

RECI News

Contractor Insurance

One of the requirements for registration as a Registered Electrical Contractor is to have in place and maintain insurance cover as may be specified by the Body/the Commission. It is the RECs responsibility to ensure that RECI have a copy of his/her cover before the expiry date of the existing policy. In the past we have granted some days grace in receiving this information but we have been instructed by CER that this practise is to cease. Consequently any REC who has not supplied us with his/her insurance cover on or before the expiry of their existing policy will be removed from the website.

Training & Competence of Qualified Certifier

Clause 1.2.12 of the CER Criteria Document specifies under item (iii) that a Registered Electrical Contractor is required to have successfully completed a recognised course in "Testing, Verification and Certification" in the previous 3 years. This clause will be enforced as from 30 June 2012 and contractors who do not comply with this requirement will no longer be entitled to certify an installation.

We would advise those contractors who do not yet have a Qualified Certifier (QC) number or have an invalid QC number to contact Cory (Tel 01-492 9966 email: cory@reci.ie) to book a course as soon as possible. A letter will be sent to all contractors to confirm their situation.

Training Courses

Our autumn training courses on V&C, 4th Edition. Periodic Inspection are in full swing. Details of courses & locations have been posted out to all members and are also listed on our website www.reci.ie Bookings for the courses have been very heavy, so if you are thinking of doing a course contact Cory Byrne without delay. Training course enquiries email: cory@reci.ie or 01 492 9966.

Christmas / New Year Holidays

The office shall close at 5.00pm on Thursday 22nd December 2011 and reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2012 at 08.30am.

TOP 10 BREACHES

Top 10 breaches of the ET101 National Rules for Electrical Installations

Listed below are the 10 most common breaches found as a result of audit & inspections carried out by our inspectors under the Common Performance Evaluation Scheme (CPES) since the start of the year.

Please ensure you are aware of and comply with these rules as the inspectors will be keeping a watchfull eye for these breaches.

Rule No	Description
701.416.1	Dedicated RCD required for bathroom circuits
530.5.3	Distribution board at incorrect height
531.2.2.2	RCD test notice required at distribution board
533.3.5	Main protective device required at meter cabinet
544.2.8	Metal sink(s) not bonded
530.5.12	Distribution board not labelled
555.1.2	Local isolation required for motorised valves, oil burner, heating system, circulation pump, etc
554.3.5	Isolation required for all inaccessible sockets
555.3.2	No RCD on heating system
514.3.1	Incorrect colour code for cable wires



L to R: Liam Davis, Jim Clifford, John Clare

Prize Winner

Jim Clifford, Ardee, Co. Louth receives his new Megger MFT1700 multi function installation tester from *Liam Davis* of Powerpoint Engineering Ltd. Also in photo is *John Clare* RECI inspector. Jim's name was drawn out of the hat from all those who had paid their sub on time.

CER News

Proposed Decision Paper on Restricted Electrical Works

The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) has published a proposed decision paper on the scope of Restricted Electrical Works (CER/11/177) which it proposes to legally restrict to Registered Electrical Contractors (REC). This move is designed to protect the safety of consumers in domestic premises, where fire authority statistics indicate that electrical installation faults are the cause of at least 4 fires per week in Ireland.

Restricted Electrical Works will essentially encompass any electrical work that would require a modification, replacement or addition to the main distribution board. Anyone wishing to carry out Restricted Electrical Works will be required to register as a Registered Electrical Contractor under the Safe Electric scheme. The Register of Electrical Contractors of Ireland Limited (RECI) is one of two Bodies designated to operate the Safe Electric scheme on behalf of the CER.

Following a review of responses to the Restricted Electrical Works consultation paper (CER/11/077), the CER is proposing the following **Definition of Restricted Electrical Works which will be limited to Installations in a Domestic Property to include the following:**

- the installation, commissioning, inspection, and testing of a new fixed electrical installation requiring connection or reconnection to the electricity network;
- the modification, installation or replacement of a Distribution Board or Consumer Unit including customer tails both sides of the main protective device, or new installation in special locations as defined in Part 7 (swimming pools, saunas, fountains, caravan parks & marinas) of the current edition of the National Wiring Rules;
- 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;



- the inspection, testing and certification of existing electrical installations in accordance with the current edition of the National Wiring Rules and to conform with Regulation 89 of SI No 732 of 2007.

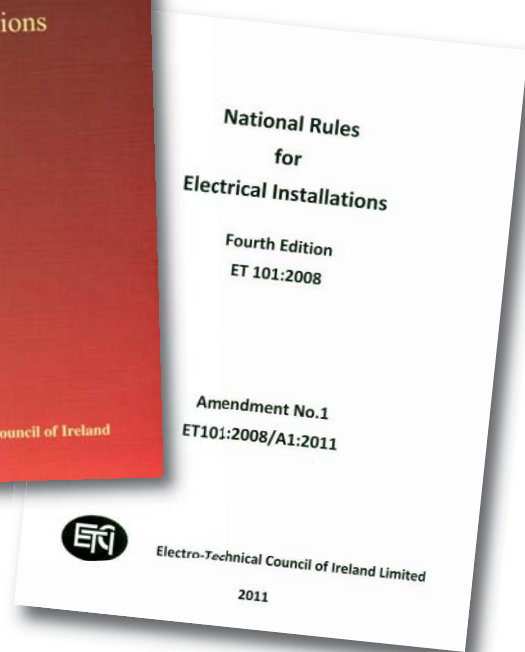
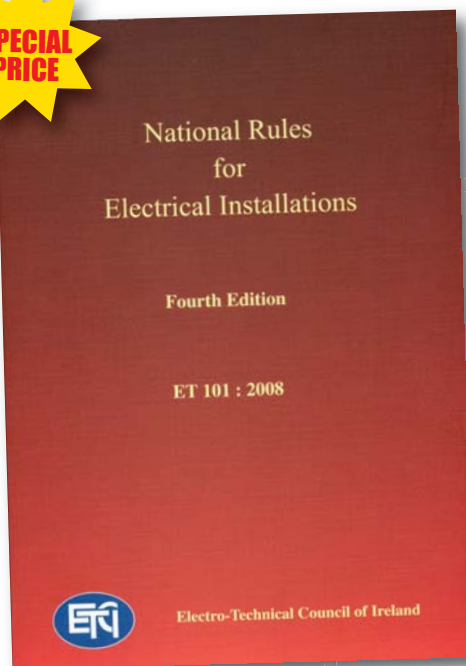
Once Restricted Electrical Works are drafted into regulations it will be illegal for any person other than a REC to carry out such works. In such instances, a person who is guilty of this offence will be liable:

- On conviction on indictment to a fine not exceeding €15,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to both, or
- On summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding €5,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or to both.

All Registered Electrical Contractors must be fully insured, have appropriate qualifications and are required to carry out their work in line with the relevant electrical safety standards and rules and must issue the customer with a Certificate of Conformance upon completion of their work. All RECs are subject to regular audit and inspection of their work under the scheme.

ETCI Introduces Amendment No. 1 to Fourth Edition

In September 2011 ETCI issued Amendment No. 1 to the Fourth Edition of the National Rules ET101:2008. This first Amendment, ET101:2008/A1:2011 to the Fourth Edition contains changes that have been necessary for a number of reasons, e.g. changes to the certification system under CER, new requirements for micro-generators and the connection of mobile generators, recent CENELEC decisions, changes in the original requirements for switches and socket-outlets introduced by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, and the need to revise the Rules in order to take into account subsequent developments in the area of electrical safety. This Amendment also includes necessary corrigenda and errata. The implementation date for the Amendment No. 1 is 3rd January 2012. Copies of the Amendment are available costing €11.00 incl. postage from ETCI Offices or can be purchased online at www.etcie.ie or directly from RECI.



Fourth Edition of the Wiring Rules including Amendment No.1 costs €68.50 incl. postage from RECI

Some of the amendments to note are as follows:

Page 116. Isolation of premises (539.2)

Page 99. 530.5.3

A distribution board shall be located where it is readily accessible. A distribution board located in a switch room shall comply with (539). A wall mounted distribution board shall be mounted at a height not greater than 2.25m measured from the floor to the top surface of the board.

In addition where a wall mounted board is mounted at a height less than 1.4m measured from the floor to the bottom surface of the distribution board it shall be accessible only by authorised persons. (See Note 1)

Page 105. 533.3.4

MCBs and RCBOs shall be selected so as to be suitable for the duty intended. For final circuits MCBs and RCBOs shall have Type B over-current characteristics. For circuits where high in-rush currents of the order of 5 – 10IN may occur MCBs and RCBOs shall have Type C over-current characteristics. For circuits where very high in-rush currents of the order of 10 – 20IN may occur MCBs and RCBOs shall have type D over current characteristics.

Page 134. Addition after 551.8.5

The following is inserted: 551.9 Additional requirements per installation housing an additional supply from micro-generator. (See text).

Page 136. 554.1.1

Second paragraph is deleted and the following inserted: Socket outlets for general purposes shall be mounted at a height not lower than 400mm and not higher than 1200mm above floor level. This requirement does not apply to the following:

Proprietary socket outlet systems specifically designed for mounting on the floor in skirting or on a pedestal and normally intended for use in commercial premises.

Socket outlets with 554.4.2

Socket outlets providing dedicated connection for specific electrical appliances or equipment and normally not accessible for general purposes, such socket outlets shall be mounted at a height not lower than 400mm above the floor level.

Page 173. Table 701A is replaced with the following: See Table Zone 0, 1, 2, 3.

Pages 316 – 318. Replace Tables A62-C1 and A61-C2. (See Tables)

PLEASE NOTE THE AMENDMENT SHOULD BE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY

16sq.mm

PVC/PVC T&E Cable



Please note that when this cable is being used to ensure the earth core is 10sq mm. It has been brought to our attention that in the **Border Counties** it has been found that some cables have 6 sq mm as an earth core.

This is not acceptable.

Safe Electric

The CER is to commence a major advertising campaign at the end of 2011 and into 2012 to encourage the public to use a Registered Electrical Contractor. The campaign will include a series of ads comprising TV, radio, print and online advertisements.



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