



# fisuel INFO

FISUEL INFORMATION LETTER

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International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users

## Editorial

The Association for the Promotion of Electrical Safety (APSE) is a non-governmental organisation created at the initiative of the Association of Electrical Energy Distributors of the Argentine Republic (ADEERA) with the objective of integrating activities concerned with the Safety of electrical energy consumers.

For this reason, early in 1998 APSE obtained juridical personality with the largest participation of the entire electrical industry.

The main objectives are to promote education in the field of energy sources and to spread awareness of prevention and protection of persons and goods against the risks inherent in the use of electrical energy.

To this end, APSE conducts electrical safety promotion campaigns, stipulates the use of standardised materials, collaborates in the definition and writing of installation standards and supports the training of specialists in this field.

Through the Institute of Authorisation and Accreditation (IHA), APSE is an important player in the industry as, in application of standard ISO 9001, installations must be inspected in order to guarantee electrical safety.

APSE represents the first American country to have formally joined FISUEL. This situation allows it to consolidate relations with the other member countries and therefore participate in the improvement of the model for managing electricity users' safety.

Sandro ROLLAN  
President of APSE

## SPECIAL FEATURE APSE ASOCIACIÓN PARA LA PROMOCIÓN DE LA SEGURIDAD ELÉCTRICA APSE



Sandro ROLLAN, Philippe ANDRÉ



## NEW ITEMS

### Buenos Aires - International Seminar on Electrical Safety, 28 April 2004

An international seminar, mainly aimed at presenting the French principle of inspections of the electrical installations was held on the 28 April 2004, at the prestigious House of the Engineers of Buenos Aires.

Organised by APSE (asociación para la promoción de la seguridad eléctrica) this meeting has been a great success: 180 practitioners attended the presentations made by Philippe André, President of Consuel and Fisuel, Pierre Moulié, President of Promotelec and Vice President of Consuel, and Michel Durand, managing director of Consuel.

This meeting has also been the occasion to publicly give concrete expression to the APSE membership to Fisuel.

It has been followed the next day by a presentation of the 3 bodies (Consuel, Fisuel, and Promotelec) to installers that had been gathered by the main Federations. 🌐

Michel DURAND,  
Sandro ROLLAN,  
Philippe ANDRÉ,  
Pierre MOULIÉ,  
Patricia YERFINO







## Two new organisations in the college of active members :



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Philippe ANDRÉ

- KESCO, Korea, Korea Electrical Safety Corporation.  
Tel. (+82) 2 440 2114  
Fax (+82) 2 440 2195  
info@kesco.or.kr  
www.kesco.or.kr
- AIB Vinçotte Belgium, Belgique.  
Tel. (+32) 2 674 57 11 – Fax (+32) 674 59 59  
info@aib-vincotte.be - www.aib-vincotte.com

Bringing the number of active members of FISUEL up to 13 and the total number of members up to 26.

## Paris – Annual General Meeting, 4 June 2004

Nearly 60 participants from more than 15 countries came together for the General Assembly on 4 June in Paris, under the chairmanship of Philippe André.

Apart from the statutory aspects, which included notably an Activity Report with distribution of:

- the "FISUEL manual, new installations" (a self-inspection manual allowing installers to check their electrical installation before leaving the worksite),
  - and "Improvement of electrical installations" (a work produced in partnership within FEEDS, the European Forum for Electrical Safety in Residences), which is developing a case statement in favour of systematic inspection of older installations,
- this was the occasion for announcing:

- the recent membership of AIB Vinçotte (Belgium), APSE (Argentina), KESCO (Korea), NICEIC (United Kingdom), and RECI (Ireland), bringing the number of members to 26,
- the setting up in 2005, in co-operation with ECI (European Copper Institute), of an organised, structured and "intelligent" electrical safety data base: a data classification and analysis system available to members,
- and the first International Assizes of Electrical Safety, planned for 9 December of this year in Paris, as part of the Salon Elec 2004 (electricity trade fair).

Three testimonials - Electrical installation in residential properties in Italy, Inspection of installations in the Buenos Aires region in Argentina and Progress made by CERTIEL with regard to inspection in Portugal - then concluded the morning's activities which provided a wealth of exchange and information.

It fell to Jean Claude Karpelès, General Delegate of GIMELEC and FIEEC to give the closing words. We quote the substance of one of his concluding points: "give consumers a better explanation of what they must do and spread awareness because, while it is good that laws exist, their enforcement

implies inspection and inspection requires the means; which is why voluntary application is the best solution, and FISUEL is one of the organisations which can contribute to this at European and world level."

Finally, as is the custom at FISUEL meetings, the day's agenda continued with a presentation and a visit. This time it was a presentation of CONSUEL - its origin, structure and methods - followed by demonstrations of on-site inspections.

## SPECIAL APSE Asociación para la Promoción de la Seguridad Eléctrica

### Electrical safety in buildings in Argentina

#### How did APSE begin?

This body originated from the concern of the Argentine association of electricity distributors (ADEERA) to combine activities related to ensuring the safety of electricity users. On 18th September 1997 the founding document was signed which led to the laying down of its legal status in January 1998 under resolution 2/98 granted by the Argentine Regulatory Agency of Corporations, thereby approving its by-laws and aims and hence considering it as a Nonprofit Institution of Public Good.

This Association complies with all parties in the Argentine electricity market. For example, standards bodies, electrical products manufacturers and distributors associations, electricity distributors associations, regulators and installers associations.

#### Its main aims, specified and hence approved in its by-laws are:

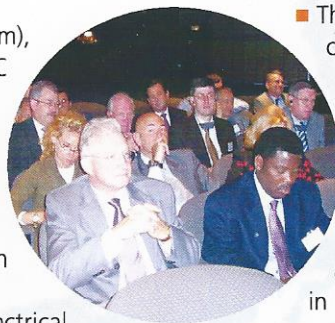
- The promotion of a rational and safe use of electricity.
- The encouragement of teaching and spreading the concepts and standards on electrical safety.
- The enlightenment of people, through dissemination, on the inherent dangers affecting themselves, animals and goods when using electricity.
- The drawing up of agreements with national and international bodies meant for checking and supervising the safety of electrical installations in buildings.

#### Main achievements in meeting its aim:

The main achievement was to have created an electrical safety awareness culture with measures targeted at Education, Training and Dissemination.

#### What is the Approval and Accreditation Institute (Instituto de Habilitación y Acreditación - IHA)?

The creation of the IHA, by the Regulator, establishes a checking system for new electrical installations, as specified in Resolution N° 207 of 1995 which relates to its field of application. To fulfil this role, the Regulator (ENRE) delegated the task of checking new installations to APSE through the IHA. This task is carried out according to a work plan :





- The installer can undertake the installation and also certify it or only certify the work carried out by another installer.
- The IHA carries out an inspection which is unrelated to the landlord's request to have the electricity supply connected.

#### Approval and Accreditation Institute (IHA) functions:

- Checks that ENRE resolution N° 207/95 is complied with.
- Provides a Register for authorized installers who pass skills assessment tests.
- Registers university technicians and professionals on a voluntary basis, as laid down by either the professional council or the professional association.
- Draws up procedural instructions for certificates and checking documents.
- Checks the certificates issued by the registered installers (It does not approve installations).
- Notices the thwarting of standards and supervises the registered individual until resolved. Informs the corresponding professional council or professional association.
- Publishes the Installers Register.
- Draws up and keeps an up-to-date database of each certifier and his records.

- Prepares statistical information on the results of its activity for every area or region.

#### Operational Framework

- Electrical installations in buildings on national territory, regardless of their purpose, are divided into three categories:

Category A : over 50 Kw.

Category B : over 10 Kw.

Category C : up to 10 Kw.

These categories lay down the electrical power of the installation and those who can certify it.

- The Certifiers who certify the aforementioned installations are divided into three levels:

**Level 1:** University professionals with the appropriate qualifications (as specified by the corresponding professional council).

**Level 2:** Non-university professional technicians with the appropriate qualifications (as specified by the corresponding professional council).

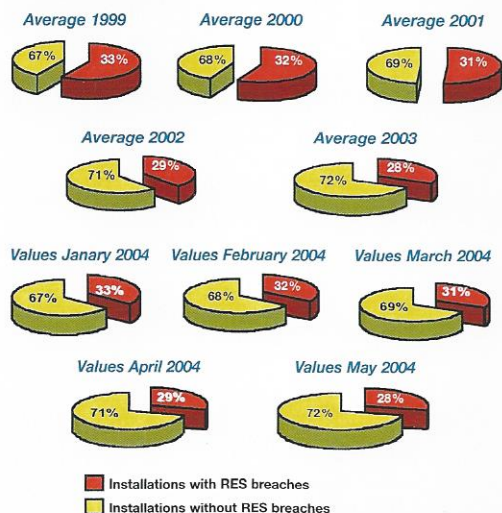
**Level 3:** Authorized electricians, with specific requirements (up to 10 Kw).

#### Statistics

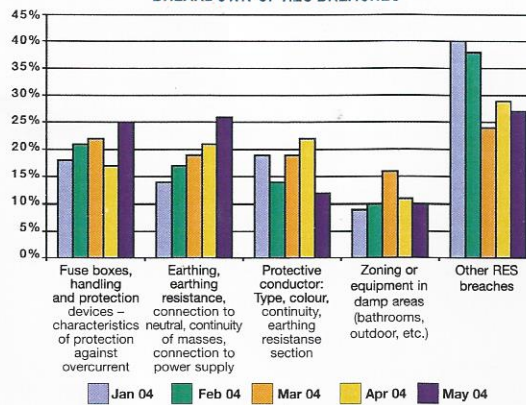
The historic results of APSE's activities are presented below. The progress made since its launch in 1998 to 2004 is clearly seen.

It is noteworthy that when APSE was launched, breaching of the essential safety requirements (RES) which endangers the lives of humans, animals and goods stood at 59% but now stands at 31%. In other words, errors made during the fitting of electrical installations in buildings over a six-year period have dropped by almost 50%.

#### IHA : On site checks UNDERTAKEN IN BUENOS AIRES CITY AND GREATER BUENOS AIRES



#### BREAKDOWN OF RES BREACHES



Note : Percentages refer to the total of RES breaches found in the sample.

These errors refer to fuse boxes, earthing, protective conductors, and zoning in damp areas, like bathrooms. This classification is laid down in AEA (Argentine Electrotechnical Association) regulations in force in Argentina. The fact that these categories vary every year must be taken into consideration. We must point out that whilst there are percentage gains, it is not less sure that such gains can be attributed to the care taken in inspecting the installation. Sometimes, a part of the installation does not have its protective conductor connected to the circuit interrupter but not all of the installation is lacking a conductor. An improvement is therefore possible although the statistic indicates the opposite, and it should therefore be studied with care.





Level 1 and 2 installers can certify the installations of categories A, B and C. Level 3 installers can only certify installations of category C.

All certifiers can be installers and all installers can certify as long as they are registered with the IHA.

To enter onto the register, university professionals and technicians can do so directly by presenting the certificate and qualification issued by the corresponding professional council.

Those who are authorized must sit a competency test in a national state university recognised by the IHA and if successful go to a meeting to find out about the certification process as well as sign a membership agreement contract.

### Basic principles for the checking system

Every effort shall be made to ensure that installers are inspected on a fairly regular basis in their capacity as IHA certifiers. They shall be inspected at least twice a year by our audit team.

The position of certifier is granted according to two main conditions. First, the knowledge of the installer on the technique used to undertake installations, as from the planning level. Secondly, the trust placed in each of them by the IHA. Once he is registered, the installer has the capacity to issue signed certificates which render him responsible for the installation's compliance with standards. (see model of the certificate attached to the email).

The selection of those installers who are to be inspected is made automatically through an IT program on the basis of the installer's records.

If faults are found in the certified installations, the installer concerned shall be requested to fix the faults and later inform the IHA. This shall lead to more frequent inspections which shall be borne by the installer at a cost of \$95 (US\$30) as these extra inspections were his own fault.

If a serious fault reoccurred, the registered individual shall be struck off for a temporary period as he would no longer be trusted. The case would be brought to the attention of the corresponding professional council, if a professional or a technician was involved. Once the council has made its decision, the individual would be struck off indefinitely. In the case of authorized individuals, they would be struck off by the Institute as they were registered with IHA. In both cases, all certifiers sign a Membership Agreement Contract in which these conditions are laid down.

### Funding

The funding of the Institute comes solely from the validation of each certificate. There are no additional sources of funding, nor government grants.

### Cost of each certificate

The cost of each certificate amounts to 19ARD (approx. US\$6). The certificates are not divided into categories.

### The outcome of 7 years' work, 1997-2003

- Total number of installations certified: 175,000  
Distributed as follows:
  - 90% for installations less than or equal to 10 KVA
  - 10% for installations over 10 KVA
- Total number of registered individuals: 3,300 distributed accordingly:
  - 17% registered for Level 1
  - 20% registered for Level 2
  - 63% registered for Level 3
- Total number of those qualified for Level 3 : 6,500  
In 25 training centres, with 40 specialised instructors, totalling 800,000 man hours of training.
- Total number of checks made : 9,500 With a team of 10 specialised auditors and over 200 assessment audits.

## Dates for your diary

- **8 December 2004**
  - Board of Directors
  - Working group "Exchanges and convergence"
- **9 December 2004**  
First International Forum of Electrical Safety in the framework of Elec 2004 exhibition (Villepinte)
- **19 or 20 May 2005** (has to be confirm)
  - Board of Directors
  - Working group "Exchanges and convergence"
- **20 and 21 May 2005**  
Annual General Meeting and sightseeing at Luxembourg



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