

# RECI

# NEWS

February 2005

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## CER Criteria

RECI are now operating on a voluntary basis in accordance with the document published by the CER entitled "Criteria for Issue of a Regulatory Licence to an Electrical Contracting Licensed Regulatory Body" CER/04/248. This document has 48 pages and sets out the criteria to be met by a body to receive a licence from the CER, to regulate registered members in the industry. A very full audit will be carried out on RECI in June 2005 by EA Technology acting on behalf of the CER.

There are some clauses in the Criteria which affect registered contractors and we gave details of these items in previous newsletters. We have now published a bulletin to make sure that all registered contractors are aware of their new obligations. Inspectors will be checking these matters during the annual inspection visit.

## 2005 RECI DIRECTORY



RECI General Manager, David McGloughlin presenting the 2005 Directory to Michael McNerney, Chairman, Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE), Republic of Ireland branch

### REGISTER OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS OF IRELAND

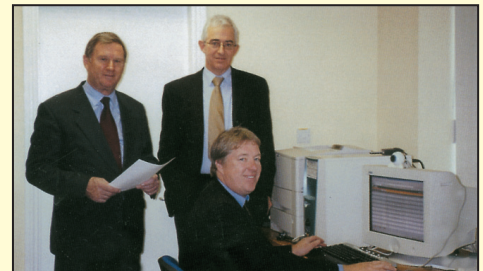
Unit 9, KCR Industrial Estate,  
Kimmage, Dublin 12.  
Tel: 01 - 492 9966; Fax: 01 - 492 9983;  
email: info@reci.ie Web: www.reci.ie

## Electronic Cert System Operational

We are pleased to report that registered contractors are now using the new electronic completion certificate system. Unfortunately some contractors are finding it difficult to get the MPRN (Meter Point Reference Number) for their installations particularly on housing estates which have been under construction for some time. MPRN's are allocated to all units on an estate in accordance with the plans submitted. However, if the developer makes changes to the layout and addresses on the estate then the MPRN's may become incorrect. This problem is being addressed by ESB with developers and it is hoped that similar difficulties will be avoided in the future. This matter is very important because it is not possible to complete a certificate electronically without entering the MPRN.

There are numerous advantages of electronic completion certificates such as:

- No possibility of certificates getting lost or delayed in the post or mislaid during processing;



RECI Contractor, Terry Kelly, processing the first electronic completion certificate online

- Certificate cannot be rejected because it is not properly completed;
- Contractor has full control of certificates — no books of certificates to get lost;
- Easy reference to certificates at any time;
- The electronic certificate gives a good impression to your customer.

To find out more about electronic certificates go to the RECI website: [www.reci.ie](http://www.reci.ie) and click on "electronic completion certificates". Or if you need further information ring the RECI office on Tel: 01 492 9966.

## ESB NEWS

### Procedures for requesting work from ESB Networks and metering issues arising from Opening of the Electricity Supply Market to all customers.

#### MARKET OPENING

On the 19th February 2005 the electricity market opens to all 1.8 million users. From this date customers will be able to choose their supplier. This means a change in the way requests are made for some work that would previously have been made directly to ESB Networks.

The following requests must be made through the customer's supplier quoting the Meter Point Reference Number. (MPRN)

- Re-energisations or De-energisations;
- Meter Exchanges for Change of Tariff;
- Meter Removals (Load transferred or no longer required);

- NSH Meter and Time Switch Installation or Removal.
- These requests are processed by the supplier and are passed to ESB Networks. A work order is then sent to the relevant supervisor who arranges to have the work completed.

#### NETWORKS SERVICES BUREAU (NSB) AND UNMETERED REGISTRAR (UMR)

All applications for New Connections and Increase in Capacity for metered connections are now processed in Networks Services Bureau, ESB Networks, PO Box 29, Garrycastle, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

*continued overleaf*



All applications for New Connections and Increase in Capacity for unmetered connections are now processed in UMR, ESB Networks, Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

All applications for New Connections must be accompanied by an ordinance survey map clearly showing the site location and site address.

It is important to fill in all the relevant information on the application form as these forms will be returned if there are any omissions resulting in delays in logging the request on to the system.

Following issue of a quotation, receipt of payment, a signed connection agreement and any other required documents, design/construction work will commence. However the connection will not be energised until:

- A valid completion certificate has been submitted (to designated ESB Networks address either directly or via the relevant regulatory body as appropriate);
- The customer whose name electricity bills should be issued to has been submitted;
- In addition for premises where the required capacity is 30kVA or above, or where an unmetered connection is required, the customer must have an agreement with an electricity supplier, who in turn will register their MPRN and name with ESB Networks.

**Note:** A work order will not be released to the relevant supervisor until the above requirements have been met.

Also, if all metering has been de-energised for more than two years, the MPRN for that premises will be terminated under rules agreed by CER with suppliers.

Accordingly anyone seeking a reconnection (re-energisation) at that premises must now submit a new connection application to the NSB Office in Athlone or UMR Office in Portlaoise.

Also, requests for a connection on the basis of a Temporary Completion Certificate, at the permanent metering location, at a premises for which a permanent new connection has already been requested, is now treated as a request to provide the permanent connection at an earlier date. It cannot be treated as a separate connection because the rules agreed by CER with suppliers do not allow a premises to have two separate MPRNs. The provision of this earlier connection is subject to sufficient advance notice of this requirement being provided to ESB

Networks. Once the permanent connection has been provided on this basis, the subsequent permanent completion certificate should be returned directly to the relevant regulatory body.

#### DE-ENERGISATIONS AND RE-ENERGISATIONS

Once the connection to a customer's premises has been energised, all requests to de-energise this connection must be made via the customer's electricity supplier rather than directly to ESB Networks, either centrally or locally under rules agreed by CER.

The only exception to this rule is where an emergency de-energisation is required for safety reasons — in the event of a fire, flooding, etc — or if the customer only wants the premises de-energised for less than 24 hours in order to do some work. In these cases the request can be made directly to ESB Networks via 1850 372 999 for emergency de-energisations or via 1850 372 757 for non-emergency de-energisations Networks number.

If a customer wants to have their premises re-energised again they must again submit this request via their electricity supplier.

The only exception to this rule is where the original de-energisation request was for less than 24 hours and the re-energisation request is made within 24 hours. In these cases the request can be made directly to Networks via 1850 372 757, or as arranged previously when the de-energisation was originally requested, or locally during the de-energisation.

Note again, as mentioned above under New Connections, the requirement to submit a new connection application if the re-energisation request is for a premises which has been de-energised for more than two years.

If the premises was de-energised for more than six months or alterations were made to the customer interface wiring, a completion certificate must also be submitted to the local ESB Networks office or returned to the regulatory body in line with current arrangements.

**Note:** A completion certificate cannot be used to initiate a re-energisation. If a re-energisation request is not received from the customer's electricity supplier the re-energisation cannot be carried out.

A customer wishing to move into an existing premises which is de-energised must first contact an electricity supplier, enter into a supply agreement and request that supplier to submit a re-energisation request.

#### METER RELOCATIONS AND SERVICE ALTERATIONS

All service alterations and meter relocations will be subject to a charge from ESB Networks. This charge will apply regardless of the original location of the service or meter.

#### Standard charges for Domestic premises (cost in Euro inc. VAT):—

- Alteration to a domestic service, whether overhead or underground: €299
- Relocate meter only: €189

All requests should be made via the 1850 372 757 telephone number.

An invoice for the charge will issue to the applicant and when payment and wiring cert, where required, is received, a work order is then sent to the relevant supervisor who arranges to have the work completed.

**Note:** A completion certificate cannot be used to initiate work. All requests must be submitted via the 1850 372 757 telephone number.

#### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION NOTE TO CONTRACTORS REGARDING ESB NETWORKS SEALS.

Under the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995 enacted 21st December 1995 it is an offense to unlawfully interfere with any article (including a meter) owned by ESB.

ESB seals are registered on customers meter record. DO NOT break them. There have been a number of instances where seals have been removed in installations where some electrical work had taken place. If contractors find seals broken or missing please report this to ESB Networks BEFORE starting work on an installation.

Do not work on, or move ESB Networks metering equipment, including CTs and time switches, as this can give rise to serious contractual problems with customers and suppliers. Sealing and the removal of all seals, shall be undertaken by ESB Networks staff only.

*The above note is on page 9 of the Interface Book.*

#### USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS.

1850 372 999 — ESB Networks All Supply Failures / Emergencies

1850 372 757 — ESB Networks All New Connections, Service/Meter Alterations, etc.

1850 372 372 — ESB Customer Supply/Accounts where ESB is the electricity supplier.

1850-372 772 — ESB Public Lighting Faults where ESB Contracts are the public lighting maintenance contractor.

## Why Calibrate?

Having just purchased a test instrument, you would expect it to operate to within the manufacturer's published specifications. It should operate because every quality manufacturer ensures that the measurements performed by the instruments are within their stated accuracy tolerances prior to sale. Basically the instrument is calibrated!

However, to ensure that the instrument's measurements continue to be valid, it should be continuously assessed for satisfactory day-to-day performance and then re-calibrated after a period of use.

Manufacturers are reluctant to say just how frequently instruments should be re-calibrated as, where safety is an issue, common sense should prevail. That said, the industry convention is to have electrical test instruments calibrated at least annually.

However, some instruments may need re-calibration after a short period in use, especially if they are damaged or

malfunctioning.

It is also worth noting that the CER Criteria requires production of a valid Certificate of Calibration for Test Instruments used in the production of all test results.

When an instrument is calibrated, it is compared against certified high-accuracy reference equipment at a number of calibration points. All measuring ranges on each instrument are calibrated.

The results are then documented and compared to the instrument manufacturer's specifications. If found to be satisfactory a Calibration Certificate is granted. This shows a list of the results achieved, along with details of the reference equipment used, its traceability to international standards, and details regarding the calibration provider's certainty of measurement.

Once calibrated, the instrument can then be returned to service.

## Technical Advice

### Main Earthing Terminal

It is very important that the main earthing terminal is clearly visible and easily accessible in a distribution board. It should not be sealed under a panel or door. This would prevent the contractor from gaining access to the terminal. Contractors are advised to give instructions to this effect to their panel manufacturer.

### Polarity of ESB Supply

It is very wise to check that the polarity of the incoming ESB supply is correct before making the connection to the isolator switch in the meter cabinet.

### Cable Core Colours

Sometimes contractors order cable from wholesalers by specifying the type of cable and number of cores but do not actually state the required cable core colours on the assumption that the wholesaler will supply cable with the correct ETCI colour code. Sometimes cable with incorrect core colours is supplied and only discovered after the cable has been installed which can entail considerable

cost in rewiring. Contractors are strongly recommended to always specify the type of cable, number of cores **and** the required core colours when ordering cable for a job.

### Isolation of Bathroom Extractor Fans

RECI inspectors sometimes find that contractors have not provided an isolation switch for bathroom fans as required by the Wiring Rules clause 555.1.2. If there is no isolation provided for the fan the installation does not comply with ETCI rules and therefore cannot be certified.

Also, inspectors find that fans and their isolating switches are mounted in the wrong position ie. inside zone 1 for example. In this case the use of SELV fans would be recommended with the safety source being mounted outside the zones and their isolation switches should be mounted above 2.25 metres.

A 5amp functional switch is not acceptable as a maintenance isolation switch for bathroom fans.



## TECHNICAL NEWS

by Keane Harley

B. E., C. Eng., M. I. E. I.  
Technical Consultant to RECI

Amendment No. 2 to the National Rules for Electrical Installations will shortly be published by the ETCI. This is a publication containing an update to ET101/2004. Every so often it is found necessary to revise the Wiring Rules to allow for changes in building practice or changes in CENELEC European Harmonisation Directives. Rather than publishing a revised edition of the Wiring Rules, an amendment showing the changes to the existing rules is printed and circulated. A new addition to ET101 is in course of preparation. This will take some years and in the meantime recent changes are given in Amendment No. 2.

The Amendment will include changes in:—

- Part 2:** Definitions;
- Chapter 44:** Protection against over-voltages — A new section dealing with over-voltages in the installation resulting from either internal switching or atmospheric lighting;
- Chapter 46:** Isolation and Switching — This is a major revision to the existing section 466 involving the setting up of a new section 539;
- Chapter 54:** Identification of conductors by colour and supplementary marking of cables by eg. sleeving

- or tape. The new European cable colour code.
- Chapter 52:** Protection of cables in solid or hollow walls;
- Chapter 53:** A new section on Isolation incorporating the old section 466;
- Chapter 55:** Various changes, including socket outlets and extraction fans;
- Chapter 61:** Additional test;
- Chapter 701:** Amendment;
- Annex 43.A:** Clause 2, Cookers.

### **NEW HARMONISED CABLES**

A number of requests have been made to the ETCI for changes to the colour sleeving of cables. These rules are not made lightly and changes to the rules involve major discussions, etc between various parties. Indeed the likelihood now of the ETCI changing the rules is most unlikely, particularly where they have been recently amended.

### **DC Cables**

The core colours of DC cables in the new European system, required after April 2006 are:—

#### *DC Circuits*

- |                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| (a) Positive         | Brown |
| Earthed Negative     | Blue  |
| (b) Earthed Positive | Blue  |
| Negative             | Grey  |
| (c) Positive         | Brown |
| Negative             | Grey  |
| Earthed Mid-Wire     | Blue  |