

ECSSA NEWSLETTER

Issue 16

June 2004

WELCOME

Welcome to the June edition of the ECSSA Newsletter.

The last three months have been a busy and constructive period for ECSSA. Mike Marshall, one of the founder members of ECSSA, has joined the office staff as Technical Manager, replacing Sean O'Shea who retired at the end of 2003. Mike has over thirty years experience in electrical contracting and his insight into the industry puts him in an ideal position to deal with technical problems faced by contractors.

Other new members of the office team are Evelyn Cremin, who deals with membership and stock orders and Cathy Healy on accounts.

ECSSA has recently purchased the premises adjoining Coolmore House and the next twelve months will see expansion into a variety of new services for our members.

We are very pleased with the level of support shown for the AON / ECSSA insurance scheme and Contractors cannot have failed to note the substantial reduction in premiums, which the introduction of competition to the insurance market has brought.

One of our priorities over the next few months will be to establish proper channels of contact between contractors and the ESB in their local areas. The lack of a local contact number for the ESB has been the main point raised at the various meetings which we held around the country over the past number of months. This is not a happy state of affairs and we must ensure that steps are taken to rectify the situation.

Finally, the Annual General Meeting of ECSSA takes place in the Montague Hotel, The Heath, Portlaoise on Saturday July 10th at 2pm.

We have responded to requests to hold the AGM at a central location in the country and having done so we expect a good turnout of members.

Your chairperson
John O'Loughlin

NEW INSPECTOR

ECSSA are pleased to announce another addition to our team of Inspectors.

Neil Gordon has joined us and will look after members in Donegal and Sligo and also any of our Northern Ireland members who carry out contracts in the Northwest.

Neil is well known to Donegal members from his years with the ESB and we are sure that he will be a valuable asset to the team.

He looks forward to many years of co-operation with members in his area.

Neil can be contacted at 087 2197050



Electrical Contractors Safety and Standards Association

Coolmore House, Park Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 37266 Fax: 064 37269 Email: info@ecssa.ie

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

- 1 Please ensure that your membership number is quoted on all correspondence with the office. This will speed up the handling of your order or enquiry. While we are generally able to turn orders about on the same day, please do not wait until you are in urgent need of Certs before contacting us.
- 2 An order form, with current prices is enclosed with this newsletter and a replacement form will be sent with each order sent out.
Please use these forms when ordering materials. We have regular instances of Cheques or Postal Orders arriving in the post with no indication as to what items are required, and in the case of Postal Orders, with no means of identifying the sender. Hundreds of orders pass through the office each week so the fact that you may have rang us to find out the cost of a book of certs is no guarantee that we will know who wants what when a postal order arrives on its own a week later!
- 3 ETCI have increased the cost of Certs and other publications, which they supply to us, with effect from March 1st last. However we have decided to hold the price to contractors at the present level while stock lasts. When price increases have to be passed on, a new order form with the revised prices will be circulated to members.
- 4 AON have confirmed that the liability cover offered to members under the AON/Eagle Star Scheme, incorporates Legal Costs cover and other additional benefits, which are equal to or exceed those available under any other scheme for electrical contractors. In addition, AON can also provide very competitive cover for Vehicles, Personal Accident, Plant and Premises.
- 5 The ECSSA website is currently being upgraded, with entries being redesigned to provide for trading names in addition to the name of the person registered. Please check your details on our website and let us know if any changes are needed.
- 6 We are currently involved in ongoing discussions in regard to the certification of Fire Alarms and Emergency Lighting. It did appear at one stage that the right to test and certify such installations would be taken over by NSAI. It now appears that, thanks to the co-operation of all parties in the trade, the right to test & certify will, in most instances, remain with the installing contractor.
- 7 Please note that Agricultural Certs are now only available in books of 50 at a cost of EU15.
- 8 The ECSSA Directory of Members is due to go to print in the first week of July. Contractors who have not renewed before then, or new contractors who join after that date will not appear in this edition but will be added to the Website, which will be updated on a weekly basis.
- 9 Courses on Verification & Certification will re-commence in late October and will run until Easter 2005. Dates and venues will be announced in the September Newsletter.
- 10 We regularly receive calls from Contractors seeking information on various pieces of Plant and Equipment. We have also received quite a lot of calls from contractors who have various items of surplus stock, tools, instruments and other items, which they wish to dispose of. We are therefore looking into the possibility of setting up a database, which will enable contractors seeking specific items to link up with other contractors who may have similar items for sale. The idea is only in its infancy as yet so if you have any ideas on how the scheme should operate, please feel free to contact us.
- 11 Some time ago, a batch of the National Rules for Electrical Installations - Third Edition - Publication No. ET 101 : 2002 were found to be incomplete in that pages 180 to 205 were missing. All contractors should check their copies of the book and if any incomplete books come to light, these will be replaced free of charge.
- 12 The quality of Completion Certs being submitted leaves a lot to be desired in many cases. In fact, one wonders if any proper checking of the values entered can be taking place since many of the entries are illegible. It does not take a great deal of extra time to fill in the required information in a clear and legible manner. A new procedure is about to be introduced by the ESB and the CER, whereby the Completion Certs will be sent, by the contractor, directly to the Regulatory Bodies, who will first verify the correctness of the cert and then notify the ESB that a valid cert has been received for the particular installation and that supply may be connected. The onus for checking the certs before connection will therefore pass from the ESB to the Regulatory Bodies. ECSSA is obliged to treat this responsibility seriously and accordingly any Completion Certificate which arrives in an incomplete or illegible manner will be returned to the contractor, who must then submit a new cert, thereby not only incurring the extra cost of an additional cert, but also delaying the connection of the installation. So, please, avoid this hassle by filling certs properly.

A trial period for New Procedures will commence August 1st 2004 after which date all Completion Certs which would normally have been sent to the ESB Offices in Tralee or Killarney must instead be sent by the Contractor directly to the ECSSA Office.

It is hoped that the new procedure will be extended to the whole country from January 1st 2005.
- 13 It has come to our notice that members are being contacted by the publishers of a wall planner, the profits of which are supposedly being directed to a local charity. The publishers are giving the impression that they have received the names of individual contractors from the ECSSA Office and that ECSSA is supporting this publication. **We want to make it quite clear that nobody from this Publishing Firm has been in contact with the ECSSA Office and it is not the policy of ECSSA to recommend to our members that they advertise in any particular publication of this nature.**

**Thanks & Regards
ECSSA**

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INDUSTRY NEWS

IP 55 Meter Box

When an underground electricity supply is being brought to an IP 55 meter box mounted externally on an agricultural shed, e.g. Milking Parlour or Slatted shed, the cable is run in a 50mm Red pipe. As this pipe degrades when exposed to U.V. light, it is neither run up the supply pole nor run from ground level to the IP 55 Meter box on the building. It is acceptable to use 37.5mm black pipe from the ground level and glands for securing this pipe to the box are readily available in most electrical wholesalers. When the pipe and gland are fitted to the box the IP rating must be maintained.

Mounting Height of Room Thermostats

Rule 557.1 requires lighting switches to be between 900mm and 1200mm over finished floor level. This rule does not apply to room thermostats, which control heating systems. Installing room stats at 1200mm or lower would cause the heating systems to run for longer periods, with a resultant increase in running costs. As this could subsequently lead to customer complaints it is important to ensure that all room stats are installed at the correct height.

Underground Cables

Pipes used to protect electrical cables run underground must always be coloured red. This applies to supply cables, public lighting cables, cables between buildings etc.

Resettable Limit Stats on Immersion Heaters

Immersion Heaters fitted with a resettable limit stat are now becoming commonly available. This upper limit stat operates to break the supply in the event of failure of the normal working stat, thereby preventing the risk of overheating of the element of dangerously high water temperature.

However these stats do have one practical disadvantage in that if they are fitted to a cylinder which has an alternative heat source, such as a back boiler or oil fired boiler, the secondary heating may well raise the water temperature above the level at which the limit stat will operate. If this happens, then the immersion heater will not work until the limit stat is manually reset.

Customers should be made aware of this fact if one of the immersions, fitted with a limit stat is being fitted, otherwise the electrical contractor may find himself constantly getting calls to go back and reset the limit stat on the immersion.

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.



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Other Aon products and services as detailed on our web site, www.aon.ie

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