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Emergency Lighting Certification

The current NSAI proposals in relation to the Register of Emergency Lighting Installers and Commissioners are as follows:

The scheme will go live from August 1st 2011.

All contractors who have obtained the BESS Qualifications will be eligible for inclusion in the initial Register.

In addition those members of the Regulatory Bodies who have indicated their involvement in emergency lighting work by purchasing NSAI Emergency Lighting Certs before July 31st will be included in the Register until December 31st 2011, during which time they must obtain the BESS Qualification if they wish to remain on the Register from January 1st 2012.

Existing Members of the Regulatory Bodies who engage in this area of work will not pay an additional fee for their inclusion on the Register up to the end of 2011 while Emergency Lighting Specialists who are not registered electrical contractors will have to pay a fee of €170 to the Regulatory Body to gain access to the NSAI EL Certs.

The fee for inclusion on the Register from January 2012 has yet to be set by NSAI.

NSAI has indicated to the Regulatory Bodies that they will make the Course materials available to the Bodies so that training can be organised on a nationwide basis.

The actual cost of these Courses has yet to be finalised but it is hoped that it will be considerably less than the cost of similar courses to date.

ECSSA Members should check our website for further updates on this BESS Scheme in the months ahead.

ECSSA OFFICE HOURS:

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

Aon

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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.L. 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.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support

CONTACT DETAILS
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 Web: www.aon.ie

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ECSSAnews

Summer 2011

Dear Member,

Welcome to the Summer 2011 Newsletter.

As we move towards the middle of the year it is regrettable that conditions in the industry do not appear to have improved to any significant level but there is reason to hope that the latter half of the year will see some growth as the Government will hopefully have finally dealt with the issues of bank restructuring.

A new co-ordination group to be chaired by Minister of State, Willie Penrose TD, has just been announced and it's sole remit will be take clear, decisive and proactive action to resolve the issues of unfinished housing developments. Among the strategies to be adapted by this group are the leasing or purchase of units from NAMA for families on local authority waiting lists.

The completion of some of the so called ghost estates, many of which are already at an advanced stage of construction, should provide an increased level of work for electrical contractors as most of these houses have now been locked up for so long that even if the electrical installation is complete, re-testing and re-certification will be needed before supply can be connected.

In spite of the unfavourable conditions, we are pleased to see that the majority of the 2010 members have renewed for 2011, with the current membership just over 2,000.

These are difficult times for both ECSSA and it's members but I believe that those in the industry are resilient and will come through the recession, perhaps downsized in their scale of operations, but nevertheless ready to avail of the opportunities which the inevitable upturn will bring.

Breeda Moynihan Cronin MCC
 Chairperson

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



In this Issue:

- **First Amendment to ET101:2008 National Wiring Rules**
- **Rewiring Old Houses**
- **Tracking of Certs**
- **Post Connection Tests**
- **Looking Back**
- **Congratulations**

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1. First Amendment to the ET101:2008 National Wiring Rules

ETCI intend to publish shortly the First Amendment to the ET101:2008 National Wiring Rules.

Among the technical changes which will be highlighted in this Amendment will be the decision to delete A61C-1 and /A61C-2 of the 2008 Edition and to replace these with A61C-1 and A61C-2 of the Third Edition.

Loop Impendence for Common MCB Types

MCB Type B (I.S EN60898) and RCBO Type B (I.S. EN61009-1)

Rating A:	6	10	16	20	25	32
ZL Ω	7.67	4.6	2.87	2.3	1.84	1.44

MCB Type C (I.S EN60898) and RCBO Type C (I.S. EN61009)

Rating A:	6	10	16	20	25	32
ZL Ω	3.83	2.3	1.44	1.15	0.92	0.72

MCB Type D (I.S EN60898) and RCBO Type D (I.S. EN61009)

Rating A:	6	10	16	20	25	32
ZL Ω	1.92	1.15	0.72	0.57	0.46	0.36

MCB Type B (I.S EN60898) and RCBO Type B (I.S. EN61009-1)

Rating A:	40	50	63	80	100	125
ZL Ω	1.15	0.92	0.73	0.57	0.46	0.37

MCB Type C (I.S EN60898) and RCBO Type C (I.S. EN61009)

Rating A:	40	50	63	80	100	125
ZL Ω	0.57	0.46	0.36	0.29	0.23	0.18

MCB Type D (I.S EN60898) and RCBO Type D (I.S. EN61009)

Rating A:	40	50	63	80	100	125
ZL Ω	0.29	0.23	0.18	0.14	0.11	0.09

2. Rewiring of Old Houses

Rewiring of old houses, and in particular stone built houses, poses a particular problem for contractors in that it is seldom possible to find a suitable location for an external meter cabinet.

Houses over a certain age invariably have the Distribution Board fitted either over the entrance door or on an adjacent wall in the entrance hall.

There is rarely another suitable location for the replacement consumer unit and, that being the case, it becomes impossible to comply with the maximum consumer unit heights shown in the current ETCI Wiring Rules.

Consequently both the Consumer Unit and the ESB Meter generally have to be located in the same position as the original units.

ESBN cannot insist on the relocation of such a meter to an outside meter cabinet and ESB NTs are not entitled to demand that either the contractor or the customer provide for such relocation.

List of Inspectors

Neil Gordon

Donegal North 087-2197050

Charlie Carr

Dongéal South North Leitrim, NW Cavan, North Roscommon, Sligo, Mayo 087-0658091

Jimmy Glynn

South Mayo, Galway, North Clare 087-2275969

Michael Guerin

South Clare, West Limerick, Kerry, South Cork 087-1221234

Paul Keane

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Jack Gleeson

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John Loughlin

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Jimmy Batten / Denis Crone

Dublin City and County, Kildare 087-2067117 / 087-2650896

Brendan O'Brien

Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow 087-9885438

3. Tracking of Certs

Members (and the general public) are reminded that there is a facility on the ECSSA website whereby the progress of a Completion Cert sent to ECSSA for transmission to ESB can be checked by anybody who has either the MPRN or the Cert Number.

ECSSA does not hold Certs in the office as all Certs received each day are either transmitted to ESB (if everything is in order with the Cert) or else returned to the Contractor on the same day with a covering letter giving the reason for the rejection of the Cert.

Apart from lack of proof of insurance cover, the most common reason why Certs are rejected is that the MPRN shown on the Cert comes up as ‘Invalid’ when entered on the CIS System.

This invalidity generally arises because of the fact that even though ESBN issue an MPRN once the customer makes application for supply, that MPRN does not become valid for the purpose of a connection until the customer has paid the Capital Contribution amount which is invoiced to the customer along with the MPRN.

Apart from ensuring that their own house is in order in respect of membership and insurance, contractors should check with their customers that the Capital Contribution has been paid to ESBN well in advance of submitting a Cert as there is generally about a week’s delay between payment of the Capital Contribution and validation of the MPRN

Useful Addresses Website	
Electrical Contractors Safety & Standards Association (Ireland) Ltd (ECSSA)	www.ecssa.ie
Commission for Electricity Regulation (CER)	www.cer.ie
Electricity Supply Board (ESB)	www.esb.ie
Electro Technical Council of Ireland (ETCI)	www.etc.i
National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)	www.nsa
National Consumer Agency (NCA)	www.nca
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	www.sea

Please...

Quote your Membership Number on all correspondence.

We regularly receive Orders where it is impossible to establish what is being ordered, or who is ordering goods.

It is not unusual to receive a Postal Order or Bank Draft in the post with no indication of what it is for, or from whom it came.

These payments generally lie around for a considerable time before somebody eventually rings wondering why the goods he has ordered have not arrived.

When it is pointed out to the caller that he did not indicate what he wanted, or who had sent the Order, the usual reply is I was talking to one of the girls about it last week!

ECSSA receives an average of 250 calls per day so it is a bit unrealistic for anybody to expect that when an unidentified Draft or Postal Order arrives in the post, one of the staff will suddenly tie that up with a phone call received several days earlier.

Cheques give us some clue as to who has issued them, but such has been the level of company closures and changes of company names that the name on the cheque often bears no resemblance to the name under which the contractor is registered with ECSSA.

Tracing such a customer involves getting our bank to contact the bank on which the cheque is drawn in order to establish the identity of the sender of the cheque. All this has a price in terms of cost and delay in dispatching the Order.

So please, use the Order Forms provided, but at very least write your membership number and what you need on the back of the payment so that we have a chance to send out your Order by return.

Post Connection Tests

Contractors are reminded of the requirement to submit Post Connection Test Results within 30 Days of a new installation being made live.

Members who still have the old 3-part Certs can use a photocopy of the Contractors Copy to submit the results.

There is no excuse for not carrying out Post Connection Tests on new installations where the contractor has to go back and connect the Customer Tails once supply is made available.

It is a simple matter to carry out the Fault Loop Impedance Test and RCD Tripping Tests at that time.

If a contractor cannot get access to a house to carry out these Tests, the Customer Tails should not be connected as it is irresponsible to make live an installation where a visual inspection cannot be carried out before switch on in order to ensure that potentially live cable are not exposed where kitchen fitters or tiling contractors have removed sockets.

Failure to submit Post Connection Tests can ultimately lead to disconnection of the customer’s supply and disciplinary action against the contractor.

Looking Back

The recent death of Mr. Justice Declan Costello, former President of the High Court, brings to mind the fact that the foundation of ECSSA was based on a single sentence of his judgement in the High Court Case, *Donovan & Ots v ESB*.

Having found that ESB had abused it’s dominant position by granting sole rights of connection to contractors who were members of RECI, he went on to say that it was open to any group of contractors to set up their own Regulatory Body and provided certain criteria are met, that Body would have to be granted equal recognition and status.

Judge Costello’s judgement was subsequently appealed by ESB but the Appeal was unanimously dismissed by all 5 Judges of the Supreme Court in 1994.

Despite this, it was not until 1997 that ECSSA was able to register it’s first members, recognition being opposed and obstructed every step of the way by vested interests who did not wish to see the end of the monopoly which existed up until then.

From such turbulent beginnings, ECSSA has grown to what it is today, never deviating from the aims of it’s Founders, namely to raise the standard of electrical work by encouragement and education rather than by harassment and penalisation, to be an asset rather than an evil in the lives of electrical contractors, to be absolutely fair in dealing with complaints from the public and never again to allow the company, it’s employees or members, to be bullied and denigrated as they were in it’s difficult early years.

Congratulations

ECSSA Chairperson, Breeda Moynihan Cronin, has been selected by the Labour Party to fill the seat on Kerry County Council left vacant by the election to the Senate of Marie Moloney.

Breeda brings a wealth of experience to the Council Chambers, having served as a member of Kerry County Council from 1992 to 2003, and TD for Kerry South from 1992 to 2007.

She is highly regarded by the most senior members of the Labour Party who no doubt will be pleased to see her return to active politics.



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