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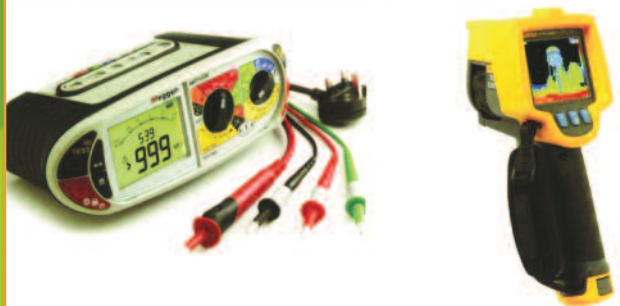
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NEW ORDER FORM

Please note that the revised prices on some items on the enclosed Order Form, which takes effect from August 1st 2013.

COURSES

Information on revised V & C Courses and Emergency Lighting Courses will appear on the ECSSA website as soon as details are finalised

5.Run-On Insurance

Contractors retiring from the industry should be aware of their on-going liability for loss or damage arising from works which they carried out while operating in the industry.

There is a widespread misconception that once you were insured when you carried out the work, that those Insurers will cover claims which might arise a number of years afterwards. This is not correct.

Insurers will cover your liability while you are actually insured with them.

If the claim arises a number of years afterwards, the liability is insured by whatever insurer you are with at the time when the claim arises, but if you have not continued to hold public liability insurance, you could find yourself personally liable.

This applies in particular to contractors who operated as Sole Traders.

Those who ran their business as a limited company should seek the advice of a Solicitor when leaving the industry so that all the necessary steps can be taken to ensure that they do not incur a personal liability once the company has ceased trading or has been wound up.

There is an option available to contractors to take out what is known as Run-On Insurance.

This is available through most brokers, is relatively inexpensive but does not cover the liability of the contractor for any claims arising from work which he might carry out following his retirement.

It only provides cover against claims which arise from work carried out prior to his retirement from the industry.

Such insurance is quite common in the medical and legal profession, where doctors and solicitors provide for claims which might arise from work which they carried out while practicing but which claims did not arise until after their retirement.

Such a scenario should not be confused with incidents which occurred at the time when the contractor was insured but which do not come to the Courts for many years afterwards.

In such a case the Insurer, who had the contractor on cover at the time of the incident, must indemnify the contractor against any awards or costs incurred, provided always that the Insurers were promptly and truthfully notified of the incident at the time when it occurred.



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ECSSA news

Summer 2013

Dear Member,

Dear Member,

Welcome to the Summer 2013 Newsletter!

Statistics tell us that activity in the construction sector has continued to decline for 73rd consecutive month but some analysts predict a growth in the building industry in the coming 12 months, with most construction companies confirming an increase in incoming orders or expectations of successful tenders for work priced.

While it is difficult to see much evidence of this increase in growth, nevertheless the fact that the Government does have some leeway in its financial targets means that the upcoming budget might not be as harsh as originally predicted. Any relief from further austerity measures would be welcome and might well send a signal to the public, which in turn might trigger a growth in confidence and increased spending.

We are pleased to note that despite the somewhat depressing state of the industry, the vast majority of Contractors have chosen to renew their Membership for 2013 and have diversified into areas of work which continues to provide sufficient for those who have remained in the industry.

We would hope that, in line with a possible relaxation of austerity measures from the Government, that we have also reached the limit of additional regulatory requirements in the electrical sector, which appears to be more heavily and more expensively regulated than virtually any other sector of the Irish economy.

The fact that the Restricted Works Order is now on the point of passing into legislation, will hopefully have the effect of excluding from the industry a considerable number of those currently operating in the black market and who, by avoiding the costs of registration and regulation, are placed in an unfair competitive advantage.

For its part ECSSA will make every effort to avoid increased unnecessary costs on its Members but unfortunately the recent increase of over 100% in the Postage of many of the more common items which members order means that some of this additional cost has to be passed on to the REC by way of an increase in the price of those items which fall into the higher postage bracket.

Breeda Moynihan Cronin
Chairperson



In this Issue:

- Return of Non-Conformance Notices
- Periodic Inspection Reports for Petrol Forecourts
- Bonding in Hot Presses
- ET101 & Amendments
- Run-On Insurance

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Breeda Moynihan Cronin
Chairperson of ECSSA



IMPORTANT NOTICE - POST CONNECTION CERTS

Can we make a final appeal to all Members to **return** any **outstanding POST Connection Certs**.

We do not make these Rules but we are expected to enforce them and that enforcement is about to commence with the rejection of Pre Connection Certs from Contractors who have neither returned Post Connection Certs or explained why they cannot be returned. Like the Qualified Certifier Number, it is regrettable that Contractors do not take these requirements seriously until Certs start to come back to them.

Please avoid delay for your future installations by finalising certification of installations already connected.

1. Periodic Inspection Reports for Petrol Forecourts

Electrical installations in Petrol Forecourts fall into the “Potentially Explosive Atmospheres” category.

The Electrical Installations (and Testing) in such areas should comply with:

“ET 105:2011 Third Edition”. “National Rules for Electrical Installations in Explosive Atmospheres” in addition they must also comply with Part 8 of the SH&WW legislation.

Any Electrical Contractor undertaking work in such areas should familiarise themselves with the relevant legal requirements and ET 105:2011.

Insurance Companies or Local Authorities often require a Periodic Inspection Report specifically for Petrol Forecourts.

The issuing of the **ET101:2008** Periodic Inspection Report document is **not acceptable** for such Installations.

A Periodic Inspection Report for such Installations should be done on the Contractors headed paper.

Part 6 (Verification, Inspection and Testing) of ET 105:2011 outlines the specific testing requirements.

The following tests are a **legal requirement** as per SI

311/1979 Dangerous Substances Act (Retail and Private Petroleum Stores) including a number of amendments.

- (a) the verification of polarity,
- (b) the effectiveness of the earth loop impedance,
- (c) the conductance of the earth conductor and earth plate or earth rods,
- (d) the effectiveness of every earth-leakage circuit breaker,
- (e) the insulation resistance of every circuit, and
- (f) the suitability, effectiveness and condition of all

cables, switches, fuses, plugs and socket outlets having due regard to the other provisions of this Regulation and a certificate, in such form as may be approved by the licensing authority, of the results of every such inspection and test and shall be kept available by a licensee for inspection by the licensing authority.

* Note this is the actual wording of SI 311/1979.

**Note: All relevant Legislation may be referenced / downloaded from www.irishstatutebook.ie.

Contractors should also refer to www.etci.ie and check the section headed “Explosive Atmospheres”

2. Return of Non-Conformance Notices issued by an Inspector during Annual Audit/Inspection

In accordance with CER requirements, Inspectors must issue a Non-Conformance Notice to the contractor in respect of each breach of Regulations or the CER Criteria found in the course of an inspection.

One copy goes to the Contractor, one to the Inspector and the third is returned to ECSSA, where it is placed on file until the Contractor’s Copy is returned signed and confirming that the breach(s) listed have all be rectified.

We would urge everybody who has been issued with a Non-Conformance Notice to ensure that they are returned without delay as the eventual enforcement of this procedure will mean that further Completion Certs may not be processed while the Non-Conformance Notice remains outstanding.

3. ET101 & Amendments

When the 4th Edition of ET101 was issued, it was quickly found that there were a number of items which were either incorrect or needed further clarification.

ETCI dealt with this issue by issuing Amendment Number 1 (ET101:2008/A1:2011).

This Amendment is now provided Free of Charge with all copies of ET101 purchased from ECSSA and the printed Amendment to all contractors who purchased ET101 from ECSSA since it’s introduction.

Since 2011, a number of further Amendments have been found necessary and these are published on the ETCI website [HYPERLINK "http://www.etci.ie" www.etci.ie](http://www.etci.ie), from where they can be downloaded Free of Charge.

Contractors should therefore be aware that in order to have all the necessary technical documentation as required by CER, they should have the following:

- (i) ET101:2008
- (ii) ET101:2008 /A1:2011
- (iii) A Print Out of the latest Amendments from the ETCI Website

Failure to have all three available during an Annual Inspection /Audit will result in the issue of a Non Conformance Notice.

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4. Bonding in Hot Presses

ECSSA continues to receive queries from Members who have carried out work on the upgrading of heating systems for contractors working under the SEAI Scheme.

The main items queried appears to be that SEAI have been awarding Penalty Points to Heating Contractors for the absence of a 10sq bonding cable in the hot press, even where the entire installation is carried out in Qualplex, or other non-conducting points.

There is no Rule in ET101 which calls for this bonding requirement and it is therefore unacceptable that contractors should be penalised for carrying out their installations in accordance with the ETCI National Wiring Rules.

On page 126 of ET207, The Guide to the National Wiring Rules as published the Electro Technical Council of Ireland (ETCI), it is clearly stated that:

“Where the bath is metal and the connecting pipe work plastic, the bath is considered to be isolated and need not be bonded

This applies also to hot water radiators etc”

In this context the Cylinder in the Hot Press falls into the same category and need not be bonded as any short stubs of copper to which the plastic pipes are connected are deemed to be all part of the tank from an electrical conductivity point of view.

Additionally, on page 126, ET207 states that direct connection of a bonded system to the main earth terminal has not been a requirement since the year 2000.

In fact it is now regarded as undesirable to attach a bonding or earth conductor to an isolated metal object, such as the cylinder in this case, in that by doing so you are introducing a path by which an electrical charge could become present on metal, which, in the absence of the earth conductor, would have no possible means of generating or becoming charged with voltage.

If an electric immersion heater is fitted to the cylinder it must of course be earthed, as is the case with every electrical appliance, but the earth in the circuit supplying the immersion heater is deemed to be sufficient for compliance with ETCI Wiring Rules.

Where the installations which are the subject of these complaints from SEAI are carried out in its entirety in Qualplex, or other non-conducting pipes, the need for bonding or earthing in the hot-press **does not arise and should in fact be avoided for the reasons set out earlier.**

We will contact ETCI with a view to having a clarification sent to SEAI on this matter.

Restricted Works

ECSSA understands that barring unforeseen delay, the Restricted Work Order will come into force from October 1st next. Thereafter, it will be illegal for anybody other than a Registered Electrical Contractor to carry out electrical work in most domestic situations.

Full details of the scope of Restricted Works will be available once there is a formal announcement of the commencement date for the Order.

ECSSA will then circulate the relevant information to RECs, both on our website and in the next Newsletter.



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