

Post Connection Tests – Enforcement

Post connection testing is an essential requirement to prove that the various protective devices will operate satisfactorily in the event of a fault. A prime objective of the new regulatory system is to ensure that the post connection tests are satisfactorily completed by registered contractors for every single new installation and extensions to installations i.e. for Controlled Works. In the last issue of RECI news we gave the CER definition of Controlled Works. This definition is also included in the RECI yearbook and diary. You can also look at the RECI newsletter on our website www.reci.ie.

New Completion Certificates

ETCI in association with the CER have made some minor amendments to the Completion Certificates and there is also a fourth copy provided. This copy is to be sent by the contractor to RECI after the post connection tests have been carried out and been found to be satisfactory. Contractors who have unused completion certificates can continue to use them but must make a photocopy and send this to RECI when the post connection tests have been completed. The CER have instructed that this procedure must be implemented from January 2010 and we are therefore advising you that you must send a copy of the completion certificate to RECI after the post connection tests.



Enforcement

Not only will the contractor be obliged to send the post-connection certificate to RECI but the customer will also be held responsible for their electrical installation and non-compliance will lead to de-energisation of supply. 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 interests of safety. Its objective is to offer adequate incentive to 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 (RECI) with regard to an installation which has been

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Joint Disciplinary Committee

The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) requires that a single Disciplinary Committee and a single Appeals Committee shall be in place for the regulatory system. This is in the interests of the Commissions objective in ensuring consistency, fairness and equity of treatment of all Registered Electrical Contractors (RECs) who are subject to a disciplinary process. This means that RECI no longer has its own Disciplinary Committee and any matters which require disciplinary action are now referred to the new joint committee.

The purpose of the Joint Disciplinary Committee is to hold a disciplinary hearing to

adjudicate on a complaint submitted by RECI or ECSSA and to impose, where it considers it appropriate, disciplinary sanction(s) against a REC who is found by the Joint Disciplinary Committee to have been in breach of their obligations under the Criteria Document. The Criteria Document is available for review at www.reci.ie.

The Disciplinary Committee consists of;

- An appointed representative by the Board of ECSSA
- An appointed representative by the Board of RECI
- An Independent Chairperson appointed by the Commission

The Commission have appointed Mr. Robert McLaughlin, a Chartered Electrical Engineer and a member of Engineers Ireland, to be the Independent Chairperson.

The first meeting of the Joint Disciplinary Committee was held on 23rd November 2009 at the ETCI offices in Dublin. Complaints against two RECI contractors were adjudicated on by the Committee.

In one of the cases it was the unanimous decision of the Joint Disciplinary Committee that the installation in question breached a number of the Wiring Rules and had been left by the contractor in an unsafe condition. The installation had been energised. In light of the gravity of the situation the Committee determined that the registration of the contractor be revoked with immediate effect. The contractor is Linnane Electrical, Ardrahan, Co. Galway.

In accordance with the Criteria Document revocation refers to the revocation of registration and the removal of that contractor's details from the Register on a permanent basis. No appeal was taken by the contractor.

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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 a contractor does not submit the final certificate with the Post Connection Tests entered within a defined period after the certificate is processed (35 days) the Safety Supervisory Body (RECI) will contact the contractor to check the position. If no

satisfactory response or explanation is received within five days, an Enforcement Notice is issued to the contractor (with a copy to the customer) giving him/her a further five days to submit the final certificate or rectify the non-compliances. If not rectified within five 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 five days) ESB Networks will be contacted to de-energise the connection.

Common Procedures

The CER have published Common Procedures for the following:

- Certification
- Third Party inspection
- Change of Contractor
- Enforcement
- Transfer of registration
- Modifications

These procedures were described in the last issue of RECI News. They may also be viewed on the RECI website www.reci.ie.

Resolutions Passed at EGM – 26th November 2009

An Extraordinary General Meeting of RECI was held at the Hilton Hotel, Kilmainham, Dublin on 26th November 2009.

At the AGM of RECI on 6th June 2009 there were two resolutions put to the members in addition to the normal business. The first resolution – to adopt new rules, which was an ordinary resolution requiring a simple majority, was discussed by the members present at the meeting. Concern was expressed in relation to the new rule 2(ii) which requires RECI members to permit data relating to their membership to be disclosed to third parties in so far as RECI or the CER deem it necessary and reasonable in the circumstances.

Because of the concerns expressed it was decided to adjourn this resolution to allow RECI to clarify the matter with the CER and to provide further information to the members in relation to this matter. The second resolution was to substitute the existing Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company with a revised Memorandum and Articles of Association in the form produced at the meeting. This was to facilitate the implementation of the agreement entered into by RECI with the CER in relation to the composition of the Board of Directors. This resolution was defeated as it did not get the required 75% majority in order to pass the resolution.

As RECI could not continue to be an Electrical Safety Supervisory Body with its existing Rules and Memorandum of Association it was necessary to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to regularise the situation. The Board of RECI consulted with the CER and a more satisfactory wording of Rule 2(ii) was inserted into the RECI rules. The CER were not prepared to agree to any further changes to the composition of the Board of Directors and they advised that RECI must put the necessary structures in place.

After discussion at the meeting both resolutions were passed by the members present and proxies received.

Election of Directors

At every third Annual General Meeting of the company all the Directors shall retire from office. However all retiring Directors from whatsoever source shall be eligible for re-election and/or re-appointment. Under the new composition of the Board of Directors agreed at the EGM there will be two independent Directors. One Director shall be elected by the Registered Contractors in Munster/Connaught and the other Director elected by the Registered Contractors in Leinster/Ulster. The postal ballot for election of the independent Directors will take place in the near future.

New Handybook for Electrical Contractors from Ei Electronics

Ei Electronics has just published a new electrical contractors handybook covering its range of mains powered fire, smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms.

The pocket sized handy book has been colour coded into different sections covering all you need to know about choosing, installing, testing and maintaining smoke and CO alarms. It features simple, clear diagrams for quick reference, check lists, do's and don'ts, frequently asked questions and revealing fire statistics. Each section even has its own notes page for comments to be added. Copies of the electrical contractors handy book are available from Ei Electronics by registering on their web site www.eielectronics.com or calling Tom Meehan at 086 2619357.

Gas Cooker Safety Warning

In the interests of the safety of consumers we have included with this newsletter a safety warning leaflet supplied by the manufactures in relation to certain Beko, Flavel, Leisure and New World gas cookers. If you become aware that one of these cookers is present in a premises where you are working you should telephone the appropriate number given on the leaflet (or advise the owner to do so) and give information in relation to the cooker in the premises. A simple modification can correct the fault.

Aran Drivers go Electric



Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) and the Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs have started a project to test electric cars on the Aran Islands. From January there will be six cars leased to residents of Inis Mor, two to Inis Meain and two to Inis Oirr, with different households chosen each year for the project. RECI Inspector Tim O'Connor inspected houses on the Islands to assess the suitability of their electrical installations to accept a socket for charging the vehicles.

The Energy Committee on the islands

has been pushing for more energy efficient alternatives for some years. Their vision for the islands is to have no requirement for carbon fuel of any kind, no need for coal, petrol or diesel so that homes are heated and cars are run on alternative energy.

The first Mega "e-City" three door hatchback arrived on Inis Mor recently for residents to test drive. First impressions were that it's roomy in the front, there's no sense you're up against the window. It's got electric windows, reversing sensors and it's comfortable enough. There is no doubt people will be interested in it.



ETCI Information

The Technical Committee of the ETCI (TC2) who are responsible for producing the Wiring Rules have published the following notices over the last few months. It is important for Registered Contractors to comply with these requirements.

National Rules for Electrical Installations 4th Edition ET101:2008 Guidelines for Certification of Electrical Installations that were begun before 30th September 2009

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

Installations completed before 30th September 2009 may be certified for compliance with the 3rd Edition.

Installations begun before 30th September 2009, and in a substantial state of advancement, may be completed and certified in accordance with the 3rd Edition.

For the purpose 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.

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.

NOTICE

Electrical Installations having existing wiring not complying with the colour code specified in ET101:2008

Some electrical installations may contain older wiring systems that do not comply with the current colour code specified in ET101:2008. It is necessary for safety reasons that warning notices be provided for the benefit of personnel that may not be familiar with the older system. i.e. the former British system.

Warning notices to this effect should be provided in the relevant locations, e.g. distribution boards, with the following wording or the equivalent thereof:

“WARNING!”

The colours for cables and insulated conductors in this (part of the) installation do not comply with the National Rules for Electrical Installations ET 101:2008. The core colours their respective functions and symbols are as follows:

Single-phase circuits:	Red: Line / phase	L1
	Black: Neutral	N
Three-phase circuits:	Red: Line / phase	L1
	Yellow: Line / phase	L2
	Blue: Line / phase	L3
	Black: Neutral	N
Green / Yellow:	Protective conductors etc.	PE or E (unchanged)

National Rules for Electrical Installations ET 101:2008 Review of Requirements of Clause 701.559.03

TC2 at its meeting on 24th September 2009 considered representations from the industry concerning the requirement in clause 701.559.03 for a stand-by source of illumination in the bathroom zones to take account of the tripping of an RCD. On reviewing the position, it was felt that the requirement should not be mandatory in the ordinary domestic bathroom, since the occupants would be expected to be familiar with the location.

However, the requirement should continue to apply in the case of commercial premises such as hotels, guest houses and B&Bs. It is proposed to amend clause 701.559.03 as follows:

Note: This requirement applies to e.g. hotels, guest houses and nursing homes. It is not mandatory to have a standby source of illumination in situations such as a domestic bathroom.

Feedback from 4th Edition Training Courses

During the course of our recent 4th Edition of the Wiring Rules training courses the following points were raised by contractors on a number of occasions:

1. **Earth loop impedance**
Earth loop impedance should be taken into consideration at design stage as the values in the 4th Edition have dropped appreciably.
2. **Heating control equipment in the airing cupboard**
Heating control equipment in the airing cupboard should be RCD protected and also have a means of isolation.
3. **Sockets in kitchens**
If a socket outlet is readily accessible it is not necessary to install an extra means of isolation.
4. **Complete rewire of dwelling**
4th Edition rules applies eg distribution board height, switch and socket heights etc.
5. **What certificate is required for relocation of meter**
A Normal domestic/small commercial < 50KVA certificate should be used. Tests should be carried out on the cable used in the relocation of meter. It is designated as an alteration to the installation and the comment box should reflect that it is for relocation of meter only.
6. **Freezers**
It is recommended to put freezers on separate RCD protection or a fixed outlet not RCD protected.
7. **Installations wired to 3rd Edition**
(see note in Newsletter regarding this item.)

8. **Plasma TV's in Bars**
These items are usually at great heights and the socket used is termed a designated socket for the item in question only.
9. **C.E.R. request that all test meters be calibrated every 12 months.**
10. **Instant shower**
If you install an instant shower in an existing installation, the instant shower should be fully tested and a <50kVA certificate issued to owner of the dwelling in respect of the shower unit.
11. **Agricultural Installation**
Plastic non conductive non corrosive equipment are required in these installations with IP rating.

Verification and Certification Training

Every Registered Contractor must employ at least one Qualified Certifier. Only Qualified Certifiers are allowed to sign completion certificates. Each Qualified Certifier must attend a recognised Verification and Certification training course and/or be assessed every three years. Therefore Registered Contractors or their Qualified Certifiers must comply with this rule from now on for processing of completion certificates.

We intend to run our Verification and Certification course on a more frequent basis and any Qualified Certifier who has not been on a course in the last three years should arrange to attend one as soon as possible.

On completion of the course you will be issued with a number and this number must be entered on Completion Certificates after your signature.



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 Unit B6, National Enterprise Park, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

