



fisuel info

FISUEL INFORMATION LETTER

International federation for the safety of electricity users

EDITORIAL

ONE YEAR OLD ALREADY !

Fisuel is one year old. Just one year, but already a clear vision based on a shared objective: safer electrical installations for greater user safety. An aim pursued by defining widely shared minimum requirements for electrical safety.

Nevertheless, differences exist between countries:

- concerning the standards (if they exist) or baselines that should be adopted;
- concerning inspection methods, going as far as self-certification.

These variations further emphasise the importance of Fisuel and its general objectives:

- **promoting** actions to make installations safe;
- **helping** those wishing to set up a safety programme;
- **sharing** for mutual progress :
 - one year inside Fisuel,
 - represents 3 outside it
 - and 3 years of progress ;
- **moving** towards harmonisation by discussing a variety of methods for achieving compliance with minimum safety requirements;
- **setting up a publicly accessible International Observatory of Electrical Safety**, providing a data and statistics bank and a forum for exchange and contact.

A huge task and ambitious objectives.

But Fisuel is just one year old and with the strength of youth and the faith to move mountains... but also the greatest objectivity combined with a clear vision, it is sure to succeed!

Philippe André

News

- The board meeting was held on 10 December 2002. Agenda and decisions.

UIE - the 20th member of Fisuel

UIE - the International Union for Electricity Applications - having made the appropriate application, was admitted as associate member and becomes the 20th member of the Federation.

UIE's members include power distributors such as EDF, EDP, ELECTRA-BEL, INFEL, ESKOM,.... It carries out research into "field" applications of electricity, especially concerning the quality of electrical power supply.

A Fisuel charter

From now on all new members will sign the FISUEL charter when they are admitted. This document sets out some of the principles and values governing relations between FISUEL and its members.

Projects adopted for the next two years

- **Continuing the outreach to new active or associate members** including existing organisations or associations planning to set up new organisations: in Europe (Madrid, Luxembourg, Italy, England), Africa (Benin, Gambia, Mauritania, Mali, Cap Verde Islands, Gabon, etc.), Asia (Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, etc.).
- **Drafting** a procedure manual to assist installers with self-inspection (this was proposed by the President Serapio Calvo (FENIE/APIEM) as a "works" project. what methods? what inspection points? what equipment?
- FISUEL continuously updates **the list of minimum requirements for electrical safety**. It seeks to establish a consensus on inspection methods, keeps a "best practice" file, develops relations with the European Commission and is actively involved in the FEEDS project.
- **Reflection** concerning the setting up of an **International Observatory of Electrical Safety**.

Next board meeting

The next board meeting will be on 22 May 2003 in Portugal, followed by the General Assembly on May 23 and another board meeting on December 15 in Dakar.



□ ACTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 2002

Information

The first issue of FISUEL info was distributed in October. It is available on request and can still be e-mailed to anyone wishing to receive it.

External relations :

- Philippe André met Ronnie Belmans, president of UIE (International Union for Electricity Applications) on August 23 and November 13.
- FISUEL attended the 2nd meeting of FEEDS in Berlin on September 6 and the 3rd meeting in Paris on December 10.
- A delegation from Benin was received by CONSUEL in Paris on October 22, 23 and 24. CONSUEL is planning to work with CONTRELEC towards its future membership of FISUEL.
- A contact has been established with the European Commission (General Directorate for Health and Protection of Consumers).
- FISUEL worked with UIE and ECI to prepare a document defining the relations between itself and FEEDS (available on request and from the site).

Products

- A members directory has been prepared and distributed to all members. It is currently being updated and should be available for distribution in its revised form within a few weeks.
- Three light panels on an umbrella stand have been produced to provide information about the Federation at tradeshows and similar events. They are available to members.
- FISUEL's internet site www.fisuel.com is now on-line.

Events

- A FISUEL Day was held on December 11 at Villepinte as part of the Elec 2002 tradeshow: more than 60 participants from some twenty countries with an agenda including the various countries' vision for electrical safety (see extracts below).
- A Board Meeting was held on December 10. At this meeting the "FISUEL Charter" was adopted together with the principle of setting up an "International Observatory of Electrical Safety".

□ FISUEL DAY ON 11 DECEMBER 2002



The Fisuel day provided the opportunity to take stock of essential requirements for electrical safety.

UIE's vision, shared by all :

- high quality earthing circuit,
- protection against current leakage to the earth,
- protection against overcurrent,
- protection against overvoltage,
- correct sizing of wires and cables.

Representatives from four countries :

- Luxembourg: Guy Geffroy, president of APEL,
- Spain: Serapio Calvo, president of FENIE,
- Portugal: Mr Oliveira Barbosa, managing director of CERTIEL,
- France: Michel Durand, managing director of CONSUEL,

Extracts :

From Guy Geffroy :

We recommend countries wanting to set up electrical installation inspection, or move forward in this process to :

- carry out a study of accidents of electrical origin,
- propose a study to promote safety in electrical installations.

From Serapio Calvo :

Our recommendations for moving the inspection initiative forward are :

- for starting up the installation and all the intermediate steps,
- monitoring data bases relating to installers and installations,
- computerisation of relevant documents.

From Oliviera Barbosa :

The difficulties encountered in implementing these verifications are :

- voltage faults in the installation premises,
- visibility/accessibility of ducts,
- visibility/accessibility of the earth rod,
- non-installed power appliances.

Pour Michel Durand :

CONSUEL's recommendations for helping countries or organisations wishing to introduce an electrical inspection initiative are :

- choose (or create) a reference standard,
- make it known,
- apply it.

▪ Contributions to the debate (extracts)

Roland Talon (President of Technical Committee 64 of the IEC):

"Everyone has professional habits and no two electricians work in the same way: 250,000 electricians means 250,000 ways of working.

Only the verified result is considered compulsory and the overall job must comply with the standard."

Pierre Moulié (President of PROMOTELEC and Vice President of CONSUEL - France) :

"Despite the fact that FISUEL was only recently set up, has

to deal with different languages and practices, and has a very full agenda, it has nevertheless already achieved a great deal. The common objective is clear: to improve the safety of electricity users".

Michel Durand (Consuel - France) :

"In France there are 3 organisations, QUALIFELEC, PROMOTELEC and CONSUEL. The last of these was created under a private initiative between installers and EDF in order to make up what the system lacked: the final stage after qualification and promotion of standards.



PROMOTELEC was set up in 1962 and CONSUEL in 1964 with its procedures endorsed by the authorities in 1972.

It should be noted however that Senegal and Portugal have been much quicker; while the process may be different in every country, depending on how it operates, the selected measures can nevertheless be set up and operated without waiting for regulatory texts".

Aba Kadar (Ministry of the Economy and Transport - Hungary) :

"Application of the standards is compulsory in Hungary, but this ruling will be amended when the country officially joins the European Union: this is likely to result in many questions being asked".

Seydina Kane (Cossuel/Proquelec - Sénégal) :

"...drawing on French experience, a private initiative led to the setting up of COSSUEL and PROQUELEC at field level..."

Ronnie Belmans (UIE - Europe) :

"It is worth stressing that to travel across Europe with a PC, 5 different plugs are needed in order to adapt to national standards, whereas the safety aspect is the same for all. However it is guaranteed in concrete terms by different methods and traditions, depending on the country".

Finally, *Georges Kassi* (IFPS – Ivory Coast), unfortunately delayed as a result of the events in his country, could not address the meeting as he would have liked, but here are a few extracts from the comments he would have made:

"In just a few months, our organisation, the International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users (FISUEL) has become a tangible reality, judging from the number of its members.

My country supports the aims and objectives that FISUEL has set itself.

Through the many contact opportunities it sets up, FISUEL has become a forum for a wide range of subjects and new ideas for its members. It must consider setting up other forums allowing its members from other continents to be fully involved in the actions that it has conducted so far.

This is why my country offered to receive a future African forum in Abidjan.

Unfortunately the current situation in Ivory Coast has made this impossible, but we count on FISUEL to organise a forum as soon as the situation allows..."

News in brief

THE FISUEL INTERNET SITE IS OPERATIONAL : www.fisuel.com



We also draw your attention to another very informative site well worth checking out set up by the ECI (European Copper Institute) :

www.electrical-safety.org

Project

FEEDS

(Forum for european electrical domestic safety).

The preparation of a FEEDS positioning paper on electrical safety, and more specifically, systematic inspection of older installations, resulted in a third meeting on 10 December in Paris.

This document, to be finalised for the Barcelona meeting on March 19, will be presented by the ECI and distributed to everyone attending the General Assembly in Lisbon on May 23.

Fisuel Info is available by e-mail on request.

FISUEL has decided to build up a "mapping" of developments in electrical safety in the various countries. ANY INFORMATION (statistics, events, good practice, regulations/legislation, notes for the installation profession, etc.) USEFUL FOR SETTING UP THIS DATA BASE IS NOW REQUIRED. Thank you.

Dates to note...

- CeBIT from March 12 to 19 in Hanover. FEEDS meeting on 19 March in Barcelona, at which the Federation's position concerning inspection of older installations will be presented.
- Hanover from April 7 to 12
- Intel in Milan from May 20 to 24.
- General Assembly of FISUEL on May 23 in Lisbon with a visit from CERTIEL.
- ENDIEL 2003 (organised by Anima) in Lisbon from May 27 to 31.
- UIE Congress 2004 from January 17 to 21 in Durban, in association with ESKOM