

# ECSSA NEWSLETTER

Issue 15

March 2004

## CHEAPER INSURANCE

**Public Liability Insurance premiums have been a big contributing factor to the demise of small electrical contractors over the past few years - The high cost of these premiums have also prevented many contractors from becoming registered in the past. We are about to change this!**

**As you know the directors of ECSSA are always trying to get a better deal for our members. Understanding our members and their frustrations regarding insurance premiums over the past few years only increased our effort to try and help. We have worked very hard over the past 12 months negotiating and finding that better deal for you and it has finally materialized. You will be receiving or may already have, correspondence from AON regarding our own package deals and premiums. The package covers not only Public Liability, Product Liability and Employer Liability insurance but also vehicle and machinery cover and a whole host of other cover. We have worked hard at securing this deal and we hope that in light of previous insurance premiums and the reluctance of companies to drop them, we encourage you to support our new initiative with AON 100%. Get your quotation now and see the difference and savings. This scheme is only available to registered current ECSSA members!**

**Your chairperson  
John O'Loughlin**

### Training Course in **CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION**

Our Kildare Training Course was transferred to Dublin as this proved more suitable for contractors. Due to the level of demand a further course has been added, this will take place in Navan on 23rd/24th April, Cost €80 per member. Contact the ECSSA office for details.

#### **Inside This Issue**

1. Welcome & ECSSA Insurance
2. Changes in the industry
3. Changes in the industry
4. Important notices



**Electrical Contractors Safety and Standards Association**  
Coolmore House, Park Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry.  
Tel: 064 37266 Fax: 064 37269 Email: [info@ecssa.ie](mailto:info@ecssa.ie)

# IMPORTANT INDUSTRY NEWS

## ENTERING OTHER CONTRACTORS JOBS

It is ECSSA policy to ensure that no member takes over the completion or certification of another contractor's job. Should you be asked to do so, you must contact our office with details including name, address and if possible, telephone number of the previous contractor. We will investigate including contacting RECI if necessary. You should not enter this job until clearance is received from this office. If on the other hand should some other contractor enter your job, you should inform us immediately with details and we will follow it up on your behalf.

## APPROVED CABLES

We have been concerned for some time that cables **NOT APPROVED** are being sold within the trade and in many instances our members would purchase same without being aware of possible problems later, due to breakdown etc. In our March 2003 Newsletter we enclosed a separate sheet about these problems (By permission of Irish Electrical Review) but hereunder is a short summary of what you should be aware of when selecting cables:

1. Must comply with EU low voltage directive. (your supplier should be able to supply you with this)
2. Must have CE MARKINGS on the cable and/or on the packaging.
3. Must have markings on cables that they comply with I.S201 or I.S202 and also be marked N.S.A.I. or BASEC or a HAR member organisation which identifies the certifying organisation.

Note: If 2 & 3 are not obvious then refer to 1. The important thing is that as a member of ECSSA when you sign a completion certificate you are certifying that you have constructed & tested the installation in accordance with ETCI-ET 101-2001. This certification includes 1, 2 and 3 above which are included within these ETCI rules.

## FIRE SAFETY IN GUEST ACCOMMODATION

New and existing B&B Accommodation must have suitable fire alarm systems installed and must be in operation before 31/3/2002. Book available from Government Publications, Postal Trade Section, 4-5 Harcourt Road, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 647 6834/5 or through any bookseller.

## SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS

We can confirm that within the past 6 months two members have been suspended for 6 months for giving a non-member a certificate for an installation not carried out by the member.

The directors have confirmed that:

1. An automatic suspension of 6 months will apply in future to any member for this offence.
2. Should the member commit a 2nd offence, then his membership will be terminated and with no facility to reapply for membership at a future date.

## QUALITY OF COMPLETION CERTIFICATES

The green copy of your cert that goes to the ESB does eventually return to our offices for recording on our computer system. The quality of some of these Certs is so poor that we would describe them as a disgrace and sometimes would wonder why the ESB accepted them in the first instance.

A properly completed cert should have:

1. Clear legible writing
2. No Blank spaces
3. Values for insulation resistance and resistance of protective conductors should be within the limits laid down in ETCI regulations and clearly shown in the appropriate boxes provided.
4. The ESB I.D number. Signed by the contractor at Pre-connection only. If the green copy is not sent to the ESB it should be returned to ECSSA for entry on the ECSSA computer system.

Later this year when the CER takes effective control of both ECSSA and RECI, it is likely that the green copy will not be sent to ESB by you but to the ECSSA office, where it will be checked for technical details etc. before being transferred on the same day electronically to a central ESB computer terminal. If a Cert is not completed in every detail it will be returned to you, thus causing considerable delay for your client/customer.

## WIRING IN DOMESTIC AIRING CUPBOARDS (Hot press) 555.3.1.

This means the only wiring allowed is for Immersion Heater and for auxiliary equipment associated with water services or space heating water systems. However if a light is required then we strongly recommend an enclosed fitting.

## KITCHEN SINK UNITS

Must be bonded even when plastic pipes are used. If short pieces of copper are used at connection to the sink unit there is a tendency to bond at these pipes. This is OK provided an insulating washer is not in place between taps and draining board. Always Check!

## IN ALL NEW DOMESTIC INSTALLATIONS

It is recommended that a telephone socket be provided adjacent to main TV point to accommodate Digital TV. Also remember that three (3) co-axial cables should be run from attic space to main TV point, - one for RTE, one for satellite and one to supply other TV Points in the house.

## LIGHTING SOCKETS

Usually 3 pin 5A provided for table or standard lamps must be controlled by an RCD (554.4.5 p132).

## PROTECTION OF EARTH LEAD TO EARTH SPIKE

Should be protected against mechanical damage. (542.3.1)

## DISTRIBUTION BOARDS

Sequence of connection of cables - see 538.3.1., 538.3.2 p109.

## SMOKE ALARMS

When there are two or more installed they must be interlinked.

## S.W.A. CABLES

All PVC and XLPE with steel wire armouring in the range between cables 1.5sq mm & 16sq mm are readily available in correct core colours as approved by ETCI. It is not permissible to use these cables with U.K core colour's and sleeve them. However, it is permissible to sleeve cores of cables from 25sq mm and upwards to conform to ETCI colour codes.

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## Important Industry News Continued...

### S.W.A. CABLES

Use of Sheath as Protective Conductor - This can be adequate in certain circumstances. It is important to check ETCI Annex 54B to satisfy yourself. **NOTE:** The sheath may NOT be used as Main Protective Conductor.

### ESB UNDERGROUND SERVICE DUCTING

This is now a special Red Ducting specifically for electric cables and should be available from hardware stores.

### OUTDOOR METER CABINETS

Must be located on front of building or on side of building within 2 metres of front line of building. Otherwise ESB will refuse to connect.

### ELECTRIC SHOWERS

Must be controlled either by (1) separate RCD and MCB or (2) RCBO (combination RCD and MCB) (see p184)

### HEIGHT OF SWITCH BOXES

To facilitate people with disabilities, building regulations now decree that height of switch boxes and Door Bell Push should be between 900mm (36") and 1200mm (48").

### GAS CENTRAL HEATING UNITS

The electrical connections to these units are usually through a Fused Spur or through a 6A M.C.B. at the Board. We are concerned that some members take the PVC/PVC cable direct into the unit. **This is not acceptable. Heat resisting cable/flex must be used here.**

### PUBLIC LIGHTING BOOKLET

This Code of Practice for Public Lighting Installations in residential areas is now available from the ECSSA office at €12.42 including postage.

It is absolutely essential for any member who is involved (or likely to be involved at any future date) to have a copy.

Public Lighting is an area that can be quite lucrative and particularly if you are the electrical contractor on site anyway.

### PUBLIC LIGHTING PILLARS

Up until now the pillar used here was the Micro Pillar approximately 6" wide. This will not be acceptable as of now because it is necessary for ESB to install a service end box and isolator in addition to customer control gear. The new pillar is approximately 12" wide and should be available from wholesalers in your area.

**JIMMY LEAHY**

- ECSSA Chief Inspector

# 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 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)

**EMS Group - A world of protection without cable**



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# NOTICE TO MEMBERS

## **2004 Renewal of Membership**

Contractors who have not returned their membership by March 15th will not appear in the 2004 directory. To ensure a speedy renewal please note the following when returning your application:

1. Full name, correct address and **registration number**.
2. Last years membership card.
3. Copy of Insurance.
4. Cheque/draft for membership only.

N.B. If you need to order certs etc. please send a seperate order and cheque as appropriate.

## **2004 Membership Cards**

Any members who have paid their renewal but have not yet received 2004 cards or have received incorrect cards, please contact our office immediately. Please note only one membership card will be issued to the member registered.

## **ECSSA Website**

Please note we have upgraded our website. New membership application forms, order forms and price lists are available for printing from your own computers. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for our site.

## **Orders and Processing**

Due to the new CER requirements and enforcements, all orders may take longer to process in future. Please do not wait until you have run out of Certs as we can no longer make exceptions. Anyone requiring swift-post will be charged an additional €20 per order.

## **FAREWELL TO SEAN O'SHEA**

Sean O'Shea retired from the ECSSA in December 2003. ECSSA would like to take this opportunity of wishing Sean a well earned rest and many thanks for his years of service and dedication.



**ECSSA's Preferred Supplier of Computers**

### **Services in Munster**

For all your computer services, hardware, software, and consultation requirements contact Tom at 087 3346871 or Declan at 087 8214456 Alternatively send email to [contact@virtualstaff.ie](mailto:contact@virtualstaff.ie) Killarney, Co. Kerry. - 064 37455

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