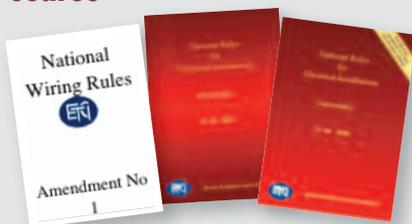


RECI's partnership with Dublin Institute of Technology



RECI are delighted to be working in partnership with DIT, in providing this accredited Verification and Certification course. On successful completion

Tips for those attending the course



- Please bring a copy of ET101 2008, Regulations and Amendments if required.
- Check your test meters and leads before the course to ensure that they are in good working order, and remember it is a CER requirement to have them calibrated annually.
- Bring a spare set of batteries for your test meters.
- Practice with your test meters if it has been a while since you last used them or if you have recently bought a new set of meters.

of this course, the learner will receive a National Framework of Qualification Level 7 Award and 2 ECT's Credits.

Some of the issues which have caused problems on the course:

- Test meters with poor leads (Worn out at the connections).
- Test leads with no crocodile clips.
- Test leads with no probes.
- Test meters that trip the RCD/RCBO when carrying out loop impedance measurements.
- Difficulties when trying to null the test leads/internal resistance on the test metres.
- Test meters with no three lead attachment/correct leads for testing fixed equipment when completing loop impedance measurements.
- Problems when testing RCD's and RCBO's where the meter was set incorrectly for the type of RCD/RCBO, "AC" type or "A" type.



Routine Inspection for 2015

Registered Electrical Contractors will have one Routine Inspection every year, (once in the calendar year). In some cases, it may not be 12 months since your last Routine Inspection. RECI will do all we can to ensure that it is as close to 12 months as possible since your last inspection. However, this may not be possible in all cases.

Qualified Certifier Expiry Date



Contractors need to check when their QC number is due to expire and book a Verification and Testing Training Course in good time.

Please note that when you are booking a Verification and Certification Training Course, you will be asked for a copy of your electrical qualifications.

Christmas Holidays

We will close for Christmas & New Year from 5.00pm on Tuesday 23rd December and reopen at 8.30am on Monday 5th January. We should like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during the year and to wish you & yours a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Megger Presentation



At a recent Inspectors meeting, Simon Wood and Sandy Thompson of Megger made a presentation of the 1720 series Megger meters to all of the RECI Inspectors.

RECI are very grateful to Megger for supplying the Inspectors with these top of the range meters, free of charge. Since they have received these meters, the feedback from the RECI Inspectors has been very positive.



New Chairman and Secretary of ETCI Technical Committee 2



Dr. Keith Sunderland (Secretary ETCI TC2) and Mr. Dick O'Rourke (Chairman of ETCI TC2)

The Electro-Technical Council of Ireland (ETCI) is pleased to announce that Mr Dick O'Rourke has been appointed Chairman of ETCI TC2 and will be joined by Dr Keith Sunderland as Secretary. Dick O'Rourke has extensive experience of the activities of TC2 which includes the preparation of National Wiring Rules, Codes of Practice and Guides dealing with electrical installations up to 1000V. As a former lecturer at Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), and in his previous career at ESB, he brings a wealth of experience to the post. He is well known to the electrical industry as he is one of the main contributors to ETCI's technical training programme. Dr Sunderland has been a member of TC2 for six years and is currently Assistant Head of School within the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at DIT.

He manages the discipline of Electrical Services Engineering, which is central to the work of TC2. A major undertaking for the committee will be the preparation of the forthcoming 5th Edition of the ET101 Wiring Rules.

CER News

First Successful Prosecution For Illegally Carrying Out Restricted Electrical Works in Dublin

At Dublin District Court on 3rd November 2014, Peter Knowles from County Kildare was found guilty, on two counts; illegally carrying out restricted electrical work and portraying himself as a Registered Electrical Contractor. The offences were committed under the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999, as amended. The court ordered the defendant to pay a sum of €3,000. In addition, a contribution towards costs of €350 was awarded to the CER. The CER is the body responsible for overseeing safety in the area of electrical contracting.

This is the first successful prosecution of its kind in Ireland. Since October 2013 it has been a legal requirement for anyone who carries out Restricted Electrical Works to be a

Registered Electrical Contractor with either RECI or ECSSAI. Only Registered Electrical Contractors give confidence to consumers that they are using a contractor who is competent, insured and subject to inspection.

Regulation of Electrical Contractors with respect to Safety from 2016 – Proposed Decision Paper CER/14/757a

In June 2014 the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) published its Public Consultation Paper on Regulation of Electrical Contractors with respect to Safety from 2016. CER received 29 responses, including one from RECI, and subsequently issued its Proposed Decision Paper on 30th October 2014. Listed opposite are the proposed decisions which CER intend to take subject to a review of the responses received to the Proposed Decision Paper and the issuance of a Final Decision Paper before the end of the year. All relevant documents are available at www.cer.ie.

Regulation of Electrical Contractors with respect to Safety from 2016 – Proposed Decision Paper CER/14/757

Subject	Proposed Decision
Number of Bodies	Appoint one Electrical SSB for the designation period commencing January 2016 as allowed for in legislation.
Financial Structure	Implement a not-for-profit model (with respect to core activities) for the Electrical SSB(s) to be in place from 2016 onwards.
Permitted activities	Allow the Electrical SSB(s) to offer permitted activities once these have been approved on a case by case basis by the CER. These could potentially be on a for-a-profit basis. Any permitted activities would have to contribute to safety or not impact negatively on safety. The CER does not intend to allow the SSB to participate in training or assessments of RECs.
Term of Designation	Designate the Electrical SSB(s) for a term of 7 years. Include possibility of carrying out a mid-term review of the Electrical SSB(s) performance towards the end of the 3rd year of operation (2018).
Corresponding terms for both Electrical and Gas SSBs	Have coinciding end dates for the Electrical and Gas SSBs.
Regulating the Operation of the Designated Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue requiring the Electrical SSB(s) to provide quarterly performance reports to the CER which will be linked to specific KPIs/SLAs. Continue to audit and inspect the Electrical SSB performance. Consider how any other non-performance controls (including, for example, related to management) could be included within the T&C and conditions of Appointment or within any other documentation utilised for the designation process
Electrical SSB(s) Inspectors	The current requirements for qualifications of Electrical SSB Inspectors as set out in the Criteria Document are adequate.
Modifications	In general, proposed modifications to the Criteria Document should be consulted on widely. Where these are wide ranging or fundamental changes the CER is of the view that public consultation is generally appropriate. Where the changes are less significant, the CER is of the view that appropriate consultation can be achieved through consultation with the ECCRP (The Criteria document modification committee).
Technical Standards	Continue to require that electrical works are carried out in compliance with the relevant ETCl document.
Assessments of Qualified Certifiers	Make no changes to the current arrangements in place.
Individual registration	The current approach of group registration best represents the electrical contracting industry at the moment.
Insurance	The CER will look further into the issue of run-on insurance.
Membership categories	The current membership category system is adequate. CER will continue to look at the area of creating further categories and may introduce some additional categories during the new designation period from 2016 onwards.
Controlled Electrical works	The current definition of the scope for Controlled Electrical Work is sufficient for the scheme to achieve its safety objectives through certification. The CER will continue to look at the scope of Controlled Electrical Works and may introduce some changes to the scope during the new designation period from 2016 onwards.
Restricted Electrical Works	The current definition of the scope for Restricted Electrical Work is sufficient to improve electrical safety for customers in the scheme. The CER will consider the scope of Restricted Electrical Works in the future (from 2016 onwards) following further discussions and considers some of the points made by respondents as valid.
Minor Electrical Works	The current scope of Minor Electrical Works is correct for now as it sufficiently balances public safety benefits whilst not imposing a disproportionate cost on customers. The CER will continue to look at this scope during the new designation period from 2016 onwards.
Detection and Investigation	CER is satisfied that the current detection mechanisms for unregistered individuals have worked well but will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the current reporting mechanisms and will continue to look at new possible reporting mechanism going forward.
The Certification System	CER's preference is for the ETCl to continue the current work in the future. However CER does have certain reservations in relation to the current arrangements, whereby the ETCl receive revenue to fund their activities on a per certificate and per Wiring Rules basis.
Electronic or Paper based Certification System	CER considers the development of an electronic certification system covering all certificate types as an important progressive step which would facilitate compliance by facilitating more efficient monitoring by the Electrical SSB(s). The CER accepts that a paper based system should also be offered to RECs with the electronic system not being mandatory (at least not in the short term), so any contractors who may not be computer literate are not excluded. CER would however favour incentivising the electronic certification system over the paper based system.
Non-Compliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to run the Safe Electric public awareness campaign. CER are determined to enforce the requirement that all post connection tests are carried out and the certificates containing these results are returned by the REC for validation to their respective SSB. CER recognises that compliance is important to the scheme and so measures ensuring this compliance are vital.
The Safe Electric Brand	Continue to raise awareness of the Safe Electric logo and message through the media campaigns.
Mandatory display of Logo	Have a requirement in place to ensure that where a REC displays their details on their vehicle which identifies them as an electrical contractor, the Safe Electric Logo is also displayed.
Reference to Year	CER does not propose to introduce the requirement of an annual logo at this time because of administrative and costs implications. CER will consider this option going forward during the new designation period from 2016 onwards.
Unique Identifier	CER does not propose to introduce the requirement of a unique identifier at this time, but will look at it in the future
Use of the Safe Electric Brand – List of RECs	In a scenario of more than one Electrical SSB being designated the CER would favour a joint list being hosted on www.safeelectric.ie. In a scenario where one Electrical SSB is designated there will be only one register, the CER's view is that it would be most appropriate to be situated on the Safe Electric website.
Restrictions on use of Electrical SSB Logo	CER proposes to have just one customer and REC facing Electrical SSB brand, Safe Electric. This would mean that when the Electrical SSB(s) contacted consumers or RECs, they would only use the Safe Electric logo (and not publicised their own logo and brand).
Notifying Customers regarding Outcomes	Include KPIs in relation to how customer complaints are dealt with in a timely manner. This will ensure that the complainant receives an acknowledgment of the complaint made or confirmation that the complaint has been investigated and an unspecified conclusion reached. However no disciplinary report will be issued to the complainant for legal and data protection issues. Regarding illegal electrical work investigations, the CER will evaluate how further information can be provide while remaining conscious that it is important that confidential information is not released, and that parties who make reports would normally be interviewed during the investigation process.
Joint Gas and Electrical SSB	CER proposes to undertake one competitive process to designate a Gas SSB and a separate competitive process regarding the electrical scheme. For the avoidance of doubt, these two separate processes could still potentially result in the same organisation being designated as a Gas SSB and an Electrical SSB.

Accredited Verification and Certification Training Courses for 2015

We are currently finalising our 2015 schedule of Accredited Verification and Certification courses and will advise members by post and on our website www.reci.ie. Courses will commence on 16th/17th January 2015.

RECs whose Qualified Certifier number has expired or is due to expire in the next six months should book a place on one of these courses as completion certificates cannot be processed without a valid QC number. Early booking is advised as there is a limit to the number of courses we can run.

The CER has requested us to advise you that accredited courses are also provided by the following:

- METAC Ltd, Mountrath Enterprise Park, Portlaoise Road, Mountrath Co. Laois. Tel: (057) 8756540
- iSkill Training, 12A & B Bluebell Business Park, Old Naas Road, Dublin 12. Tel: (01) 4242440
- Solas (Fas), Baldoyle Industrial Estate, Baldoyle, Dublin 13. Tel: (01) 8167400

Guidance - Note on Periodic Inspection and Testing of Electrical Installations required by the 2007 Safety Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations

For details of this document, refer to the HSA website.

NSAI Standards

Irish Standard I.S. 3218:2013

Fire Detection and Fire Alarms Systems for Buildings - System Design, Installations, Commissioning, Servicing and Maintenance.

We would like to draw your attention to the above listed standard, and to section 10 Fire alarm systems in residential buildings, and in particular 10.2.1.2 "Categories" (b) Category LD2: Interconnected self-contained mains powered/battery backed Smoke/Heat Alarms (as grade D above) shall be suitable located in ;

- 1) all circulating areas that form part of an escape route within the dwelling, and
- 2) all high fire risk areas/rooms , e.g. kitchens, living rooms, garages, and
- 3) all bedrooms.

Please refer to the standard for full details, No 3 above is the main change here and you should be aware that this requirement is being enforced by some County Councils etc.

Any change in standards that helps to improve safety is always welcome and is to be recommended, but to date it is not included in Technical Guidance Document B of the Building Regulations.

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