



# fisuel INFO

FISUEL INFORMATION LETTER

www.fisuel.com

International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users

## Editorial

### Standards and Practices : where do they meet ?

By the time the International Electrotechnical Commission was formed in 1906 the electrical installation industry had been in existence for at least 30 years. The first rules for electrical installations were produced in the United Kingdom in 1882 followed by Germany in 1896 and the United States in 1897. France was close behind in 1911.

The question of wiring rules was discussed at the IEC Council meeting in 1908 which decided that "this is not a subject which can as yet be usefully discussed on account of the numerous matters which have to be previously considered by the Commission."

This was a pity because, with hindsight it can be seen that equipment standards and characteristics need to reflect the requirements for safety when incorporated in an installation, rather than being developed in a vacuum.

A further cause for dismay at a missed opportunity is that, by 1906, country's installation practices were already beginning to diverge, and wiring rules in those days (as the USA National Electric Code still is) were "how to do it documents" and reflected these national practices.

By the time that the IEC got round to setting up a committee (TC64) in 1968, national materials, practices and prejudices were firmly entrenched.

CENELCOM, the then European Electrical Standardisation Commission, had commenced preparing rules in 1958. Initially it was thought that a few meetings would resolve the differences between the rules of the six members or the European Common Market but it was found that the only way to make progress was to prepare rules based on principals, enabling countries to carry on with their preferred, albeit slightly modified practices.

Inspection and enforcement methods reflected, and had their, own national practices.

It was into this morass that FISUEL valiantly waded in 2000 and set out to identify commonalities and differences between practices and regimes. Commonalities give hope for agreement; differences identify the areas to be worked on. But, by encouraging countries which do not have inspection or enforcement schemes, or possibly even wiring rules,

to adopt an existing system which most easily fits into their practices, FISUEL is succeeding in preventing further fragmentation. However, there is a long way to go before a reduction in differences between existing systems and practices can be foreseen, but the longest journey begins with the first step.



David LATIMER  
Vice President  
Member of the Board

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY COUNCIL, UK



The Electrical Safety Council is a UK-based, established to raise awareness and promote safety among the public in all matters electrical.



The Council was set up over 50 years ago as the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC). However, in September 2005, the Charity's Board of Trustees approved a proposal to separate the organization's charitable activities from its commercial activities, and changed the Charity's name

to the Electrical Safety Council.

The changes came about following a review that looked at the effectiveness of the Charity's activities in raising public awareness of electrical safety issues. The review concluded that, whilst the Charity's technical contribution to industry was and is second to none, it was not achieving its full potential in promoting electrical safety to the public. In addition, the Council wanted to give clearer definition between the Charity and its commercial trading arm by separating the Charity's activities from those of its commercial subsidiaries, thereby giving the Charity greater independence and objectivity.

NICEIC continues to trade as NICEIC Group Limited, and operates a range of schemes associated with electrical safety. It offers a variety of services to UK-based electrical contractors which include: training, assessment, ongoing surveillance, warranties and telephone technical helpline assistance.

The Electrical Safety Council has wide support within the UK from the electrical industry, professional bodies and consumer groups. 60 bodies are represented on its Council, including Public Electricity Distributors, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, the Consumers' Association, the Electrical Contractors' Associations, trade unions and many other notable UK organisations that have an interest in electrical safety.

The mission of the Electrical Safety Council is to be "...the most influential and respected UK driving force for users of electricity in the field of electrical safety". It intends to



achieve this aim through its work as a centre of technical excellence in the electrical engineering field, and also through its campaigning activities.

The Electrical Safety Council has considerable expertise in the field of electrical safety. It employs a highly skilled and experienced technical team which produces authoritative technical publications, including a Technical Manual that gives detailed information and guidance to electrical contractors and other professionals on the application of technical requirements. The technical team is also well respected throughout the UK electrical industry as a centre of technical excellence on all matters relating to the safety of electrical installations and electrical equipment.

The Council represents the electrical safety interests of UK consumers and other users of electricity on committees developing British Standards, such as those relating to the requirements for electrical installations (the national wiring rules), fire detection and alarm systems, and emergency lighting systems. It also represents the electrical safety interests of UK consumers on appropriate CENELEC and IEC committees, on which most British Standards are based.

The Charity also has an experienced campaign team, which is fully engaged in running niche campaigns in areas which the Electrical Safety Council believes are currently of most concern to consumers. As part of these projects, the team is also building partnerships and collaborating with relevant UK Government agencies, industry bodies and consumer groups, to best target particular groups of people who are either at most risk from the hazards of electricity, such as the elderly, and/or those people who are in need of practical guidance, such as homeowners carrying out electrical DIY ('do-it-yourself') jobs.



### Campaigns

The first of the campaigns is to raise consumers' awareness and understanding of the UK regulations and legal requirements relating to electrical safety, such as Part P of the Building Regulations for England and Wales, introduced in 2005.

The second campaign is to research into the in-service reliability of RCDs (residual current devices) and to promote their use to householders.

According to a recent consumer survey<sup>1</sup> conducted by the Council, 43% of those surveyed had no idea what an RCD was, but once the safety benefits were explained, 47% stated they would be persuaded to buy one. On the basis of the survey and the research, the Electrical Safety Council will promote the use of RCDs in every home.

The third campaign is associated with the number of fires in homes caused by electricity, such as faulty wiring. According to UK Government statistics, about 20% of fires in homes are caused by electricity<sup>2</sup> which, on average, result in about 24 deaths and 590 non-fatal injuries in England and Wales every year<sup>3</sup>. The Council intends to work closely with Government bodies and targeted consumer groups to help bring about a reduction in the number of fires in homes caused by electricity.

**In addition to its campaign work**, the Electrical Safety Council is also actively engaged in trying to influence UK Government on forthcoming legislation and initiatives to ensure that consumer safety is enhanced, that the consumers' needs are recognised, and that issues of electrical safety are given priority. The Council has recently made known to Government its disappointment that forthcoming changes to Part P of the Building Regulations (which impose requirements for the safety of electrical installations in homes) appear to significantly reduce the legal requirements for electrical safety and has urged Government to reconsider its decision.

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY COUNCIL** In summary, the Electrical Safety Council is a UK-based charity, wholly concerned with raising awareness of, and promoting, electrical safety at national and international level. The Council is a member of FISUEL and shares its common goal to contribute to the development of the safety of all electricity users. The Electrical Safety Council welcomes the opportunity to share its knowledge and experience with other FISUEL members and associates, and to combine its efforts in progression of this aim.

For more information about the role, aims and activities of the Electrical Safety Council, visit:

[www.electricalsafetycouncil.org.uk](http://www.electricalsafetycouncil.org.uk)

1. Source: Electrical Safety Council Consumer Survey, March 2006
2. Source: ODPM, Fire Statistics, 2004
3. Source: ODPM, Regulatory Impact Assessment for Part P of the Building Regulations for England and Wales, July 2004

## As a reminder

Member countries which have not yet answered the "accidentology" inquiry are kindly invited to do it as soon as possible.

Many thanks to them in advance

## FENELEC

The National Federation of Electricity and Electronics (FENELEC), new active member of FISUEL intends to set up a system for making sure that electrical Standards are applied before connection with the network is done.

FENELEC brings together the practitioners in the four components of the electrical industry:

- AFEM, the **Manufacturers** Association,
- AIEM, the Electrical **Contractors** Association,
- ADEM, the Electrical Equipment **Wholesalers** Association,
- ASEL, the **Electronics** Association.

Each of these Associations has its own Board composed of 12 Members, with the usual organization chart : President, Vice-president, General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary, and 6 assessors.

FENELEC has set for itself the target of actively taking part in the life of the electrical and electronic industries and the supervision of works, allowing Moroccan companies to follow the present transformations in the national and international arenas.

FENELEC will carry out its action plans so as to help Moroccan companies to manage it's the raising of the standards of their activities and to take part in the competition which will become more and more severe because of the market's internalization

In 2005 the turnover of these companies is close to 2,5 billions of euros and it is expected that in 2006 this amount should be higher, which means a bolstered evolution close to 20 % per year

FENELEC is managed by a Board of 22 Directors, and is lead by a Committee of 15 Members.

FENELEC was born from the bringing together of two big Associations in the private electrical sector (ASMELEC and AMIEE) during the constituent General Assembly held on 26 November 1997, attended by around 60 companies among the most representative of the industry.

 **FENELEC**

## MATELEC

The International Exhibition of Electrical and Electronic Equipment will be held from 24 October to 28 October, at Madrid's FERIA. It will have different sectors:

- Electrical Energy,
- Technology of Electrical Installation,
- Lighting and Illumination,
- Inter and Telecommunications,
- Electronics and Industrial Equipments,
- Subcontracting Show.

On that occasion, Fisuel will organised his next International Symposium on Electrical Safety the 28 October from 09.30 to 13.30, with as its main theme "accidents with electrical origins".

Information : 00 33 1 56 79 50 10 (morning)

[fisuel@fisuel.com](mailto:fisuel@fisuel.com)

  
**MATELEC**

## Tel Aviv : 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of SEEI (from 5 to 8 april 2006)

Between the 5 and 6 April the Electricians Inspectors Association held its third annual conference.

This annual meeting was set up in 2001 when this Association was founded as a part of the Electrical Engineers Association of Israel (SEEI ).



*Avisbai RASH,  
Deputy President of SEEI*

*José TOMAZ GOMES,  
President of FISUEL*

This year the idea was to emphasise the independence of inspectors and their inspections.

## 4 main routes of FISUEL

- To promote electrical safety by ensuring the conformity of installations with standards
- To help those countries which do not have any system of inspection to put one in place, and to help those which do have such a system in place to improve it
- To progress the setting up in the various countries of the periodic inspection of older electrical installations
- Promotion and information

**ONE YEAR OF FISUEL  
3 YEARS SAVED, 3 YEARS OF PROGRESS**



The meeting was composed of papers that were given by members of the Association, each one presenting a specific issue on his speciality.

Furthermore, the Graduate Inspectors having sent a petition to the High Court seeking to compel the electricity distributor to accept private inspections "the independence of the inspectors and inspections". Several debates on this matter took place: what are the professional responsibilities of inspectors, how are they to be correctly and judicially protected, and be fully insured, what is the necessary equipment to properly carry out inspections, what are the relevant procedures and, finally, what are the expectations and requirements in terms of training and registration of the inspectors ?



We have had debates on all these matters, and others, and each of us has the is able to present his own point of view.

After the opening ceremony we had a long meeting with President Tomaz Gomes who succeeded in convincing us of the benefits we would gain in joining FISUEL as a member.

Yesterday we hold a Board meeting on this issue and it was decided that I had to seek a solution in order to achieve the goal of joining FISUEL ( but, being an association of volunteers, non-profit making, we are obliged to stay within an annual budget, and this eventuality was not foreseen) and thus become the next member of this Federation.

Avishai Rash BSCEE&PE

*Electrician Engineer and Registered Inspector  
Chairman of the Power Quality Society.*

*Deputy Chairman of the Association of the Registered Electrician Engineers*

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## Dates for your diary

- **4 May 2006 – BRUXELLES**
  - Board of Directors
- **26 October 2006 – MADRID**
  - Board of Directors
  - Exchanges and Convergence (to be confirmed)
- **27 Octobre 2006 – MADRID**
  - International Forum of Electrical Safety



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