

CER Launch Safe Electric Logo CER Update

The CER consider promotion of the new regulatory system as a critical element to ensuring its success, especially promotion targeting the public and customers. This is essential in order to ensure that the public, specifically customers of electrical installation services, are aware of the regulatory system. The following areas are to be promoted targeting the public and customers:

- Raising awareness of the necessity, importance and advantages of selecting a Registered Electrical Contractor
- The entitlements of the customer with respect to using a Registered Electrical Contractor (with respect to certification etc)
- Making complaints against Registered Electrical Contractors concerning the safety of electrical work and / or other relevant matters.

The CER is of the view that it is important that one clear brand message is established



New brand for Regulatory Scheme

and that this is critical to the success of raising public awareness of the new regulatory system. The distinctive Safe Electric logo has been designed for this purpose. The CER will launch this brand on 28th April 2010 and the launch will be followed by a TV and radio advertising campaign. Only Registered Electrical Contractors will be legally permitted to use the logo.

A meeting of the Electrical Contractors Criteria Review Panel was held on 9th March 2010. This panel monitors the progress of the new regulatory system and considers suggestions from panel members for improvements or modifications to the Criteria Document. Ms. Karen Trant who is the Manager Safety Supervision of the CER gave a presentation on the progress of the scheme to date.

Common Procedures for Certification, Enforcement, Modifications, Change of Contractor, Transfer of Registration and Third Party Inspection have been published so far. A procedure for Performance Marking is being developed and will "go live" on 1st July (see details elsewhere in newsletter). A Notification of Potential Hazard and Emergency Notice procedure which is part of the Criteria Document is also being worked on.

Modifications

The following modifications to the Criteria Document have taken place so far. These modifications can be viewed on the CER website www.cer.ie:

- Modification 1 (cer/09/174) – role of complaints officer
- Modification 2 (cer/10/035) – role of complainant in the Disciplinary Process
- Modification 3 (cer/10/036) – SSB investigation of change of contractor requests

Legislation

The CER are working on an amendment to the legislation in relation to the powers of enforcement of an Authorised Officer. This will enable an Authorised Officer to carry out inspections of electrical work on any building where the Authorised Officer believes such work is being or has been carried out by registered or non-registered contractors. The proposed amendment will create an "Electrical Investigation Officer" who will have powers of entry.

Restricted Works

Controlled Works are electrical installation work for which a completion certificate must be issued by a registered contractor but can also be completed by non-registered contractors (in which case an inspection must be obtained from a Safety Body for a

New General Manager



Paul Waldron

Due to the retirement on 30th April 2010 of David McGloughlin who has been General Manager of RECI since 1996 the Board have appointed Paul Waldron to take up the position. He will be responsible for the management of RECI and RGI reporting to the Board of each company. Paul joined RECI on 8th April. He is an experienced manager having been Chief Executive of Legrand Ireland. He is a past president of the Electrical Manufacturers and Distributors Association. The board of RECI extend their best wishes to David McGloughlin on his retirement.

RECI AGM 2010

The 17th Annual General Meeting of RECI will be held in the Green Isle hotel on Saturday 29th May starting at 11.30am. The Chairman John Desmond in his annual statement refers to the very busy year just past.

During the year the CER published documents on Controlled Works, Certification, Enforcement and other topics. You have been informed of these developments in the RECI newsletter and all registered contractors should make sure that they are implementing them fully. The next and most important development will be the introduction of Restricted Works which are categories of electrical installations that can only be completed and certified by Registered Electrical Contractors. It is important that Restricted Works encompass as wide a range of electrical installations as possible and we will do everything we can to ensure that this happens. The CER have stated that they will make a decision on Restricted Works by the fourth quarter of 2010.

Every third year all the Directors retire but are eligible for re-election. This year there will be changes in the composition of the board which were approved at the EGM last November.

New Four-Part Completion Certificate

In the January issue of the RECI News we gave details of the requirements for contractors to send a copy of the completion certificate to RECI after the Post Connection Tests have been completed. A new certificate with four parts will replace the existing certificate to facilitate this. However contractors can use up any certificates they currently have in their possession by making a photocopy after the Post Connection Tests have been signed and sending the photocopy to RECI. On the 27th April all RECI stock of old certificates will be replaced with the new type. The changes on the certificates are high-lighted on the example of a less than 50kVA certificate shown here. The most significant new feature is the space for the Qualified Certifiers number to be entered in both the Pre-Connection and Post-Connection sections. Numbers will be issued to all qualified electricians who have attended a Verification and Certification course in the last three years. All Registered Contractors must have at least one Qualified Certifier. If you want more of your qualified electricians to be Qualified Certifiers RECI must be informed and copies of their qualifications must be submitted. When this new procedure is fully operational Completion Certificates which do not have a valid Qualified Certifiers number cannot be processed.

You should check when your Qualified Certifier last attended a Verification and Certification course and if it is more than three years ago he/she should book on a current course as soon as possible. RECI are running V and C courses regularly so that all Registered Contractors can comply with the CER requirement.

A tick box to indicate if there are any associated subsystem certificates has now been included on the less than 50kVA certificate. The numbers of these certificates should be entered in the comments box.

There is a new section for RCD tests. All RCDs must be tested and their respective "longest" tripping times recorded on the associated test record sheet. The information required on the certificate is the following; RCDs may have a rated tripping current (sensitivity) of 30mA, 100mA, 300mA or 500mA. The maximum trip time must be recorded for every RCD rating (sensitivity) installed. This maximum trip time must be recorded in addition to a short description of the circuit protected by the respective RCD. It is unlikely that all the RCD ratings (sensitivities) listed on the certificate will

Sub System Certs

Enter number here

Enter RCD details

Enter number here

be installed in the installation under test. If this is the case delete any RCD (sensitivity) that does not apply.

All copies of the new type certificate are

white but it is clearly marked at the bottom of each copy where it must be sent to.



New Director

Mr Karl Reid has recently been appointed to the board of RECI. He has been nominated by the ECA to replace their director David Phelan who retired from the board as he will be frequently out of the country on business. Karl is a Senior Project Manager with Precision Electric Ireland and has over 20 years experience in all areas of the electrical construction industry.

Performance Marking Scheme

Inspection and Audit of Registered Electrical Contractors by the Safety Supervisory Body is fundamental to the operation of the electrical safety scheme. Essentially an inspection and audit programme provides verification that the registered contractors are compliant with the rules of registration. In addition it allows for corrective action to take place in the event non-compliances are identified by the inspector.

The CER are now introducing a Performance Marking system which will assist all inspectors of both Safety Supervisory Bodies to evaluate registered contractors in a fair and consistent manner. The marking form which will be used is

shown here. Sections A to E cover the audit and sections F to M cover the inspection of the electrical installation work. The inspector will tick the items which are in order but where items are non-compliant penalty points in accordance with the numbers shown on the form are allocated to the contractor. The points in the red boxes are considered to be more serious breaches than the breaches in the amber boxes. The total of any penalty points awarded by the inspector is recorded on the contractors file and will be inputted to the Safety Bodies database for performance monitoring and development of a risk based inspection programme. Where penalty points equal or exceed certain limits the

Safety Body will at its discretion apply one or more of the following options:

- Specified training to correct deficiencies
- Initiate a regime of inspection (including other installations self-certified by the contractor if breaches found are a concern for safety) including unannounced inspections
- Issue formal warning to the contractor to correct deficiencies
- Withdrawal of self-certification privileges pending completion of corrective actions
- Initiate disciplinary proceedings against the contractor
- The CER have instructed that this new Inspection and Audit procedure is to start on 1st of July 2010.

No	Description	Penalty Points	Tick ✓ / N.A	No	Description	Penalty Points	Tick ✓ / N.A
A- Persons Carrying Out Electrical Installation Work				I- Cabling			
1	Principle Duty Holder –Fulfillment of Responsibilities (See Sub-Clause C.1.2.5.)	2		1	Correct cable sizes used.	8	
2	Qualified Certifiers – Requirements met (See Sub-Clauses C.1.2.7.:1.2.8; 1.2.10 & 1.2.11.)	5		2	Protection against direct contact provided.	10	
3	Persons carrying out electrical works –Competence & Records (See Sub-Clauses C.1.2.15 & 1.2.16.)	3		3	Heat resistant cable used for immersion.	5	
B- Test Equipment				4	Immersion flex sized correctly.	5	
1	Availability -Compliance with Sub-Clause C 1.2.19.	5		5	Correct cable core colours.	5	
2	Calibration – Compliance with Sub-Clause C.1.2.20.	2		6	Correct joint connections. (No taped joints).	5	
3	Calibration Records – Compliance with Sub-Clause C.1.2.21.	1		7	Connections made off correctly. (No loose connections)	8	
C- Reference Documents				8	PVC insulation clear of contact with expanded polystyrene.	5	
1	Availability of necessary Technical reference Documents- Compliance with Sub-Clauses C. 1.2.22 & 1.2.23.	3		9	Sleeving provided on earth wire.	3	
D- Certification (See Clauses C. 4.3; 4.4 & 4.5. and Common Procedure No. 1)				10	Satisfactory routing of cables in attic.	5	
1	Certificates issued for all controlled works.	3		11	Additional mechanical protection provided as required.	3	
2	Contractors copy and associated test record sheets filed	2		12	Circuits separated where necessary.	5	
3	Certification procedure complied with.	2		13	U/G cables ducted correctly and at correct depths.	3	
4	Appropriate types of Certificate used.	1		J- Accessories, Fittings & Enclosures			
E- Co-operation with Auditor/Inspector				1	ELV light fittings and/or Downlighters correctly installed in potential fire hazard locations.	8	
1	Requirements of the SSB met (Sub-Clause C.5.2.7.)	5		2	Light switches correctly earthed.	5	
F- Earth Electrode Installation				3	Joint boxes provided at wall light positions.	3	
1	Earth electrode connected to main earth terminal.	8		4	Enclosure provided as required for loose terminals.	3	
2	Protective tape on earth electrode	3		5	Local isolation provided as required.	3	
3	Earth electrode connection accessible for initial inspection (see Rule 542.3.4).	3		6	Fan and/or isolator correctly located in bathroom.	5	
4	Inspection box on earth rod.	3		7	Light fittings in bathroom enclosed within zones.	5	
G- Earthing and Bonding.				8	Immersion switch correctly located.	3	
1	Neutralised	10		9	Correctly rated IP fittings used as required.	5	
2	Main bonding in accordance with Rules. (Rules 411.3.2. & 544.1 refer.)	8		10	Isolator provided for motorised valve.	3	
3	Protective conductor installed. (See Rules 543 & 411)	10		11	Maintenance isolator provided for outdoor boiler.	3	
4	Local bonding in bathroom(s), kitchen complete.	8		12	Correct socket types fitted in work areas.	3	
5	Correct size cable for bonding.	8		13	Joint boxes accessible for connection.	3	
6	Correct and adequate bonding connections installed (see Rule 544.1.4.)	8		14	Apertures and openings properly completed (e.g. fireproofed, no sharp edges, etc.)	3	
H- Distribution Board and Protection Devices.				K- Meter Box, Switchroom & Equipment.			
1	Located correctly/accessible.	8		1	ESBN interface requirements complied with.	4	
2	Distribution board labelled.	5		2	Protective device fitted in meter box for cable to distribution Board more than 3 metre distance.	3	
3	Fireproof backing for Distribution board where necessary (see Rule 515.1.2).	3		3	Correct interface equipment fitted.	4	
4	Neutral and protective conductors in same sequence as corresponding phase conductors (Rule 530.5.10.)	5		4	Switchroom location in accordance with guidelines.	4	
5	RCD provided for sockets.	5		5	Clearances and space factors requirements complied with at time of installation.	5	
6	Dedicated RCD for electric showers.	8		L- Standard of Testing and Protection Performance.			
7	Interlock provided for two electric showers on same circuit where supply is inadequate for two units.	3		1	Loop impedance readings not exceeding maximum values as per tables in Annex 61 F of ET 101:2008.	8	
8	Correct MCB for sockets.	3		2	RCDs operating to required parameters.	8	
9	Correct MCB for lighting.	3		3	Insulation resistance below minimum permitted value.	8	
10	Correct protection for ring final circuit.	5		4	Correct discrimination of protective devices.	6	
11	Correct overload protection	5		5	Satisfactory standard of testing	8	
12	Correct RCDs installed for Fire Risk Areas.	6		M. Quality of Equipment & Material Used.			
13	Polarity correct at all outlets.	8		1	REC confirms compliance with Rule 133.1.		X
14	Correct location of main electrical isolation and labelled	8					

CER Update continued from front page

fee). The CER are now preparing to identify categories of electrical installations that can only be completed and certified by registered electrical contractors. These categories will be called Restricted Works. RECI want as wide a scope as possible of installation work to be designated Restricted Works and will be advocating this to the CER. Preliminary proposals are to be submitted to the CER in quarter two of 2010. There will be a meeting in quarter three for discussion on the matter and the CER will publish their decision paper in quarter four. This will be the most important decision in relation to the Regulatory Scheme and we will keep RECI members advised of progress.

Training

The CER recognise the need for a common standard for Verification and Certification training courses and especially a common assessment system. In order to develop a training system to meet this need the ETCI are teaming up with Dublin Institute of Technology and will make a DIT award available for attendance and assessment on an approved training course. It is envisaged that training organisations currently providing Verification and Certification

courses will be approved to present the course. Once a person has obtained the award they will not be required to attend the course again after a three year period. An assessment will be all that is necessary.

Next Steps

The next steps in the development of the Regulatory System can be summarised as follows:

- Audit of Safety Bodies. KMPG have been appointed by CER as the auditors. Each Safety Body will be subject to two audits this year. The first of the audits are scheduled to take place end of April beginning of May.
- PR campaign – CER will launch campaign on 28th April
- Disposal of three part certificates and new four part certificates in operation
- Full operation of Performance Marking scheme
- Working group to develop “Notification of Potential Hazard Procedure”
- Commence work on “Restricted Works”

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