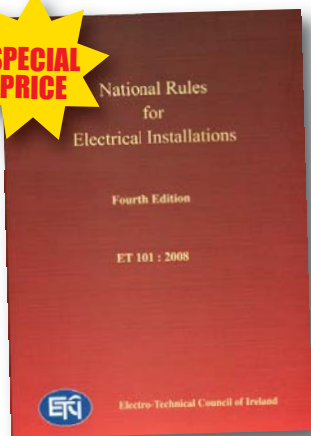


RECI News

Fourth Edition of the
Wiring Rules €60
+ postage

We have negotiated a special price of €60 + €8.50 postage (normally €89 + postage) from ETCI for the National Rules for Electrical

Installations, Fourth Edition, ET 101:2008. This offer is a limited offer for three months only. You should note that it is a requirement of the CER criteria document that the REC ensures there are adequate copies of all necessary technical reference documents available for reference at each work location. Such reference documents include, but are not limited to, the latest version of the Technical Rules and any other documents as may be specified by the Body.



Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions were due to be paid by 31st March 2011. If you have omitted to pay your sub please do so now as failure to pay will result in certificates being blocked and your membership being suspended. Please contact Denise McAuley at RECI office: Tel: 01-4929966

Email: accounts@reci.ie.

RECI AGM 2011

The 18th Annual General Meeting of the RECI will be held in the Green Isle Hotel on Saturday the 28th May starting at 11.30am. The Annual Report and Accounts for 2010 and the calling Notice for the AGM will be posted to all RECs shortly.

Competition Winner

A draw was held for all RECs who had paid their Subscription fee by the 31st March 2011. We are happy to announce that the winner of a new Megger MFT1700 multi function installation tester is Mr. Jim Clifford, of Ardee, Co. Louth. This fantastic piece of equipment was kindly donated by Powerpoint Engineering Ltd of Portlaoise, Co. Laois, we thank them for their generosity.

Kevin Kelly

Our Chief Inspector, Kevin Kelly, retired at the end of February. Kevin joined RECI in 2002 having previously worked for ESB International, Techna Switchgear Ltd, FAS and Brown – Boveri Ltd. Kevin carried out his functions within RECI in a most

professional and courteous manner and was always available to provide technical advice to contractors. We shall be keeping an eye on the golf results at Slade Valley now that he has a bit more time to play. We wish Kevin a happy retirement with his wife Barbara and family.



Cormac Madden (Chairman) and Kevin Kelly at Kevin's retirement presentation.

CER News

Disciplinary Process

Following a recent discussion with CER we have been instructed that the following should be implemented by the Safety Supervisory Bodies (SSBs) with immediate effect.

- Each SSB will be required to adhere to Section D-F of the Criteria Document for any Disciplinary Actions and Appeals. This will now take place at local level for each SSB – the requirement for a **Joint Disciplinary and a Joint Appeals Panel** will be dispensed with until further notice by the CER
- Each SSB will be required to offer an appeals process to the party involved in the Disciplinary hearing and the complainant (Please read section E of the Criteria Document relating to the grounds for Appeal re Complainant and the REC). The REC has two options in bringing an appeal
- The CER has jurisdiction to hear appeals for suspension or revocation only - the REC has the right to bring an appeal straight to the CER but may chose to bring the appeal to the Appeals Panel of the body, again the Appeals Panel will be operated at local level.

Restricted Works

CER are about to publish a consultation paper on the definition of Restricted Works and will be seeking comments from the industry and public. Restricted Works are those electrical installation works which may only be legally undertaken by a REC. Once restricted Works are designated by the CER, and approved by the Houses of the Oireachtas, it will be illegal for any person other than a REC to carry out such works.

Building Emergency Safety System (BESS) registration scheme I.S. 3217 – Emergency Lighting



A new standard for Emergency Lighting – I.S.3217:2008 – has been developed in conjunction with an industry steering group. Among the participants in this steering group are the Chief Fire Officers Association, Engineers Ireland, Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland, Association of Electrical Contractors of Ireland, NSAI, ETCI, EMDA, ECSSA and RECI.

We launched a voluntary pilot BESS registration scheme on 1st February 2011 whereby those commissioning or periodically inspecting emergency lighting installations could purchase specific emergency lighting certificates. These requirements are additional to the electrical installation safety requirements of the wiring rules. The scheme will operate on a self funding basis.

During the pilot scheme, electrical contractors already registered with RECI can avail of the new certificates with no additional subscription. Certificates are sold in books of 5, costing €62.00 inclusive of VAT and

P & P. An accredited training course is available and will be part of a future permanent scheme. Phase 1 of the scheme will run for a trial period of six months, from 1 February 2011 until 31 July 2011

During the pilot scheme, non-registered contractors can use the BESS certificates by registering on a temporary Emergency Lighting register for a fee of €175. Phase 2 will commence at the beginning of August subject to a satisfactory review of the pilot scheme. At this stage those who meet the criteria can register to retain access to the certificates. The register will be hosted on the ETCI website.

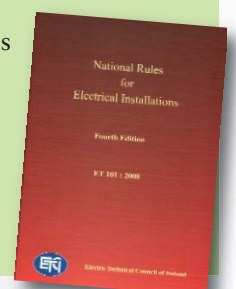
From a contractor’s perspective being on the register proves that you have demonstrated competency with regard to I.S. 3217 – Emergency Lighting, your work is subject to inspection, there is a complaints mechanism and the certificate number gives full traceability. In addition, from an employers perspective, by engaging a contractor

who is on the BESS register, they are engaging “competent persons” thus demonstrating compliance with The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

Further information on the BESS scheme go to the RECI web site (www.reci.ie).

Amendment to Tables

Tables A61C -1 and A61C - 2 on pages 316/318 of the fourth edition of the wiring rules will revert back to tables A61C – 1 and A61C – 2 of the third edition. Please see the ETCI website for further details. The ETCI will be publishing this as part of the 1st amendment of ET101 4th edition 2008 shortly.



Inspection requirements for new RECs

The CER agrees with a proposal to reduce the number of inspections for new RECs from three inspections in the first six months to one. The rationale for this decision is based on the practical difficulties for new RECs completing three complete installations for an SSB Inspector to assess, due to the downturn in construction and the broader economy.

However, the CER notes that a new REC would not have the same level of experience as an established REC. Therefore, the CER deems it appropriate that a new REC should be subject to a higher degree of inspection than an established REC.

Consequently, the CER proposes that a new REC must be subject to one inspection in the first six months, before being allowed to self-certify by the SSB. Additionally, the new REC shall also be subject to another follow up inspection by the SSB, within six months of the first inspection.

Consequently, the rewording in the Criteria Document shall be as follows:

“For new RECs – where such party has not previously been registered with the Body - a minimum of one (1) inspection in the first six months shall be carried out.”

“The Body shall not authorise that a new REC may commence to certify works (i.e. have self certification rights) unless it has first successfully passed one inspection and complied with any requirements specified further to that inspections. In the event that a new REC passes their first inspection, he/she shall then be subject to an additional inspection by the SSB, within six months of the first inspection”.

“Where such party has been previously registered with the Body and/or has the requisite prior experience (as determined by the Body), the Body may grant the entitlement to self certify but shall ensure that, at a minimum, one (1) inspection is carried out within the first six months with registration of that Body”.

Training & Competence of Qualified Certifier

As from 30 June 2012, clause 1.2.12 of the CER Criteria Document will be fully enforced. One of the requirements of the REC is to have successfully completed a recognised course in “Testing, Verification and Certification” in the previous three years. We would advise those contractors who do not yet have a QC No to book a course as soon as possible as Post Connection Test Certificates will not be accepted after the 30 June 2012 deadline without a QC No. Contractors who already have a QC No will need to revisit a course within three years of the previous course to get their QC No re-validated. A letter will be sent to all contractors to confirm their situation.

Post Connection Tests – Enforcement

Post connection testing is an essential requirement to prove that the various protective devices of an electrical installation will operate satisfactorily in the event of a fault. As a result the installation can be considered as safe.

A prime objective of the regulatory system is to ensure that the post connection tests satisfactorily completed by registered contractors for every single new installation and extensions to installations i.e. for Controlled Works. A definition of the Controlled Works can be found on our website www.reci.ie.

4-Part Completion Certificates

RECI sell 4-parts Completion Certificates since 27 April 2010. The fourth copy of the certificate is to be sent by the contractor to RECI after the post connection tests have been carried out and been found to be satisfactory, as a proof that these test have been carried out. The post connection tests date of the installation is recorded in the RECI data base.

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 interests of safety. Not only will the contractor be subject to disciplinary action but the customer will also be held responsible for their electrical installation and non-compliance may lead to de-energisation of supply. 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.

Enforcement of the post connection tests is described in Common Procedure No 5 which can be seen on the RECI web site.

Common Procedure No 5 specifies that the final certificate with the Post Connection Tests needs to be returned within 35 days from the date the certificate was processed in RECI. This time is monitored and if exceeded, a reminder letter will be sent to the contractor. If no feedback is received from the contractor after an additional 5 days, an enforcement notice is sent to the REC (with a copy to the customer) giving him/her an additional 5 days to complete the tests and/or return the test certificate to RECI.

If 5 days later no feedback has been received by the REC, the issue will be referred to an Authorised Officer who shall be appointed by the CER. Ultimately de-energisation of the installation may follow if no satisfactory

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