

## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS SCHEME

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new Electrical Contractors Scheme. We are working with a new underwriter, RSA Insurance Ireland Ltd., and in partnership with them, continue to offer the best combination of value, cover and service available to Aon.

## SUSTAINABLE PRICE SAVINGS

Although we all like to think that the other benefits are important, price remains the biggest determinant for most people in choosing an insurer. In setting price, insurers were charged with the task of offering real value.

- The price must be cheaper than the alternatives
- We would not compromise on cover or service to deliver this price
- That the price savings must 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 €15,000,000
- No height limits
- Burning and welding cover.

In addition, the cover has been extended to provide some very beneficial extensions that extend the standard cover well beyond the market norm.

EFFICACY	Limit €2,000,000 in the period
FINANCIAL LOSS	Limit €100,000 in the period
CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY	Liability assumed under contract can prove very onerous, particularly in the light of exposures under G.D.L.A. and R.I.A.I. 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 centre of excellence for the management of our affinity business throughout Ireland. The aim of the unit is to provide a superior service to our clients through the:

- Dedicated trained staff on hand 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. Sums insured available of €5,000 or €10,000 per vehicle
- Personal Accident Policy. 24 hour accidental injury cover.

Spring, 2011



**Dear Member,**

**Welcome to the Spring 2011 Newsletter.**

While the country and the industry continue to struggle through the worst recession in living memory, it is encouraging to see that members renewing and new members joining have, after the first two months of 2011, brought the membership of ECSSA over 1,600 or 66% of the 2010 end of year numbers.

Feedback to our Inspectors generally tells of sufficient small scale work to enable contractors operate at a reduced level of activity which hopefully will allow the retention of the present level of employment within the industry.

The formation of a new Government who have committed to introducing a stimulus package to boost employment remains one positive hope, while the reduced level of insurance premiums which have recently become available will be greatly welcomed by contractors, who must now monitor each area of expenditure to ensure maximum value for money.

With the low level of work currently being undertaken means that contractors have an ideal opportunity to bring their Qualified Certifier status up to date by attending one of the remaining Certification & Verification Courses which will continue to run at various venues throughout the country until mid May.

We perfectly understand the position of contractors who feel that the cost of renewal is not warranted because of lack of work, but we would appeal to everybody who finds himself in that position to ensure that keeping public liability insurance up to date should have the primary call on any available resources.

It is an accepted fact that in recessionary times the level of insurance claims increases, so please ensure that your liability is covered at all times, even on the smallest of jobs.

Above all I would encourage contractors to be positive, to be innovative in seeking out new areas of work, and to realise that every recession comes to an end, and indeed some recessions bring opportunities, if only we could recognise them.

Hopefully by the time the Summer Newsletter appears, we will have a more positive overview of the industry to report on

**Breeda Moynihan Cronin**  
Chairperson

**We would like to thank you all for your continued support**

### CONTACT DETAILS

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Fax 044 934 8970

Web [www.aon.ie](http://www.aon.ie)

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## Notice to Members

### 1. Periodic Inspections

We have been notified by a leading Insurance Company that some contractors have been issuing the normal Domestic Completion Cert when requested by Customers to carry out an electrical inspection of the premises and to make a report which the Customer then forwards to their Insurer at the time of renewal.

A Domestic Completion Cert is not the correct document to use for such an inspection.

The Periodic Inspection Report, as published by ETCI, is a far more detailed document which provides the opportunity for the contractor to report fully on the findings of his inspection and to make recommendations to the Customer regarding any remedial work which needs to be carried out in the installation.

Periodic Inspection Reports are available from ECSSA at a cost of €50 per book of 10.

### 2. REMINDER 2011 Renewals

Contractors who have still not renewed their membership for 2011 are reminded that Renewals can only be accepted if accompanied by the signed Renewal Notice sent out to all Members with the December 2010 Newsletter.

These Renewal Notices contain a number of undertakings which, on the instructions of CER, we are obliged to receive from all Members at time of Renewal.

The Notice should also include details of any changes in the company name, address or contact details.

If no change has taken place, no entry has to be made in the spaces provided.

Contractors who have mislaid their Renewal Notice are asked to log on to the ECSSA website at [www.ecssa.ie](http://www.ecssa.ie) where the Renewal Form can be found under 'Useful Forms' and can be downloaded.

### 3. Verification & Certification Courses

Just 12 Courses remain between now and the end of the Spring series of Courses on May 12th.

Any member who has not yet ensured that they have completed a Course and obtained a Qualified Certifier Number within the past three years, should do so at one of these remaining Courses as it is not planned to resume Courses until October 2011.

If an urgent demand for Courses arises during the Summer, it is unlikely that these will take place at venues other than Killarney or Dublin, which will impose additional costs on any contractor having to avail of these.

### 4. Loss of Earth Continuity in Buildings

The severe weather conditions encountered at the beginning of the year resulted in widespread damage to water pipes in domestic and commercial premises.

In many domestic situations sections of copper pipe which had been damaged were replaced with Qualplex or other non-metallic pipe.

This could have led to the loss of earth continuity at some points where the formerly continuous copper pipe would have served as a conductor to a central bonding and earthing position in the hot press.

If contractors are aware of instances where this may have occurred, they should inform the householder and should encourage to have a test carried out and any deficiency found in the earth and bonding system rectified.

### 5. Return of Completion Certs

While the onus to supply a Completion Cert to ESB rests primarily on the Customer, in practice it makes more sense for the electrical contractor to return the Cert to his Regulatory Body.

We have seen instances where the customer has held on to the Cert for several months and often until it is out of date (6 months after date of test).

They then take issue when the contractor has to go back, re-test the installation and charge them for that work and for a new Cert.

We would urge Contractors to ensure that the Cert is submitted directly to ECSSA once the installation has been tested.

We also want to point out that we do not hold Certs in the ECSSA Office pending their transmission to ESB.

Every Cert received is either forwarded to ESB if everything is in order, or sent back to the contractor if there are problems with it, all on the same day.

Contractors should not use delay in the ECSSA Office as an excuse to their customers for non-connection of supply when in actual fact the real reason for the delay may rest with the contractor who has either failed to fill the Cert correctly, or who has forgotten to check that his insurance and/or membership are up to date before submitting the Cert.

Once a Cert is transmitted to ESB, there is rarely any inordinate delay before ESB makes supply available.

Notification is then sent by ESB by way of a text to the contractor's mobile number.

For this reason it is important that any change of mobile number is notified to ECSSA, who can then amend it's systems and ensure that the correct mobile is forwarded to ESB.

### 6. Emergency Lighting Certs

The new NSAI Emergency Lighting Certs are now in circulation and are available from ECSSA at a cost of €60 (inclusive of VAT and Postage) per book of 5.

As yet there is no restriction on the sale of these as the NSAI Register of Emergency Lighting Certs will not come into force

until July at the earliest and it may well be that this roll out date could be put back to January 2012.

The success or otherwise of this Emergency Lighting Registration Scheme will depend on the number of contractors who feel it worthwhile to sign up to it and that membership number in turn will depend on the demand for Emergency Lighting Certs which can only be driven by the Fire Officers, Local Authorities, Insurance Companies and others who have either the authority or a vested interest in enforcing compliance with IS3217.

The level of the sale of Certs for the remainder of the year will be an indication as to whether the NSAI Registration Scheme can be financially viable as a stand-alone exercise.

### 7. Credit Card Payments

Members who wish to pay by Credit Card for membership or supplies should ensure that the Credit Card Number is correctly given and that both the Expiry Date and CVV Number (the last 3 digits of the security code on the back of the Card) are entered on the Order Form.

Members paying their membership by Credit Card should ensure that the Membership Renewal Notice, sent out with the December Newsletter, is completed, signed and returned either by post, fax or email to ECSSA before the membership can be renewed.

### 8. Changes to Fault Loop Impedance Values

Following sustained questioning of the practicality of the achieving the Fault Loop Impedance Values set out in the 4th Edition of the National Wiring Rules, ETCI have now accepted that such values cannot realistically be obtained and have decided to revert to the Values contained in the Third Edition.

This common sense move has been welcomed by Contractors and Inspectors alike and we expect that the alteration will shortly be published on the ETCI Website.

ETCI are to be commended for accepting that the 4th Edition figures were impractical and for taking corrective action to regularise the situation.

### 9. Fireman's Switch on outside lighting

We recently received a query from a contractor who felt that 539.4 of the ETCI Wiring Rules 4th Edition called for a Fireman's Switch on Sodium Lighting used to light the front of a building.

He based this assumption on the fact that the igniters of Sodium Lamps operate at High Voltage.

However, this is not correct and ETCI have confirmed that a Fireman's Switch is called for only in situations where there is Sustained High Voltage, ie. in neon signs.

While High Voltage is present during the firing period of a discharge lamp, this voltage is not sustained for more than a very brief period and therefore it does not fall into the category which requires the use of a Fireman's Switch.

## Deceased Members

It is with deep regret we learned of the deaths of two ECSSA Members in the recent past.

John Carberry from Navan, Co. Meath had been a member of ECSSA since January 1998 while Kevin Gleeson from Fedamore, Co. Limerick first registered in February 2006.

On behalf of the Directors, Inspectors and Staff of ECSSA, we would like to express our sympathies to the family and friends of both John and Kevin.

## ECSSA OFFICE HOURS

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

### Useful Website Addresses

Electrical Contractors Safety & Standards Association (Ireland) Ltd (ECSSA)	<a href="http://www.ecssa.ie">www.ecssa.ie</a>
Commission for Electricity Regulation (CER)	<a href="http://www.cer.ie">www.cer.ie</a>
Electricity Supply Board (ESB)	<a href="http://www.esb.ie">www.esb.ie</a>
Electro Technical Council of Ireland (ETCI)	<a href="http://www.etci.ie">www.etci.ie</a>
National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)	<a href="http://www.nsai.ie">www.nsai.ie</a>
National Consumer Agency (NCA)	<a href="http://www.nca.ie">www.nca.ie</a>
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	<a href="http://www.seai.ie">www.seai.ie</a>