

RECI News

Accredited Training Course – Qualified Certifier

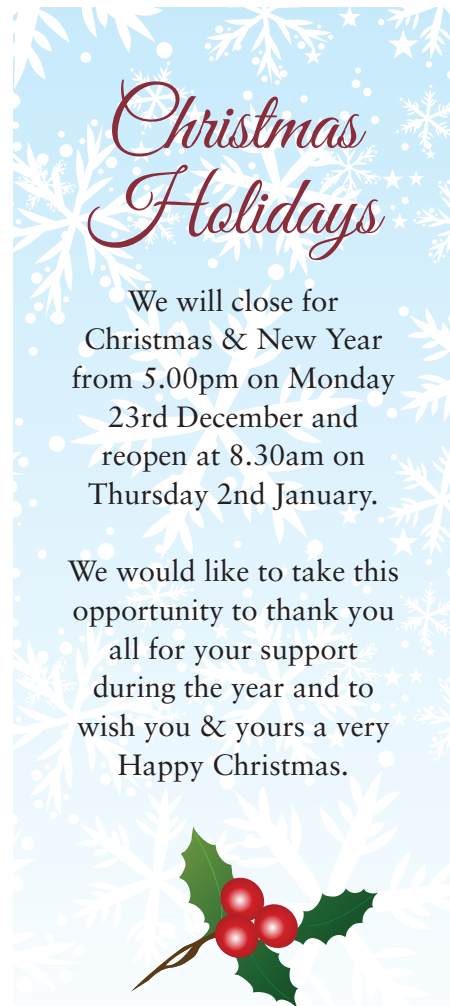
We are working with the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Dublin Institute of Technology in developing an accredited course for Qualified Certifier in the Inspection, Testing, Verification and Certification of Electrical Installations in Ireland. We met with the Institute's Accreditation Panel in Q4 2013 who were pleased to recommend to the Academic Council that RECI be accredited as a suitable partner with which the Institute might collaborate in relation to the proposed CPD Certificate in Qualified Certifier. The course will carry 2 ECTS Credits and is a Level 7 award on the National Framework of Qualifications. We plan to have this course accredited and ready in Q1 2014 and will write to members with full details in due course. Details will also be posted on the RECI website.

Insurance renewal

As the year end is fast approaching please be aware that we need to receive notice of your insurance renewal in advance of its expiry to maintain your presence on the register i.e. your company is automatically removed from the RECI website the day after the expiry date. If the renewal notice is still not received 2 weeks after the expiry day, you will be suspended.

Price Drop - Minor Works Certs

Following on from the introduction of Restricted Works and the increasing public awareness of only having a REC carry out work in the home, we are reducing the price for a book of 10 Declaration of Compliance with ET101 for Minor Electrical Installation Works to €34.00 +VAT as and from 1st January 2014.



Christmas Holidays

We will close for Christmas & New Year from 5.00pm on Monday 23rd December and reopen at 8.30am on Thursday 2nd January.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during the year and to wish you & yours a very Happy Christmas.

National Rules for Electrical Installations

4th Edition ET101:2008 Guidelines for Certification of Electrical Installations that were begun before 30th September 2009 e.g. NAMA type installations

Introduction

Following the publication of the National Rules for Electrical Installations 4th Edition ET101:2008, it was decided that the date of implementation would be 30th September 2009. This meant that all electrical installations completed after this date must comply with the 4th Edition. A situation has arisen due to the recession whereby many electrical installations have been left in an unfinished state since 2008. The installation would have been designed to the 3rd Edition, and, presumably, intended for completion before September 2009. At some future time, when the completion process of the electrical installation is resumed, the question arises concerning which Edition of the Rules should apply. A similar situation can arise in the case of large projects which were begun before September 2009.

The requirements to be observed are given below.

Certification of Electrical Installations Begun before 30th September 2009 for Compliance with the 3rd Edition

1. Installations completed before 30th September 2009 may be certified for compliance with the 3rd Edition.
2. Installations begun before 30th September 2009, and in a substantial state of advancement, may be completed and certified in accordance with the 3rd Edition.
3. For the purposes of these Guidelines, the date of the installation is considered to be the date on which work commenced on site. The date should be verifiable.
4. A project designed in accordance with the 3rd Edition, where work did not commence on site before 30th September 2009, must be revised so as to comply with the 4th Edition.

Qualified Certifier

Since 1 July 2012 only certificates signed by the Holder of a valid Qualified Certifier Number (QC No) are processed for transmission to ESB. To obtain a QC No, Registered Electrical Contractors (RECs) must, since 1 July 2013, successfully complete an accredited Verification & Certification (V&C) course and be suitably qualified i.e. be in the possession of a trade certificate or any other suitable electrical award equivalent to level 6 or higher on the National Frame of Qualifications.

Current providers of the accredited V&C course are Fás, Metac and iSkill and contact details of each training provider can be found on the RECI website www.reci.ie. RECI is currently making preparations to offer an accredited V&C course in the first quarter of 2014.

On receipt of a training provider report confirming that a REC has successfully completed a V&C course and providing RECI has evidence of suitable qualification, a QC No will be issued to the REC without delay. However, in order to guarantee the validity of the QC No, **a copy of the final certificate issued by City & Guilds must be sent to RECI as soon as received by the REC.**

Certification

As per Common Procedure No 5 (Enforcement) of the Criteria Document CER/13/098 it is a requirement that Post Connection Test Certificates are returned to RECI without delay i.e. within 35 working days, as a proof that the tests have been carried out and that the installation is safe. In cases where certificates are not returned within the specified time, two reminder letters are sent to the RECs, with the request to provide a valid reason as to why the tests have not been completed. If no feedback is received, a letter will be sent to the owner/occupier with the advice to contact another REC if the original REC is unable to perform the tests. The original REC may be barred from processing certificates. In every such case, RECI is acting in the interest of safety and cannot take into account any contractual or commercial dispute.

Inspection

A Non-Conformance Notice is issued to the REC by the Inspector when non-conformances have been found during an inspection. The listed non-conformances may originate from the audit report or from the inspection report, or both.

Non-conformances must be rectified by the date marked on the notice. In cases where the notice is not returned within the specified time, two reminder letters are sent to the REC with the request to confirm rectification or state a valid reason as to why the non-conformance could not be rectified. If no feedback is received, a final letter is sent to the REC stating that he/she is barred from processing certificates.

Reporting of Illegal Electrical Work

If you have reason to suspect that someone who is not a Registered Electrical Contractor is carrying out electrical work in domestic premises, you can complete a report form available on the Safe Electric website www.safeelectric.ie

The RECI website www.reci.ie has also a link to the Safe Electric website to report Illegal Electrical Work.

Enactment of Restricted Works

From the 1st October 2013 and except for minor electrical work (*) only a Registered Electrical Contractor (REC) can carry out electrical work in a Domestic Property. This means that, except for minor works, it is illegal for a non-Registered Contractor to carry out electrical work in domestic premises.

(*): Minor electrical works generally involves “like for like” replacements of switches, sockets, lighting fittings and/or additions to an existing circuit. This work must also be in compliance with the National Wiring Rules.

Examples of minor works:

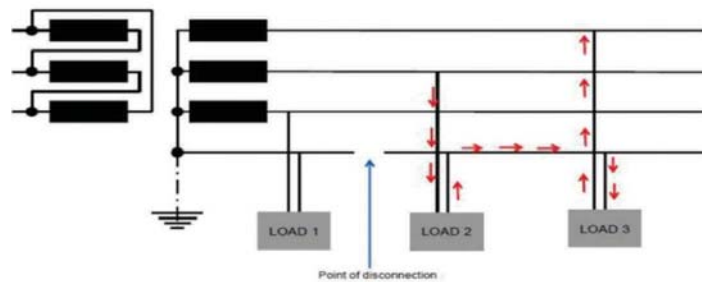
- Replacement of an electrical accessory such as light switch;
- Replacement or relocation of light fitting where the existing circuit is retained; and
- Provision of an additional socket to an existing radial circuit

Information Bulletin from the National Wiring Rules Committee ETCI

The ETCI (Electro Technical Council of Ireland) National Wiring Rules committee (TC2) is considering the introduction of a new clause in ET101 covering the installation (if deemed necessary by the installer) of a Power frequency Overvoltage Protective Device (known as a “POP” device). Its purpose, when installed, is to reduce or eliminate the possibility of damage to an electrical installation and connected electrical appliances / equipment that may result from an unexpected loss of the neutral conductor.

In simple terms the effect from a break in the return path of the circuit example shown on the right is dependent on the impedance of the connected loads in each respective phase connected downstream of the “point of disconnection”. If each affected single phase load had the same impedance, the voltage appearing across each load should be the same (balanced) i.e. 230V AC. However in a system where individual single phase loads are connected, it would be very unlikely that each load impedance would be the same as its neighbouring phase. The outcome in this situation would be an unbalanced voltage distribution across each downstream connected single phase load. This could result in a voltage level approaching line voltage (400V) appearing across the single phase load with the higher impedance. In the example shown the voltage across Load 1 would be unaffected i.e. it would remain at 230V. However Loads 2 and Load 3 would experience the outcome as described above.

Many experienced electrical contractors and consultants will be familiar with the damage and the potential danger that results from this type of fault. In most instances, and to make



matters even worse, the higher impedances are associated with appliances / equipment containing expensive electronic components. These connected loads are rated for 230V. Product standards for conditions of normal use do not take into consideration this type of situation where sustained voltages approaching 400V may unfortunately occur.

This is an expensive and distressing experience for any electricity user but more importantly it introduces a potentially dangerous situation which might be reduced or perhaps avoided by the use of the POP device.

The National Wiring Rules committee TC2 would welcome any comment regarding this proposal to introduce an additional clause in Chapter 44 of the National Wiring Rules ET101 introducing a choice to install this particular device.

For further information regarding the actual product standard please refer to IS EN 50550. You may preview or purchase this standard at www.standards.ie

Jim Keogh Chairman TC2 ETCI





ET214:2013


The ETCI Technical Committee has recently produced the 2nd Edition of ET214:2013 **Guide to the Selection and Use of Residual Current Devices**. This document is available via free download from the ETCI website.

The Guide is intended to provide guidelines for the selection, installation and use of Residual Current Devices (RCDs). The Guide is likely to be of benefit to electrical contractors, specifiers, and persons wishing to gain a wider understanding of the use of RCDs.

The Guide is intended to provide specifiers, installers and users of RCDs with a better understanding of the application, selection and use of such products. However, it is important to note that this publication is intended for use as a guide only, and has no regulatory or statutory status. This Guide should therefore be used in conjunction with the current issue of the National Rules for Electrical Installations (ET101), relevant product standards, and I.S. EN 61439:Low Voltage Switchgear and Control Gear Assemblies, where applicable.

Historically domestic installations only used equipment that generated full wave AC residual currents. RECI inspectors are coming across more and more domestic appliances that also generate pulsating DC residual currents. Some appliances have thyristor DC drives or rectifiers generating DC on the circuit.

Washing machines/dishwashers are an example. We are finding some installation manuals require that an 'A' type  RCD/RCBO is fitted. If an 'AC' type  is fitted then it may not operate correctly due to the presence of DC.

ET101 states that 'AC' type RCDs are for use only in domestic and similar installations. RECs should consider the type of loading of each circuit. RECI recommend that in domestic installations, socket circuits are protected by an 'A' type  RCDs/ RCBO. This will help 'future proof' the installation.

Further information to aid the correct selection of an RCD/RCBO can be found in ET214:2013



ARACHAS
The Irish for Insurance

PROVIDING INSURANCE SOLUTIONS FOR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS SINCE 1986

Simply the best insurance package in the market

Call our dedicated team for a quote.

Tel: 01 213 5000
Fax: 01 213 5001
Web: www.arachas.ie
Email: insure@arachas.ie

Arachas Leasacairte-Inseoirí Ltd trading as Arachas is regulated by the Financial Regulator as an Authorized Advisor and as a Mortgage Intermediary