of the Qualifying Manager whose qualifications are held by ECSSA but may not refer to the correct trading name of the contracting entity. To deal with this problem ECSSA has suggested, and CER has approved, the issue of Certificates of Membership to all Contractors who renew membership or join for the first time from 01/01/2013. These A4 size Certificates will confirm the Contractor's Membership of ECSSA up to 31/12/2013 and will also show the date on which the contractor was first registered as an REC.

It is important therefore that, when renewing, the contractor advises ECSSA of the correct Trading Name of his firm. A copy of the Membership Cert will then be deemed to be sufficient proof of membership for the purpose of tendering for work with Local Authorities and Public Bodies.

An Identity Card service will be available on a commercial basis for contractors who wish to provide themselves or their employees with a means of identity which can be shown when entering private property to carry out work. The Gardai have recommended that every person who has occasion to enter a house or private property in the course of his work, should carry a positive means of identification.

An Identity Card can be produced for any contractor or employee who submits a photo and a copy of qualifications to ECSSA. The Card will merely show the photo and name of the bearer, along with his/her trade description, e.g. Electrician, Apprentice Electrician, General Worker, etc.

An Identity Card, once issued, does not have an Expiry Date unless the Holder wishes to changes his trade description eg. from Apprentice Electrician to Electrician or other such change.

The cost per Identity Card is €15 including Postage.

It should be pointed out that ECSSA does not impose any obligation on an REC or his Employees to carry such Identity Cards. These Cards are provided merely for the security of the public in whose homes or premises the Holder's have reason to carry out work.

Michael Buckley RIP

ECSSA notes with regret the death in September of **Michael Buckley**, electrical contractor from Ballydesmond, Co. Cork who was a member of ECSSA since May 1997.

We extend the sympathies of the Directors, Inspectors and Staff to Michael's immediate and extended Family.

The business will continue under the direction of Michael's son JJ.

Catherine Gordon RIP

It was with great sadness that ECSSA learned of the passing of **Catherine Gordon**, wife of Neil Gordon, our Inspector in the North West region. Catherine had suffered a long illness and finally passed away in mid-September.

All involved in ECSSA extend their sympathy to Neil and the Gordon Family