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FISUEL INFORMATION LETTER

INFO

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International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users

EDITORIAL

The main aim of the Register of Electrical Contractors of Ireland – RECI, is to promote and protect the interests of the public, as users of electrical services. This is done through self regulation and ensuring an acceptable standard of workmanship and technical competence within the electrical contracting industry.

RECI are very pleased to become members of Fisuel, an organisation promoting electrical safety at an international level and encouraging contact and sharing of experiences between countries with a common goal of increasing the level of safety in electrical installations and harmonising inspection procedures.

The Wiring Rules throughout Europe are being harmonised by CENELEC in all EU countries through the efforts of the local standardisation committees. We would like to see similar harmonisation of regulation of electrical contractors and inspection regimes. Progress towards this objective can be made by members of Fisuel exchanging information about the practices in their respective countries.

Periodic inspections of electrical installations in older buildings is vitally important in the interest of public safety and we hope that through the influence of Fisuel all countries will eventually adopt a compulsory system of inspections for these installations.

RECI will be happy to share its knowledge and expertise within the Fisuel organisation in order to improve electrical safety for consumers both in Ireland and internationally.

James RICE
Chairman RECI

SPECIAL FEATURE: «RECI - REGISTER OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS OF IRELAND»



James RICE, Philippe ANDRÉ, Jose Tomaz GOMES

NEWS ITEMS

Arising from the Board Meeting (Dakar, 10 December 2003):

→ Three new organisations in the college of active members:

- RECI, Ireland, Register of Electrical Contractors of Ireland
Tel. (+353) 1 492 9966 – fax. (+353) 1 492 9983 – info@reci.ie – www.reci.ie
- APSE, Argentina, Asociacion para la Promocion de la Seguridad Electrica
Tel. (+54) 11 4804 2822 – fax. (+54) 11 4804 2822 (Int. 116) – apse@apse.org.ar – www.apse.org.ar
- Le NICEIC, Grande Bretagne, National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting
Tel. (+44) 20 7564 2323 – fax. (+44) 20 7564 2370 – enquiries@niceic.org.uk – www.niceic.org.uk

bringing the number of active members of FISUEL up to 12 and the total number of members up to 25.

→ An action draft for 2004:

- Preparation of a case statement entitled «Why join FISUEL?».
- Giving the Internet site a new look.
- 3 issues of «FISUEL Info» a year, one or two of which devoted to existing inspection bodies, with a «Word from the members» section.





- In view of recent comments received, finalisation of the document «FISUEL Manual for New Installations», then general distribution and setting up of a work group to spell out the essence of this document: comparison between the various countries and their reasons.
- Start work on «FISUEL Manual for Older Installations».
- When available, information concerning the FEEDS «positioning paper» now called «Towards improved electrical installers in Europe».
- Reflection on the future launching of the International Observatory for Electrical Safety.
- Study of members' expectations in order to assess Fisuel's strategies on the basis of members' priorities.
 - Continued expansion, especially towards Pacific Asia and Latin America.
 - Participation in the UIE Congress at Durban (18 to 23 January 2004).
 - Update of the Directory and brochure of FISUEL.

→ Draft budget 2004 / membership fees 2004

Compared with 2003, expenses will increase during 2004, within the limit of FISUEL's additional revenue.

In total this should be around 80,000 Euros and 2004 membership fees will remain at their 2003 level.

→ General assembly 2004

The General Assembly will take place in Paris during the morning of 4 June, with a Board Meeting the evening before and a day's sight-seeing the following day, 5 June.

◆ Dublin, FISUEL Day, 7 November 2003

Some fifteen countries, as well as certain organisations such as CENELEC, ECI, UIE, AIE, were represented during the FISUEL Day 2003 held on 7 November under the leadership of Philippe André, President of FISUEL, in Dublin at the invitation of James Rice, President of RECI.



Dublin, FISUEL Day

In particular this event allowed participants to become aware of:

- electrical installation inspection or validation systems in Ireland (RECI) and Great Britain (NICEIC): comparable systems based on double assessment in companies and at sites,
- and implementation of the E-check mark in Germany.

During the meeting, FISUEL took stock of its activities and announced the forthcoming publication of the «FISUEL Manual» (indispensable inspections for compliance with the 5 essential requirements of electrical safety). Another speaker, Bjorn Erik Pettersen, President of AIE presented this association's projects, which include an enquiry into electrical safety in the countries represented by its members.

Finally, the FISUEL day provided participants with the opportunity of hearing a presentation by ECI of the FEEDS document (European forum on electrical safety in residential properties), focusing on the lack of safety in older housing in Europe and the consequent need to set up systematic periodic inspections.

◆ Dakar, Forum on Electrical Safety, 11 December 2003

A Forum on Electrical Safety was held in Dakar on 11 December, under the aegis of FISUEL and chaired by its President, Philippe André. The forum was set up by PROQUELEC/COSSUEL (both members of FISUEL) and was opened by the Senegalese Minister of Energy and Mining, Madické Niang.

It was a major opportunity for reflection and sharing of experience between players concerned by the safety of electrical installations, by the occasionally anarchic development of installations and by inadequate inspection of



Dakar, Forum on Electrical Safety



Durban - UIE international conference



compliance with standards: all factors that create accidents affecting both persons and property.

The fifty or so participants, from 15 countries, were made aware of the different situations in a number of countries including France, through PROMOTELEC and CONSUEL, Benin through

CONTRELEC, Ivory Coast through LBTP Securel, Niger through SNEIN, Gabon and Mali with decrees to the same effect, and Senegal through PROQUELEC and COSSUEL■



RECI

Dublin - FISUEL day - 7th november

Is a non-profit organisation set up in 1992 by ETCI (Electrotechnical Council of Ireland) and some other national organisations, - after 18 years of work and several proposals - whose general objectives are:

- to promote and protect the interests of electricity users, ensuring that they encounter competency among electricians,
- and to help electricians meet this objective.

Its Board of Directors comprises: 2 representatives of ETCI, 2 from ESB (Electricity Supply Board) - the power distributor -, and 8 representatives of installers (Electrical Contractors Association, Association of Electrical Contractors of Ireland, independent contractors).

Finally, the key element in the creation of RECI is its agreement with ESB, under the terms of which new installations are only connected to the mains supply if there is a «completion certificate» signed:

- by a contractor recorded in the Registry,
- or, if this is not the case, after inspection by the installer and by the inspection body.

RECI has a number of sub-committees (Management, Approval, Administration, Certificate Approval, Discipline, Technical, Training) and 10 inspectors.

Its activity includes:

- sale of completion certificates,
- inspections of installations carried out by its members,
- inspections of installations carried out by electricians not certified by a recognised body,
- setting up training programmes,
- putting out publications,
- making safety diagnoses at the request of users,
- and collection of membership fees from its members (45%).

RECI



In Ireland, every installation must be carried out in compliance with the National Rules published by ETCI (Electrotechnical Council of Ireland), the electrotechnical standardisation body.

«Every new installation and major extension shall be inspected and tested by a competent person to check that the rules have been observed and a certificate shall be issued» (Order of 1993).

→ **In practice, the concrete expression of this requirement is that:**

- for new installations or total renovations,
- and for installations where the power supply has been cut off for more than 6 months,

connection to the mains supply by ESB (Electricity Supply Board) is **dependent** on the installer acquiring a «**certificate of completion**».

This «certificate» confirms that the installation has been carried out in compliance with standards, that it has been tested and is ready.

→ **Second important point:**

it is considered to be essential for safety that the electrical installer be «technically competent». Therefore:

- either, he is an approved member of a Regulation Body recognised by the Energy Regulation Commission, such as RECI, in which case he is authorised to sign the «completion certificate» himself
- or, if this is not the case, the certificate that he prepares must be counter-signed after inspection of the installation, by a recognised Regulation Body.

This gives rise to two possible situations when ESB (Electricity Supply Board), the power distributor, is requested to make the connection:





- The installer is «registered» by RECI and he signs the «completion certificate», recognised by ETCI, to confirm that the pre-connection tests have been carried out and are satisfactory.

A green duplicate is sent to ESB, which then connects power to the terminals upstream of the meter; the connection is made by the installer who then conducts the «post-connection tests».

It is only at this stage that the yellow original copy of the certificate, completed and signed by the installer to confirm that the post-connection tests are satisfactory, is given to the customer. A recent development enables the installer to create the certificate on his computer and send it by e-mail to ESB (Electricity Supply Board). After «the post-connection tests» he can print out a copy for his customer.

- In the other situation, when an installer is not a member of an accreditation body such as RECI, the certificate must be counter-signed by an inspector of the regulation body before it is sent to the power distributor.

→ **Finally**, in all situations, for an installer to be assessed as technically competent,

- if he is not so himself, his personnel must be, and each installer keeps an updated list of personnel qualified to sign the certificates,

- and he must have
 - the standards and measuring instruments
 - as well as adequate third-party liability insurance.

It is also stressed that for an installer to be «registered»: at least 2 installations are assessed initially and at least 2 more over the first 6 months. After this, in principle, there will be one inspection a year.

ECTI was formed in 1972.

It has 23 voluntary members and represents Ireland at CENELEC and IEC. It is therefore responsible for harmonising standards in co-operation with NSAI (National Standards Authority of Ireland), of which it forms one of the advisory committees.

In this capacity, it publishes the national rules for electrical installations and promotes safety of electrical fittings.

Its members, represented on its Board of Directors, include all interested bodies that can contribute to its work - establishing rules for the installation of electrical circuits and producing the corresponding publications.



ates for your diary...

- The General Assembly due to be held during the morning of Friday **4 June**, with a Board Meeting the evening before and a day's sight-seeing the following day, 5 June.
- Seminar on electrical safety organised by APSE in Buenos Aires on **28 April**, with the participation of Philippe ANDRE, President of FISUEL.
- The Salon Elec 2004 trade fair during which the «First International Forum of the Electrical Safety» will be organised, on **9 December** in Paris (Villepinte).



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