

## 07 Working Abroad

Contractors or their employees who are considering working abroad for a few years can obtain good advice on the opportunities available from Edwina Shanahan (eshanahan@migrationabroad.com)

At the moment it appears that there is still considerable amount of work available in Australia where wages for work in mines generally start at about \$105,000 Aus Dollars per annum based on a 35 hours week (approx €62,000).

Edwina Shanahan has regular contact with employers from Perth, Brisbane, and other areas and her office in Kilkenny can

assist with obtaining licences for electrical work in the various States in Australia. Travelling to Australia without the required licenses could result in having to work for as low as \$40,000 Aus Dollars per annum as you would then be in a situation where all your work has to be supervised.

Electricians are still on the Skills Shortage List in Australia and this speeds up the process with a visa is applied for. Being an English speaker also helps with job prospects.

Opportunities are also available in most provinces in Canada, but again a State License is required in order to get the

top rates. Edwina can also advise the job opportunities there and assist with the processing of documentation. Edwina can be contacted at the email address shown above or at (056) 7770227 or (086) 4170004

### How to contact ECSSA

Call, phone or write to:

ECSSA (Ireland) Ltd,  
Coolmore House, Park Road,  
Killarney, Co. Kerry  
Tel: (064) 6637266  
Fax: (064) 6637269  
email: info@ecssa.ie  
or visit our website at  
www.ecssa.ie



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Please...  
Read This Newsletter  
As There Are Important Changes Taking  
Place Which Will Effect Every Contractor

## Dear Member,

Despite the ongoing uncertain state of the economy, and the worldwide financial turmoil, it is obvious that contractors are still finding a certain amount of electrical work to do, though it has to be said that collecting payment for that work is proving to be an ever more challenging task. Scarcely a day passes without phone calls from contractors who report on the failure and liquidation of builders by whom the electrical contractor is owed money. In many cases very significant sums are involved but irrespective of how small the amount, it still represents a loss to the contractor concerned and in many cases can threaten the future viability of the company and the jobs of the employees.

Regrettably there is little that ECSSA can say that can offer assistance or consolation to members who find themselves in this unfortunate situation as, in the first place, ECSSA cannot get involved in commercial matters, and secondly on a purely practical level there is rarely any hope of recovering money from a company which has gone into liquidation as there is seldom enough recoverable assets to do more than pay the liquidator, pay Revenue, and possibly some secured creditors, leaving the sub contractors at the very bottom of the list and unlikely to recover even a fraction of their losses.

We are pleased to note that a number of former Directors of ECSSA have decided to launch a Trade Association which will offer advise and assistance to electrical contractors on such issues

as debt collection, representation, legal advise, and other practical aspects of that industry.

Details of the new organisation will be available shortly and we would strongly recommend that all electrical contractors, big and small, should join this new Trade Association and help safeguard their future by creating a strong voice for their industry in these challenging times.

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# Notice to Members

## 01 Insurance Policies

For the past number of years we have encountered problems with insurance policies which do not specifically indemnify the various parties required to be indemnified on the policy under the CER Criteria.

Three Insurance Companies, AON/Eagle Star, Arachas/Hibernian and FBD, have all provided cover notes to a specification which complies with the Criteria.

Regrettably, there are a number of other insurers who, despite being reminded of the need to name CER/ESB/ ETCI / ECSSA/ RECI on the policy as indemnified parties, nevertheless continue to provide cover notes where none of these parties are mentioned.

We have notified CER of this problem and have indicated to them that henceforth we will not accept policies which are not in compliance with the requirements of the CER Criteria.

We appreciate that there are a number of contractors who have placed their liability insurance with insurers outside the country and we accept that these providers will not necessarily prepare a specific cover note to cover the small number of Irish electrical contractors on their books.

If a contractor wishes to deal with these companies, he should contact ECSSA who will provide a questionnaire which must be filled and stamped by the insurer and which will ask the specific questions that need to be answered in the affirmative before the policy can be accepted.

**We would urge contractors to treat this matter seriously as there is little point in submitting a Completion Cert accompanied by an insurance cover note which does not meet the Criteria requirements. Doing so will only lead to delay and frustration for you and your Customer.**

This Insurance Questionnaire can be downloaded from the ECSSA website at [www.ecssa.ie](http://www.ecssa.ie)

## 02 Proposed changes to Certification

The long term plans of the CER always intended that Completion Certs should be stored by the Regulatory Bodies so that the owner of premises, if unable to locate the original Completion Cert for their premises, could obtain a copy from the Regulatory Body.

However, it was agreed that the Pre-Connection Cert, which the Regulatory Body gets, is not of real value from the point of view that it does not contain the important Post-Connection Test Results.

To rectify this shortcoming it is now proposed that ETCI Cert be re-designed and in future will come as a four-part document as opposed to the present three-part Cert.

There will be no change in the Pre-Connection procedure in that the contractor will continue to send the first copy of the Cert to the Regulatory Body for verification and onward transmission to ESB.

When supply is connected, the results of the post connection tests are entered on the Cert by the Contractor, who then

sends a copy to Regulatory Body, gives another to his customer, and retain the final one for his own records.

The software systems for the Regulatory Bodies are to be adapted to flag up a reminder if the Post Connection Test Results are not received and logged within 35 days of the date of transmission of the original Pre-Connection Cert to ESB Networks.

A reminder is then sent to the contractor concerned requiring him to submit the Post-Connection Cert within 5 days.

Should the contractor fail to respond, a process is commenced which will lead to disconnection of supply by ESBN.

New Completion Certs are currently being designed but at this stage it is not possible to say when the new procedure will be commenced.

Neither has it been decided how stocks of 3 part Certs held by Contractors will be used but it is possible that their use will be confined to certifying jobs where no new connection from ESBN is required.

## 03 Certs for Existing Installations

It appears that ETCI intend to discontinue the production of the No. 4 Cert which was introduced a few years ago. The main advantage of this Cert was that it permitted the certification for re-connection of an installation which had been disconnected for some time, and which might not comply in every respect with current ETCI Regulations. If for example the cable colours were found to be red/black instead of brown/blue, but otherwise in perfect condition,

it would be possible, using the No. 4 Cert, to certify the installation as being safe to energise even though it did not fully comply with present day cable colour requirements. It has not been fully explained as yet how it is proposed to deal with such a scenario going forward, but the certification clause of the new Completion Cert which is being designed will probably confirm that the installation complies with the National Wiring Rules current at the time when the installation was carried out. This would avoid the situation where a contractor would be signing a declaration that the installation complies with present day Wiring Rules when in fact there might be non-conformities such as cable colours.

## 04 Training Courses

Discussions are currently taking place with ETCI and RECI to arrive at a uniform Training Course on Certification and Verification which both bodies will then provide for it's members.

Hopefully an agreed Course will have been formulated and approved by CER reasonably quickly so that a full schedule of Training Courses can be put in place from next October to April 2010.

Times and Venues will be published in the Autumn Newsletter and will appear on the ECSSA website once dates have been finalised.

The exact duration of the Course has yet to be agreed, but it will be a one day Course, and possibly could take up to five hours including an assessment at the conclusion of the Course.

All those who attend and pass the assessment will be eligible to act as Qualified Certifiers and can sign Completion Certs as required by the CER Criteria.

We are currently discussing with a

number of providers of additional Courses in areas such as Renewable Energy, "Smart Homes", and Micro Generation in particular. We have noticed a considerable level of interest from members who are anxious to diversify into these areas and to generally up skill themselves in emerging technologies. Further details will be available on our website and in the Autumn Newsletter.

## 05 4<sup>th</sup> Edition ETCI Regulations

The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the ETCI National Wiring Rules (ET101:2008) becomes mandatory from Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 2009.

There are considerable changes brought about by this revised edition and we recommend that contractors should obtain a copy and familiarise themselves with the areas where new and more stringent measures apply.

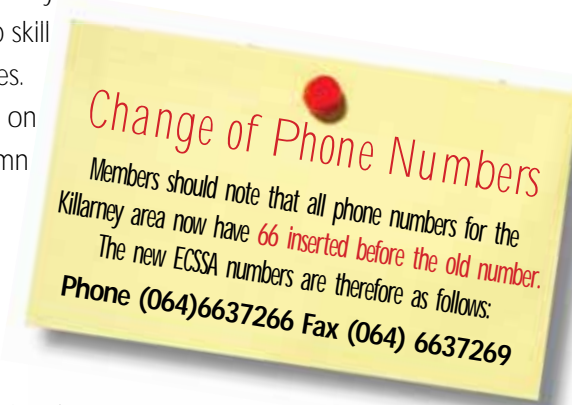
It is also useful to remember that Building Regulations have a significant influence on the electrical requirements in buildings and that a contractor can often search the ETCI Regulations for information which in fact can only be found in the Building Regulations.

Being familiar with all the up to date requirements is vital when one has to price an installation, particularly for a Public Authority where the specification may merely refer to "current Regulations" without giving any more specific detail.

It is a bit late to find out, when a scheme of houses is completed that the Engineer from the Local Authority insists that, for example he wants five fire detection points in each house rather than the three which the electrical contractor believed to be sufficient.

The Building Regulations can be purchased in most good bookshops but

it is important to ensure that the latest Edition is obtained, while the 4th Edition of the ETCI Regulations can be ordered from ECSSA at a cost of €97.50 including VAT, post and packaging.



## 06 Cert Tracking Facility

The facility whereby contractors and their customers can track the status of a Completion Cert submitted to ECSSA has now been in operation for almost a year and has significantly reduced the number of calls which we receive in relation to Certs submitted.

However there may be some contractors who are not aware that this facility is available on the ECSSA website at [www.ecssa.ie](http://www.ecssa.ie).

It might be a good idea for contractors to inform their customers that this facility is available so that the customer themselves can track a Cert.

### ECSSA LOGO

- We would strongly encourage all contractors to incorporate the ECSSA logo on all stationary such as invoices, letterheads, business cards, etc.
- A high definition logo (jpeg) can be sent from ECSSA directly to your printer by providing ECSSA with the email address of that printer.
- Van Stickers, both internal and external are available on request from ECSSA.