

RECI Contractor of the Year Awards



L to R John Browne, Kirby Group Engineering, Industrial/Commercial winner with Duncan Stewart and James Conefrey, Conefrey Electrical Services Ltd, National Winner in the Domestic Category.



L to R Michael Garvey, Hibernian-Aviva, Duncan Stewart, TV Architect Guest Speaker, John Browne, Kirby Group Engineering, National Winner Industrial/Commercial category, Guy Percival, Director, Arachas Corporate Brokers, and John Desmond, Chairman RECI.

The RECI Contractor of the Year Awards were presented at a dinner in the Burlington Hotel in March. All the regional winners were represented at the function and were presented with a framed award to recognise their achievement.

The overall national winners in the two categories were announced at the event Industrial/Commercial - Kirby Group Engineering, of Limerick, represented by John Browne; Domestic Category - Conefrey Electrical Services, of Longford,

represented by James Conefrey. The winners in each of the eight regions are shown on page two.

The Panel of assessors was chaired by Dr. KT Kelly, Technical Consultant to RECI. The other panel members were Michael Brennan, Risk Manager – Hibernian Aviva; Jim Rice, RECI and ETCI Director and Kevin Kelly, RECI Chief Inspector. There was also a contribution from the RECI regional inspectors. The awards were presented by the well known architect and

TV broadcaster Duncan Stewart who congratulated all the winners. He referred to the difficult economic conditions which were affecting electrical contractors but said that they were ideally placed to benefit from new market opportunities relating to Ireland's energy efficiency and CO2 emissions objectives. He recommended that electrical contractors should look to up-skilling further to take full advantage of the need for specialist contractors in the field of renewables. He considered there was a

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Progress of New Regulatory System

The implementation of the new system commenced on 5th January 2009. RECI contractors who have renewed their registration have the right to describe themselves as a Registered Electrical Contractor (REC) with all the associated rights and responsibilities, including the right to undertake **Controlled** and **Restricted Works**. RECs will also be given the right to use the brand associated with the new regulatory system and which belongs to the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER). We have been advised that this will be a distinctive logo and will be available in the near future.

The Criteria Document (Cer/08/071)

The Criteria Document sets out the detailed rules and obligations that both registered electrical contractors and the newly appointed Regulatory bodies i.e. RECI and ECSSA must adhere to under the new

regulatory system. Contractors should make themselves familiar with the Criteria Document, particularly sections C and D, E and F. The document can be downloaded from the CER website www.cer.ie. Click on "Electricity" on the home page. Then click "Safety" and then click on "Decision Documents". Scroll down until you reach "Criteria for the Regulation of Electrical Contractors – CER Decision". If you do not have access to the internet you may request a copy of the Criteria Document from the RECI office.

Another important decision document published by the CER is the Definition of the Scope of Controlled Works. Controlled Works are those electrical works which will come under the scope of the new regulatory system at the outset. These are electrical works which require a Completion Certificate to be issued.

The CER in consultation with RECI,

ECSSA, ETCI and ESB Networks are developing common procedures for the following,

- Certification
- Third Party Inspection
- Change of Contractor
- Enforcement

These procedures have been finalised subject to legal review and we expect that the CER will authorise their implementation in the near future.

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RECI AGM

The 17th Annual General Meeting takes place on Saturday 6th June at the Hilton Hotel, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 at 11.30am. A full report will appear in the next issue of RECI News.

RECI Contractor of the Year Awards *continued from page one*

shortage of suitably qualified contractors who knew and understood the advanced electronics of modern day controls and their vital role in the integration of emerging sustainable technologies.

The awards scheme was sponsored jointly by Hibernian – Aviva and Arachas Corporate Brokers and the Chairman of

RECI John Desmond paid a special vote of thanks to them for supporting the event.

Local newspapers and industry trade magazines have given extensive coverage to the event which helps to make the public aware of RECI's commitment to the highest standards of workmanship and safety in the electrical contracting industry.

RECI AWARD WINNERS 2009

DUBLIN REGION

Domestic

Pedreschi Electrical & Alarms

Industrial/Commercial

Eakins Electrical Contractors

MIDLANDS REGION

Domestic

Conefrey Electrical Services

Industrial/Commercial

Lima Electrical

NORTH EAST REGION

Domestic

PB Electrics

Industrial/Commercial

Brian King Engineering

SOUTH EAST REGION

Domestic

Dale Kirwan T/A NEAT Electrical

Industrial/Commercial

CJP Electrical T/A Smith's of Wicklow

SOUTH WEST REGION

Domestic

Stephen Slyne Electrical

Industrial/Commercial

O'Keeffe Electrical

NORTH WEST REGION

Domestic

Chris Doherty Electrical

Industrial/Commercial

Blackburn Electrical

WEST REGION

Domestic

Patrick Naughton Electrical

Industrial/Commercial

James P Cunningham Electrical

SOUTH REGION

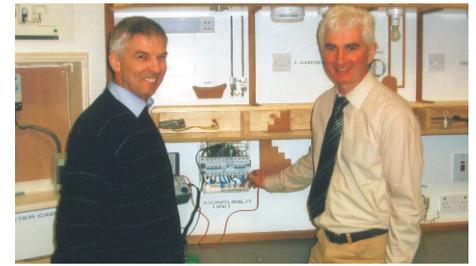
Domestic

John Fitzpatrick

Industrial/Commercial

Kirby Group Engineering

Visual Aid Testing Board Helps Apprentices



FÁS Instructor Jim Kennelly with RECI Contractor John Fitzpatrick examining the innovative testing panel.

Waterford FAS Electrical Instructor Jim Kennelly has constructed a testing board which visually represents the rooms of a house. This has been very successful with apprentices who find that it makes it easier to understand the testing procedures. Jim devised the special testing board after some RECI contractors expressed their concern that young electrical apprentices were not being exposed early enough to the practical procedures of ET101 part 6 testing. After experience with the testing board when young apprentices returned to site they should be more confident and able to assist their employer in overall testing procedures.

John Fitzpatrick who won the South Region Domestic RECI Award gives his full support to this excellent initiative and says it can only help to enhance the overall training of young apprentices.

Progress of New Regulatory System *continued from page one*

Controlled Works

The scope of Controlled Works shall constitute electrical works which are considered significant enough in the context of electrical safety to be "controlled" through the issuance of a Completion Certificate. It should be noted that the 2006 Act draws a distinction between two different classes of electrical

works i.e. *Controlled Works* and *Restricted Works*. Controlled Works require a Completion Certificate to be issued and therefore if undertaken by a Non-Registered Contractor an inspection must be obtained from a Supervisory Body in order for a Completion Certificate to be issued. On the other hand - it is illegal for a party other than a Registered Electrical

Contractor to engage in such works constituting Restricted Works. However the CER has decided not to designate any Restricted Works until after an initial period of operation of the new regulatory system.

The table below sets out clearly the definition of Controlled Works as prescribed by the CER.

DEFINITION OF CONTROLLED WORKS

Controlled Works are **major electrical installation works (including additions, alterations and/or extensions)** which are covered by the National Wiring Rules and which involve:

1. The **installation, commissioning, inspection, and testing** of a new fixed electrical installation requiring connection or reconnection to the electricity network;
2. The **installation or replacement of a Distribution Board or Consumer Unit, or new installation** in special locations as defined in Part 7 of the National Wiring Rules ET101 and ET105;
3. The **installation or replacement of one or more extra circuits** in an existing installation, including the installation of one or more additional protective devices for such circuits on a distribution board;
4. **Subsystems** installed in Commercial, Industrial, and Domestic installations where the **installation falls within the remit of the National Wiring Rules;**
5. The **inspection, testing and certification of existing electrical installations** (in accordance with Chapter 62 of the Wiring Rules (ET 101 – Fourth Edition – 2008 and to conform with Regulation 89 of SI No 732 of 2007).

Any works which do not fall within the above scope are not Controlled Works and shall not necessarily require a Completion Certificate to issue. However, it is recommended that for all other works, an appropriate form of certification is used (for example, a Declaration of Compliance with ET 101 for Minor Works, where appropriate). Furthermore, all entries on the Completion Certificate or Declaration of Compliance should be filled in by the installing electrical contractor.

Common Procedures – Certification

Under the new procedure a certificate will only be considered fully completed, following return of a copy to the Safety Supervisory Body with post-connection tests successfully completed and recorded. The common procedure on enforcement will be followed in the event of failure to return a copy with the post-connection tests recorded to the Safety Supervisory Body. Initially Contractors will have to make a photocopy of the Completion Certificate signed for the post-connection tests but in the near future ETCI will produce Certificates with an additional copy for this purpose.

A copy of the pre-connection certificate is submitted to RECI for processing to enable the connection point to be energised by ESB Networks (ESBN). In the case of supplies with a maximum import capacity of less than 50KVA, ESBN will affix a special red coloured seal to the interface isolator (“ESB Networks isolator as depicted in the *National Code of Practice for Customer Interface*) in the open position. The contractor responsible for the construction and testing of the electrical installation shall energise the customer’s installation and at this point in time conduct, verify and certify the post connection tests required by ETCI. He/She will also reseal the interface isolator in the closed position with his/her own seal following successful completion of post connection tests. He/She shall record the seal number on the test record sheet associated with the installation that has been tested. (RECI Rotaseals will be numbered in future to allow for this) A copy of the post-connection (valid) certificate (i.e. certificate with details of successful post connection tests) must be returned, without delay to the Supervisory Body. The original of the certificates must be submitted to the customer.

Where, after a defined time (generally 35 days from the date the certificate is processed), no record of post-connection tests for the electrical installation in question has been received, the Safety Supervisory Body will investigate the issue and follow up with the REC.

Third Party inspections

Only Electrical Contractors who are registered by a Safety Supervisory Body i.e. RECs, will have the right to self certify and issue a Completion Certificate for Controlled Works. However, there is provision in the legislation for cases where Controlled Works are carried out by an Electrical Contractor who is not registered. In such cases, the customer is required to request a Safety Supervisory Body to carry out an Inspection of the Controlled Work in question.

The provision of this service is to facilitate the certification of installations carried out by non-registered parties who

are electrically qualified and competent persons conversant with the Technical Rules applicable to the installation and have completed a recognised Testing, Verification and Certification course within the previous three years. The non-registered contractor must also provide proof of insurance cover. The service will not be provided for work carried out by unidentifiable parties whose competence, qualifications and insurance cover cannot be verified, and who are not available to carry out the full range of tests specified by the Technical Rules under the supervision of the Supervisory Body’s Inspector and to sign the Completion Certificate, if the installation qualifies for Certification.

The third party inspection application procedure, the fees for that service and the criteria to be applied by the Safety Supervisory Body in evaluating an application shall be subject to the approval of the CER.

The Inspector will arrange to witness post-connection tests and the finalisation of the Completion Certificate. ESB Networks will contact the Inspector when supply is connected. The Inspector will then arrange an appointment on site with the non-registered contractor for energising the installation and carrying out Post Connection Tests.

Application for Change of Contractor

A common procedure is required to facilitate a situation where a customer requires another contractor to complete and/or certify an electrical installation (Controlled Work), which was partially or totally completed by a different contractor.

A person who seeks approval for a Change of Contractor is obliged to request the Safety Supervisory Body of which the nominated new contractor is a member for the Safety Supervisory Body’s approval for the Change in Contractor. The Safety Supervisory Body shall publish a procedure for processing applications for a Change of Contractor and an associated application form.

The Change of Contractor application procedure, the fees for that service and the criteria to be applied by the Body in evaluating an application shall be subject to the approval of the CER. It should be noted that CER state that the certification process shall not be used as a means of resolving a dispute between the customer and the electrical contractor. The Safety Supervisory Body should write to, or try to contact, the original contractor to give him/her an opportunity to confirm his/her position. The nominated contractor shall not commence work until the Safety Supervisory Body confirms its approval to the Change of Contractor. Safety Supervisory Body’s Inspector will inspect the installation on its completion before it is certified. A fee will be charged for this

inspection.

The new contractor will be responsible for issuing a completion certificate for the total installation and will ensure (by rectifying or replacing electrical works installed by the original contractor which are not in compliance with the Wiring Rules) that the installation fully meets the requirements for certification.

Enforcement

Enforcement is a critical aspect of regulation and seeks to ensure that the requirements of the regulatory model, as specified by the CER, are adhered to in the interest of safety. Its objective is to offer adequate incentive for customers to arrange for the completion of Post-Connection Tests and ensure that new electrical installations are safe.

The customer is, ultimately the party that is primarily affected by the safety of the installation, has an interest and a responsibility with regard to the safety of an electrical installation, and is in control of the appointment of parties for the carrying out of any electrical installation work. Where the customer fails to comply within a reasonable time with the directions issued by the Safety Supervisory Body with regard to an installation which has been discovered to be in breach of the Connection Conditions (with respect to the failure of the installation to be in compliance with the Technical Rules) ESB Networks will de-energise the connection to the networks in accordance with the specified procedures.

If an REC does not submit the final certificate with the post-connection tests entered within a defined period after the certificate is processed (35 days) or where a previously submitted certificate is found to be invalid, the Safety Supervisory Body will contact the contractor to check the position. If no satisfactory response or explanation is received within 5 days, an **Enforcement Notice** is issued to the REC (with a copy to the customer) giving him/her a further 5 days to submit the final certificate or rectify the non-compliances. If not rectified within 5 days the issue is referred to an Authorised Officer. The authorised officer will contact the customer and point out the breach of connection conditions and unless immediately rectified (i.e. within 5 days) ESB Networks will be contacted to de-energise the connection.

Summary

Implementation of these procedures will help to improve the regulatory system and ensure that RECs certify Controlled Works. Consumers will be made aware of the necessity to employ an REC. Note that the Criteria do not permit an REC to be a “dual member”, i.e. a member of both bodies at the same time. Any such contractors should select which body they wish to be registered with.

ETCI Notification

ETCI Publication ET107:2003: Requirements for Inspection and Certification of Existing Electrical Installations for Reconnection to the Distribution System

We have been notified by ETCI that the National Rules for Inspection and Certification of Existing Electrical Installations for Reconnection to the Distribution System, ET107 has been withdrawn. This publication has been superseded by Annex 63b, National Rules for Electrical Installations, ET101:2008 fourth edition. Certification of Installations using the completion certificates associated with ET107, i.e. ETCI certificate No.4, will be acceptable up to the 30th September 2009 at which stage certificate No. 4 will no longer be valid.

MK Electric Link Up With Smarthomes

Smart Homes have a product that has streamlined all the aspects of in-home technology and entertainment into one easy-to-operate control box. MK Electric have signed a deal with Smarthomes to supply this technology to Irish electricians. The deal will see MK Electric supply all of Smarthomes patented in-home technology products to an extensive network of electrical wholesalers throughout the country. As part of the deal MK has also undertaken to up-skill Irish electricians by training them how to design the Smarthome solution into their current electrical services.

In the coming months MK Electric will be hosting a number of training seminars in locations around the country. Electricians who are interested in registering their interest in the training should click on www.mksmarthomes.com.

4th Edition Wiring Rules Notes

Height of socket outlets The heights specified in Clause 554 should not apply to dedicated sockets for appliances (eg. cooker hood, extractor fans or plasma TV's in pubs) that are left plugged in etc.

Height of thermostat control devices There is an optimum height at which the thermostat is most effective and this should be adhered to in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

RCD Separate RCD is not required in bathroom, but more than one is desirable.

Isolation of inaccessible sockets (eg in Kitchen) A single switch for all sockets is not acceptable. What is required is a switch for each single or double socket that is not accessible.

Main MCB in meter cabinet An independent IP55 enclosure to house the MCB within the meter cabinet is essential. This is in case the meter cabinet is left open.

Wet Rooms These are treated in the same manner as locations containing bath or shower.

Micro Generators The requirements in Ireland differ from those in the UK. They must be on a dedicated circuit and any associated RCD must be 2 pole (single phase).

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