

RECI

NEWS

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New Chairman



Thomas Heffernan, Chairman, RECI

Thomas Heffernan has been appointed Chairman of RECI to succeed the outgoing Chairman Ivan Hammond. He is a prominent electrical contractor in the West of Ireland and has been an AECI member since 1974. He served as President of the AECI for a period of three years. He is also a peace Commissioner for Galway City/County and surrounding counties. He has been a director of RECI for 10 years.

RECI Memo — Email

Approximately 700 registered contractors have notified RECI of their email address. These contractors can be notified promptly regarding technical or other information on the RECI Memo System.

If you have an email address but have not given it to the RECI office please do so and you will then receive RECI Memos. Email your address today to info@reci.ie.

REGISTER OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS OF IRELAND

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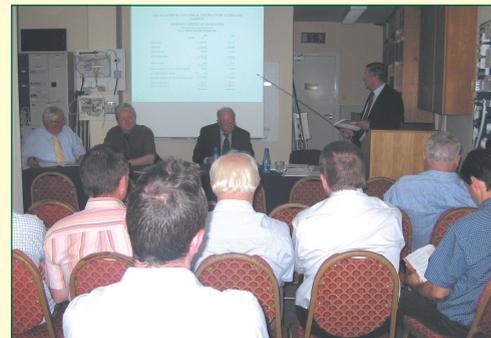
RECI Annual General Meeting

The 14th AGM was held at KCR Industrial Estate on Saturday, 17th June 2006. The Chairman, Ivan Hammond in his address, told the meeting that the second stage of the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2006, which will provide for the regulation of the electrical contracting sector by the Commission of Energy Regulation (CER), has been debated in Dáil Eireann. It is expected that when the CER have this statutory backing they will take a more proactive role in the safety regulation of the industry. He also reported that discussions with ESB Networks were at an advanced stage in relation to processing of completion certificates directly to RECI on a nationwide basis.

The AECI motion to delete part of Rule 4.2 (Grandfather Clause) was passed. The General Manager made a presentation in relation to the other two AECI motions

explaining RECI's position and submitting relevant documents to the meeting. After a general discussion the President of AECI withdrew the motions.

The Chairman thanked his fellow directors and the staff of RECI for their support during his term of office and he welcomed the incoming Chairman Tommy Heffernan of AECI.



AGM in progress in RECI Training Centre

Energy Bill Delayed

Unfortunately the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2006 which will authorise the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) to supervise the electrical contracting regulatory bodies, was not passed into law before the Dáil broke up for the summer holidays. However, the Committee stage is proceeding in July and it is expected that the Bill will be finalised in the autumn.

The Bill will determine a number of obligations which the CER, regulatory bodies and electrical contractors must undertake, and shall also set down high level policies related to the regulation of the industry to be reflected in the Criteria Document. The current draft of the Bill states among other things:

- An organisation may not act as a regulatory body if it becomes a trade association or performs representative functions on behalf of persons working in the electrical industry;
- A contractor may not be a member of more than one regulatory body;

- A person shall not describe himself or herself as a registered electrical contractor unless that person is for the time being a member of a regulatory body;
- A person who contravenes this section is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine €5,000 or imprisonment of 6 months. On conviction on indictment to a fine not exceeding €15,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or both;
- The CER may by regulations designate a class or classes of electrical works to be designated electrical works. A person may not carry out electrical works which are designated electrical works unless that person is a registered electrical contractor;
- A person who contravenes this section is guilty of an offence and is liable to the same penalties as set out above.

We understand that it has not yet been decided what type of installation will be defined as designated electrical works but we are confident that the CER will act in the best interest of public safety.

Licensing of Alarm Installers By the Private Security Authority (PSA)

The main functions of the Authority are to control and monitor the private security industry generally and the improvement of standards within the industry. This remit extends to both companies and employees involved in security guarding, door security, event management, alarm installation and receiving, private investigators, locksmiths and security consultants.

Alarm installation contractors are required to comply with EN 50131: 1997 for intruder alarms. Compliance with best practice in company formation, recruitment and training of staff are a key component of PSA licensing. Those elements are detailed in SR 40: 2005 "Electronic Security Service: Intruder Alarm, Access Control and CCTV Systems".

Certain aspects of this legislation require clarification and amendment. RECI are in discussion with the PSA on these matters.

EIFI Person of the Year

The Electrical Industries Federation of Ireland held their President's lunch on 9th May 2006 in the executive suite of Croke Park. As is customary Noel Simpson, President at the end of his two years in office made an award to a person who has made a significant contribution to the industry. This year the award was made to Michael Moran, Managing Director, Moran Electrical Services in recognition for his many years of involvement at all levels of the electrical contracting industry.

Michael has been President of the Association of Electrical Contractors of Ireland (AECI) on two occasions from 1979-1981 and 1989-1991. He has been Vice President of the Electro Technical Council of Ireland (ETCI) and is a member of the Board of Directors and on the Wiring Rules Committee.

He was a founding director of the Register of Electrical Contractors of Ireland (RECI) in 1992 and was Chairman from 1998-2000. In his speech, Noel Simpson, EIFI President, paid tribute to the contribution Michael Moran has made to improvements in the safety and standards of electrical installations. He is held in the highest esteem by all sectors of the electrical industry in Ireland. His own company is one of the foremost electrical contractors in the country and he still finds time to sit on other boards which are contributing to economic development in the west of Ireland. Michael's wife Bridie and his family attended the lunch which was a memorable occasion.



David McGoughlin, General Manager, RECI with Ivan Hammond, Chairman, RECI; Michael Moran; Kevin Kelly, Chief Inspector, RECI; and Jim Dullaghan, ESB

Serious Near Misses

ESB Networks (ESBN) staff have experienced a number of very serious "near misses" throughout the country during the recent past. These incidents could have had consequences for us all upto and including fatalities.

The main type of work that presents this problem is the wiring of apartments/commercial units. The usual scenario is that someone is moving into an apartment/unit before ESBN have energised the meter covering that particular account. The electrical contractor "borrows" electricity from another meter e.g. landlord or another meter to energise the apartment/unit waiting for its own meter. This can create a dangerous situation for an unsuspecting Network Technician or others in close proximity to the metering position.

In the most recent incident the contractor connected another customer's electricity down stream of the "new customers" main isolation/overcurrent device. This particular device was switched to the "off" position. Subsequently the new customers meter was fitted by ESBN and the contractor connected the new tails to this meter leaving the isolator open (note the customers main isolation/over current device was

still in the "off" position). He then closed the customers' main isolation/over current device and forgot to remove the "borrowed" cable.

In this new situation you had electricity feeding as before but there now was different phases connected to the same circuit separated only by an open isolator at the meter.

The new meter's register did not advance and the customer complained that they had received no electricity bill. A follow up call by ESBN staff discovered the open isolator at the meter with a different voltage source at either side of the isolator and worse still a different phase i.e. 400V.

This standard of electrical work is unacceptable and only for the vigilance of the ESBN staff involved in these situations we could have some serious accidents or worse still fatalities.

Please avoid compromising safety at all times in your work.



Jim Keogh, Standards Manager at Customer Interface, ESB Networks

Completion Certificate Developments

The Regulatory Bodies and ESB Networks (ESBN) have agreed to make a number of improvements to the completion certificate process. They are:—

- Return of certificates directly to the regulatory bodies for validation before being sent to ESBN to improve safety and assign responsibility for validation to the appropriate parties;
- Validation that the MPRN address on the certificate matches MPRN and address on ESBN IT systems before certificates are returned to ESBN, to further improve safety and eliminate subsequent delays caused by mismatches.

ESBN will set up a Web Services IT system so that the IT systems used by the regulatory bodies to record the completed certificates and the Electronic Cert System used by contractors, can call these Web Services to ensure that the MPRN and address is validated and the certification details are automatically sent to ESBN.

It is hoped that this initiative will be going live in January 2007.

ELECTRONIC COMPLETION CERTIFICATES

Use of the electronic cert system by contractors is increasing steadily. There have been some bugs in the system from time to time but this is to be expected in the development of new computer software. In general the contractors using the system are very pleased.

ESBN are developing their computer systems to take account of the routing of completion certificates through the regulatory bodies and this will have a benefit for the electronic system as well.

In future when a contractor enters the MPRN to fill in an electronic completion certificate, he will be connected to the ESB MPRN site via a Web Services arrangement and the site address for that MPRN will automatically come up on his computer. If this address does not agree

with the address he has been given by his customer he must sort it out before filling out the completion certificate. This should prevent any mistakes whereby the wrong installation is connected.

We are very happy to talk you through the system if you wish or we will give you a demonstration in the RECI office. If you want to get started ring Nuala on 01 - 492 9966 or email sales@reci.ie. Some of the benefits of using the Electronic Cert System are as follows:—

- No possibility of certificates getting lost or delayed in the post or mislaid during processing;
- A certificate cannot be rejected because it is not properly completed;
- Contractor has full control of certificates – no books of certificates to get lost;
- Easy reference to certificates at any time;
- The electronic certificate gives a good impression to your customer.

TECHNICAL NEWS

Cable Core Colours

ETCI have issued the following amendment to Chapter 51: Common Rules: Clause 514.3.4 (Amendment No 2) to be effective from Wednesday 24th May 2006:—

Delete the last paragraph beginning “*The following applies to insulated-conductor systems containing multi phase circuits ... shall be brown*” and insert the following in its place:—

Note: “*Where single- phase circuits are fed directly from a three-phase distribution board, the appropriate phase colours may be extended into the single-phase circuits fed from that phase. In all other single-phase circuits, the phase colours shall be brown.*”

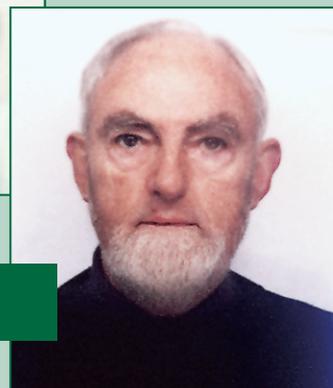
RECI COMMENT:

This means that where single-phase circuits are fed directly from a three-phase distribution board the appropriate phase colours may be extended into the single-phase circuits fed from that phase or alternatively the single phase circuits may all be brown.

Inspectors Retire



Inspector Martin Hopkins



Inspector Joe Kearns

Inspectors Martin Hopkins and Joe Kearns have retired after 14 years service with RECI.

They both joined RECI when it commenced operations in 1992 and helped to develop the inspection procedures. They have earned the respect of registered contractors through their professionalism, dedication and strong commitment to electrical safety.

Our thanks go to Joe and Martin for their many years of service to RECI and we wish them a long, healthy and happy retirement.