

Verification & Certification Courses

Additional Verification & Certification Courses

Date	Location	Venue	Time
04/07/2012	Dublin	(Red Cow Moran Hotel)	2 to 5pm
04/07/2012	Galway	(Clayton Hotel)	2 to 5pm
11/07/2012	Dublin	(Red Cow Moran Hotel)	2 to 5pm
11/07/2012	Cork	(Silver Springs Hotel)	2 to 5pm

**A number of places are still available on these Courses on a first come first served basis.
Please contact ECSSA to book you place.**

Periodic Inspection Reports

There has been a welcome increase in the level of Customers requesting Periodic Inspection Reports.

Some contractors are reluctant to issue Periodic Inspection Reports because they feel that the wiring does not fully comply with the National Wiring Rules and are therefore reluctant to "certify" the installation.

This is not the correct approach since a Periodic Inspection Report is no more than that which it's name indicates, i.e. a report on the state of the wiring, including a note of all those items which do not comply.

The contractor is not certifying anything but merely informing his customer of the state of the wiring and drawing attention to those items which needs to be rectified before the installation can be certified as complying with the National Wiring Rules.

The Periodic Inspection Report book contains clear guidelines on the completion of the report and should be studied carefully before commencing the inspection.

Post Connection Tests

It is regrettable that despite reminders, there are still contractors who fail to submit Post Connection Test Results or to provide a reason why these Post Connection Results cannot be submitted.

It has been suggested that contractors who do not co-operate in relation to PCT Returns should have the facility to have future Certs processed suspended until they regularise their situation.

We would be reluctant to take such a drastic step but may ultimately have no other choice with contractors who continue to ignore the correct procedure.

Please check your records to ensure that all Certs submitted have been followed up by the submission of the Post Connection Copy.

All Courses run from 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Cost : €150 per person

* Members are reminded to bring: Test Instruments – (Check batteries & leads in particular 3 leads for Loop Impedance Shower Testing. New leads can be purchased from ECSSA)
A Booking Form is included in this Newsletter and is also available for download on our website at www.ecssa.ie

Safe Electric Logos are now available from ECSSA at a cost of €10 per pair, including postage.

ECSSA Logos continue to be available Free of Charge.

Contractors are reminded that it is an offence to indicate to the public that they are Registered Electrical Contractors by continuing to display either the ECSSA or the Safe Electric logos on their vehicles, stationary or business cards if they are no longer members of ECSSA



Congratulations !

To **Ken Noonan, RK Communications**, 14 St. Finbarrs Close, Greenhills, Dublin 12, who is the Winner of our Draw for Members who renewed their Membership in the first Quarter of 2012.

His Prize is a choice of Megger MPF 1710 Installation Tester or a PAT 320 Portable Appliance Tester, kindly sponsored by:

Powerpoint Engineering Ltd, Unit B6 National Enterprise Park, Portlaoise Interchange, Portlaoise
Tel: +353 (0)57 8662162 Fax: +353 (0)57 8662164
Email: sales@powerpoint-engineering.com



INTERNATIONAL LIGHTING

**The Brightest LED GU-10 on the market
Out performs a 50w Halogen**



Advantages & Applications

Polaris LED GU10 is a direct replacement and out-performs your standard 50 watt halogen

At 56mm depth it will fit straight in to 99% of GU10 holders

2 year warranty provides high reliability

30,000 Hour Life

3000k warm white 7.5w 400lm

Suitable for all applications including Homes, Hotels, Shops and Displays

Extensive range of LED floodlights and LED 2D fittings also available



2 Doughcloyne Court
Doughcloyne Ind Est.,
Wilton, Cork.
Tel: 021 4541100
Mobile: 087 6833083
Email: info@internationallighting.ie
Web: www.internationallighting.ie

ECSSA news

Summer 2012

Dear Member,

Welcome to the Summer 2012 Edition of the ECSSA Newsletter.

Despite ongoing doom and gloom in the economy, the staff at ECSSA have informed me that there has been a noticeable increase in the level of activity in the past number of weeks. Perhaps this is purely due to seasonal factors, but one would like to think that we may have hit the bottom of the cycle and that we are seeing the first shoots, however small, of recovery in the electrical contracting industry.

It is clear that Government decisions will shortly have to be taken on issues such as personal insolvency, mortgage arrears, the reluctance of the banks to make credit available at the appropriate levels and the future of the many ghost estates which litter the country.

Every provision put in place to tackle any of these issues will contribute to an improvement in the overall economic outlook and should lead to a situation where business owners and private individuals will be spared the ongoing uncertainty which is currently stifling investment and retail spending. Projections from tourism organisations indicate a healthy level of bookings and the upcoming removal of milk quotas, is already leading to some investment in both the tourism and agri sectors.

The second half of the year may not bring about a miraculous recovery but those contractors who have managed to stay afloat to date will hopefully find a level of profitable work which will enable them to consolidate their positions. While expansion may not be an option at this stage, we would earnestly hope that the remaining months of 2012 will continue the recent welcome upward trend.

Breeda Moynihan Cronin

Breeda Moynihan Cronin MCC
Chairperson



In this Issue:

- **Qualified Certifier Numbers**
- **2nd Edition of ECSSA Guide**
- **Emergency Lighting Certification**
- **Controlled and Restricted Works**
- **Stray Voltage in Milking Parlours**

Coolmore House, Park Road,
Killarney, Co. Kerry
Tel 064 6637266
Fax 064 6637269
info@ecssa.ie
www.ecssa.ie

Breeda Moynihan Cronin
Chairperson of ECSSA



1. Qualified Certifier

The Qualified Certifier requirement, which had been postponed a number of times over the past two years, finally comes into force on July 1st next.

From that date onwards, it will not be possible to process Certs for transmission to ESB unless the Cert is signed by the Holder of a valid Qualified Certifier Number.

Qualified Certifier Numbers have been issued to all participants in Verification & Certification Courses over the past few years and contractors are urged to check that the qualification, which is valid for 3 years from the date of issue, is still valid before the need to issue a Cert arises.

If an Electrician has completed a V & C Course with any other Training Body such as RECI or ETCI or with a private provider, details of the Course or of the QC Number issued should be forwarded to ECSSA so that a corresponding number, compatible with the ECSSA database can be issued.

The Spring 2012 Schedule of Courses is now finished but to facilitate contractors who find themselves in need of renewal of QC numbers, ECSSA will provide Courses during the Summer months but can only do so at venues where there are sufficient numbers to cover the costs of providing the Course.

Contractors whose QC Numbers expire before the commencement of the Autumn 2012 Courses should contact ECSSA giving the expiry date of their current QC Number and a location at which it would be practical for them to attend a Course.

At the moment only Dublin, Galway and Cork Courses are planned for the Summer months but this may change if there are sufficient numbers to justify additional centres.

We would appeal to all contractors to avoid a situation where both they and their customers are delayed or inconvenienced by having Certs returned unprocessed.

This requirement has been well flagged in the last few years and further delay in it's implementation is not possible at this stage, so act now to avoid delay in the future.

2. 2nd Edition of ECSSA Guide

The second addition of the very popular ECSSA Guide to the 4th Edition of the National Wiring Rules (ET101:2008) is now available.

This edition takes into account the various additions, alterations and amendments to the Wiring Rules which have been issued by ETCI over the past three years.

For those contractors who have the first Edition of the

Guide, the Amendments and updates featured in the 2nd Edition can be found on the ECSSA website **www.ecssa.ie under Latest News.**

We would urge all those contractors to download the Amendments and put them with their copies of the Guide.

***The price remains unchanged at €20 (including Postage)**

3. Emergency Lighting Certification

ECSSA has now completed the preparation of a one day Training Course designed to enable contractors to inspect and certify Emergency Lighting installations in accordance with IS3217.

However, a meeting of the BESS Group on June 28th last did not arrive at a consensus of opinion on the scope of work which a participant in such a one day Course could undertake.

Since further discussion will now have to take place before the roll out of the new Course, the present arrangements must remain in place, i.e. Registered Electrical Contractors who have the ability to inspect and certify Emergency Lighting installations may continue to so using the ETCI Emergency Lighting Certs which are available from ECSSA at a cost of €60 per book of 5.

Once a new one day Course becomes available, contractors who wish to continue to certify Emergency Lighting must commit to attending such a Course as soon as possible.

If dates and venues are agreed before the issue of our next Newsletter, details will be posted on the ECSSA website.

Track Your Cert

The facility to track the progress of a Completion Cert sent to ECSSA has been available to both Contractors and the Public on the ECSSA website for a number of years yet some Members still contact ECSSA Office to enquire about the progress of their Completion Certs when they could easily get this information directly from the website by entering either the Cert Number of the MPRN Number.

We would encourage all contractors to avail of this service and they should also advise their customers of the facility so that the Customers can see for themselves that any delay in obtaining connection is not the fault of the contractor once a valid Cert has been received, forwarded by ECSSA to ESB Networks and accepted by ESNB.

Initially it is expected that the Courses will be confined to Dublin, Cork and Galway, with a possible fourth venue in North Midlands or border area if there is a sufficient level of confirmed interest.

Latest information on the commencement of these Courses will be posted on the ECSSA website as soon as possible.

4. Controlled and Restricted Works

The Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 provides for the creation of categories of electrical work which are designated as Controlled and Restricted Works.

Controlled Works are those works which are required to be tested and certified using an ETCI Completion Cert.

Restricted Works are those works which cannot be carried out by any person other than a Registered Electrical Contractor.

A person other than a Registered Electrical Contractor who engages in such work is in breach of the provisions of the Act and liable to substantial fines and/or imprisonment.

This Section of the Act requires a Ministerial Order or Statutory Instrument to bring it into law.

It is expected that the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Pat Rabbitte TD, will sign such an Order very shortly.

To provide clarity for RECs, the Commission for Energy Regulation has issued an explanatory document setting out the various categories and the restrictions which apply to involvement in such work.

Rather than attempt to create a synopsis of the CER document, we have decided to post it in full on the ECSSA website www.ecssa.ie where contractors can download and study the various changes which this Statutory Instrument will bring about.

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.etcil.ie
National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)	www.nsaie.ie
National Consumer Agency (NCA)	www.nca.ie
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	www.seai.ie

5. Stray Voltage in Milking Parlours

Over the past few months we have had numerous enquiries from contractors and farmers in relation to the problems caused by stray voltages in Milking Parlours.

This whole problem is a source of great worry and cost to the Dairy Farming Community since the presence of stray voltages causes distress to cows, who are reluctant to go into the parlour, constantly move around while milking, fail to milk out fully and bolt from the parlour when released.

More seriously however, the stress caused by stray voltage leads to significantly increased somatic cell count in the milk, which will either be rejected by the processor to whom the farmer supplies, or will incur substantial fines or prices reductions.

The stray voltages in a parlour may be either pure AC, pure DC, or a combination where both are present.

A contractor called to deal with this problem should immediately establish the type of voltage present as both are caused by completely different circumstances.

Stray AC voltage generally comes as a result of bad bonding and earthing, a high incoming ESB neutral, insufficient cross section of the neutral conductor, or the fact that the earth bars of a mains operated electric fence are placed too close to the main earth of the parlour installation, or too close to one or more of the ESB pole earths between the transformer and the building.

The elimination of these sources of AC should be relatively simple by ensuring that bonding and earthing are checked and improved if necessary and by ensuring that no mains operated fence earths are too close to the supply earths.

DC Voltage creates a far greater problem and it is more likely to be found in parlours constructed in recent years where the tendency to add chemical additives to concrete became much more prevalent.

These additives bring about a chemical reaction between the concrete and the re-bars in the under floor mesh.

The reaction, which is referred to as electro chemical generation, can produce voltages of up to 1 volt DC between the re-bars and the concrete floor.

Since the under floor grid is connected to the tying rails and rump rails and in turn connected to all other metal in the parlour, it means that a DC Voltage is present between this metal and the concrete floor.

If a cow puts her nose or her tongue into a metal feed bowl she will complete the DC circuit between her tongue, which is in contact with one pole of the DC potential and her feet on the wet ground, which is at the opposite polarity.

The flow of DC current along this path through the animal's body is most upsetting and leads to all the outward symptoms of stress listed earlier.

Elimination of the DC voltage is not easily achieved since the electro chemical generation can continue for years but there are some practical steps which can be taken to alleviate the problem.

Contractors who find themselves faced with the presence of DC in a Milking Parlour should contact ECSSA where we can discuss the options available and put them in touch with other contractors who have encountered the same problem and who may have resolved the issue in a variety of ways.

We also welcome feedback from contractors who have devised ways of dealing with what is a very serious problem for an important sector of our economy.



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

Please quote your ECSSA Membership Number when ordering to secure these special offer prices.

ECSSA Member Offer

1000 Business Cards
Printed full colour both sides
€69⁺ VAT

A4 Docket Books
Duplicate or Triplicate (Sets of 50)
NCR printed black, numbered, perfed.
Proofs supplied for your approval pre press.

5 docket books @ €98⁺ VAT
Or 5 Books A5 size @ €85 + VAT

Woodlands Industrial Estate Park Road Killarney
tel 064 6634650 fax 064 6636394 **www.murphyprint.com**