



# fisuel INFO

FISUEL INFORMATION LETTER

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International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users

## Edito

### Union against counterfeit products compromising the safety of electrical equipment

It is evident that counterfeit electrical equipment, which is already too widespread, undeniably constitutes industrial theft and in many cases poses a safety risk for electricity users.

It is also evident that electrical equipment which does not comply with the standards that prevail in the market where it is used also constitutes a serious danger to users' safety.

However, these two very real threats to consumer's safety must not be seen as unavoidable.

All the participants in the industry, on all continents, can, and therefore must, unite to prevent and combat these threats.

Failure to act will encourage the development of products of this kind and leave the industry beset by a genuine plague both in the socio-economic terms and in terms of the industry's responsibility concerning the safety and quality of electrical installations.

All participants in the chain, from manufacturer, wholesaler, installer through to the inspection organisation, have to commit themselves to combating this menace.

- Manufacturers undertake to inform FISUEL of the results of actions commenced, measures taken and any clear and identified introduction of potentially dangerous equipment on the market of which they become aware.

- Their partners, the wholesalers and installers, will commit themselves to supporting this general action, making every effort to prevent such counterfeit or non-conforming products from either being put on the market or installed.

Inspection organisations should support these actions through increased vigilance during the inspections they carry out.

With regard to inspection:

- initial inspection of installations will allow detection of this type of equipment, allowing steps to be taken to eradicate them.

- periodic or systematic inspections will provide confirmation that such equipment have been removed or, at the very least, that the situation is monitored.

More generally, all partners should invite their members to exercise the greatest vigilance and to actively support this initiative through appropriate and specific measures.

FISUEL, for its part, will collect the information about their actions and about the possible introduction of new counterfeit products, issued by the participants and pass them on to all the participants; it will monitor the situation, refer matters to the competent authorities and draw up any recommendations needed to make the campaign more effective.



José TOMAZ GOMES  
President of FISUEL

## NEWS

### The two latest members to join FISUEL

During its meeting of 27 October, the Board of Directors announced the following two members:

#### ■ ACTIVE MEMBER

- FESIA, Forum of Electrical Safety Inspection Associations of Japan  
Tel. +81 3 3581 2104 – Fax : +81 3 3581 5967  
zrk1@aioros.ocn.ne.jp



M. Katsumasa ISHIGE,  
President of FESIA

FESIA represents since 1968 the 10 local non profit inspection associations of Japan set up in 1965/1966, for electrical safety promotion and inspections of installations, from 100 V to 6000 V. The whole of it represents 10 774 persons spread in 470 local offices.

#### ■ ASSOCIATE MEMBER



- ARSEL, Regulator Agency of Electrical Sector of Cameroon  
Tel. +237 221 10 12 – Fax +237 221 10 14 – arsel@cenadi.cm

ARSEL is a public administrative establishment under the electricity administration, whose remit is to:

- regulate, control and monitor the activities of managers and operators in the electricity sector,
- draw up standards in this regard in particular and monitor their implementation by operators.

### News from RECI

#### 1 Million Domestic Completion Certificates

RECI have issued 1,000,000 domestic completion certificates since it began operations in 1992. This milestone in the progress of electrical safety in houses was marked on Friday 10th November 2006, in presence of the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Noel Dempsey T.D.

It has to be reminded that every new connection to the National Grid requires a completion certificate signed by a registered contractor and submitted to ESB Networks. The original of the certificate is supplied to the house owner after the contractor has energised the electrical system in the house and carried out the post connection tests.





### A new Chairman

Thomas HEFFERNAN has been appointed Chairman of RECI to succeed the outgoing Chairman Ivan HAMMOND. He is a prominent electrical contractor in the West of Ireland and has been an AECl member since 1974. He served as President of the AECl for a period of three years. He is also a peace Commissioner for Galway City/County and surrounding counties. He has been a Director of RECI for 10 years.

### FENELEC

Mr Salah Eddine KADMIRI, an engineer and graduate from the Ecole Centrale de Paris (1982), has been appointed FENELEC President for a 3-year term at the AGMs of the Federation and its Associations which were held on 19 September 2006. After a brief spell as Industry Minister (civil service from 1983 to 1985, responsible for the first releases and restructuring of the industrial sector), Mr Salah Eddine KADMIRI created various companies working in all of the sector's branches: electrical industry, electricity distribution and electronic industry. He also chaired the Fédération Nationale de l'Electricité et l'Electronique (FENELEC) from July 1998 to September 2003. He is a member of the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche des dirigeants CRD.



Salah Eddine KADMIRI is 47 years old, married and has two children.

### Annual General Meeting (Brussels, 5 May 2006)

More than 50 people from some twenty countries met last May at the CENELEC Center in Brussels for the General Assembly of FISUEL. This meeting, chaired by José TOMAZ GOMES (CERTIEL, Portugal), provided the opportunity to welcome FENELEC (Morocco), the latest active member of the Federation, and to take stock of the last business year and projects for 2006/2007. Among these projects, in addition to pursuing development actions in Europe, Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America, FISUEL reaffirmed its intention to form, within the Federation and with the support of CONSUEL and PROMOTELEC (France), an International Information Centre for Electrical Safety, a recognised and respected centre of expertise whose missions would include monitoring the situation regarding accidents caused by electricity in the various countries and developments in counterfeit products.



Counterfeit products were in fact the leading topic of the day. After the final Round Table, the President concluded with the following words:

*"All players in the profession, on all continents, must unite to combat them, otherwise their development will assume the proportions of plague both in socio-economic terms and in terms of the safety and quality of electrical installations. Initial inspections of installations must allow these products to be detected so that they can be gradually eradicated. Periodic inspections must provide confirmation that they have disappeared, or, at least, that the situation is monitored".* Finally, FISUEL confirmed that it was ready to commit itself resolutely alongside the partners concerned to promote the introduction of periodic inspections of older installations in their countries.

### FISUEL's International Forum on Electrical Safety (Madrid, 27 October 2006)

#### Electricity-related accidents How do they happen and how can they be prevented?



This was the unifying theme developed on the side at the MATELEC trade show in Madrid on 27 October 2006, at the conference organised by FISUEL in partnership with the AIE, European Association of Electrical contractors, the PRIE, Plataforma para la Revisión de las Instalaciones Eléctricas, and with support from the FENIE, Federación Nacional de Empresarios de Instalaciones Eléctricas de España.

Chaired by José TOMAZ GOMES (FISUEL), Romualdo ARIAS (PRIE/FENIE) and Guy GEFROY (AIE), who were running the meeting, 80 participants from 25 countries were able to grasp the importance of checking electricity installations before they are connected, through accounts shared from different horizons.

Presentations from Spanish, French, Swiss and Korean organisations have once again demonstrated that if the standard was, for the most part, identical for everyone, and if the objective – user safety – was also identical, there could still be different pathways for getting there.

In conclusion, emphasis is placed on the need for a European Recommendation on periodic inspections.

Mr Luis MONTOYA, department head at DG Entreprise gave his view, announcing that he was now well informed and aware of the gravity of the issue. He suggested extending studies, particularly by gathering the best practices and by benchmarking.

To conclude, he invited the organisations – AIE, and its

partners, ECI, UIE, EUROPACABLE and FISUEL – to support the Commission in discussing what he sees as a pertinent, important issue.

Report on the Forum in the next FISUEL newsletter  
Cd rom of the Powerpoint presentations available on request

## VINÇOTTE

Belgium is a traditional player when it comes to inspecting installations by a third party.

### I. GENESIS – FRAMEWORK

■ **VINÇOTTE** was created out of the merging in 1989 of two companies, AIB and VINÇOTTE, both created well over a century before and active from the outset in conducting inspections on pressurised equipment, lifting equipment or electrical equipment.

Inspection of electricity installations, on a voluntary basis, has been conducted increasingly in industries since the end of World War II.

In the late 1960s, the conflict of interests between a trading company, whose role it is to supply electricity, and an inspection that aims to guarantee safety, rapidly became evident.

Without being defined by law, these companies invite their new members to call on electricity installation inspection companies before connection.

■ **Appearance in 1972 of the "Technical Regulation"** marked a new step. This document set out in a relatively simple manner the electrical safety rules for household (residential buildings) and non-household (industries) establishments.

The Belgian authorities managing the electricity installation sector were fully aware, however, of the disparity existing between this "Regulation" and the standards applied in neighbouring countries or on the international level.



■ This led, in 1981, to a **development, with the RGIE** (General Regulation on Electricity Installations), based on a certain number of standards such as IEC 364, HD 384 or those in countries bordering Belgium: NEN 1010 applied in the Netherlands and N.F. C15-100 applied in France, which concerns two types of electricity installations:

- Household structures or residential buildings. This implies mainly private houses and flats.
- Structures where employees work, whether it be an office block or a production factory for example.

Alongside the technical requirements that electricity installations must meet, the RGIE lays down a certain number of rules related to periodic inspections of electrical installations before connection by an accredited organisation, requirements in terms of inspectors' qualifications and legal provisions concerning accredited organisations in Belgium.

Recognition – very targeted in technical terms, with clearly defined skills – by Supervisory Ministries of accredited

organisations in Belgium is given on the basis of compliance with EN 45004 which is to service companies what the series of ISO 9000 standards is to production companies.

With 250 employees in its electrical department, VINÇOTTE is the leading accredited organisation in Belgium.

### II. INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

#### ■ Dwellings

■ Since 1 January 1983, all new high or low voltage electrical installations must be inspected before connection by an accredited organisation.

■ Electricity installations must then be inspected by an accredited organisation: annual for HV, every five years for LV.

■ For electricity installations prior to 1983, the law does not lay down any specific requirements in terms of inspection obligations.

#### ■ Buildings other than dwellings

Since 1 October 1981, all new electricity installations must be inspected by an accredited organisation before connection.

■ If the installation is compliant, the accredited organisation issues a certificate of conformity: the distributor must sign this document before supplying electricity.

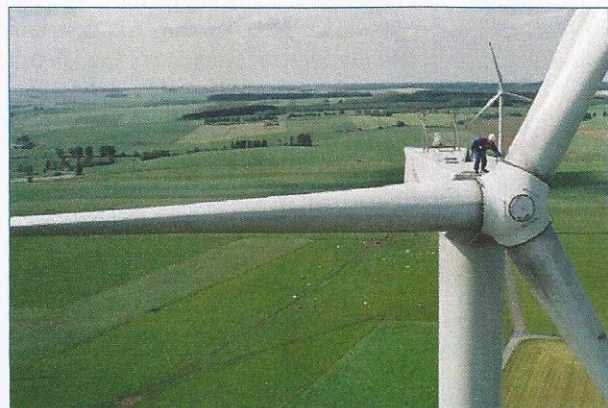
■ If the installation is not compliant, the accredited organisation returns once the electricity installation becomes compliant.

The period of subsequent inspection is fixed at 25 years: a provision that seems very difficult to implement.

To respond to the need of increasing the level of safety of old electricity installations, the requirement to inspect electricity installations by an accredited organisation in two cases has been added to the RGIE – with greater leniency:

- Increasing the installed capacity: the distributor may only do so upon presentation of a certificate of conformity.
- Selling a residential building: the inspection report by an accredited organisation forms an integral part of the notarial deed. The transaction may not go ahead without it.

Lastly, one of the ways in which the safety objective for a residential building may be achieved is to obtain correct





position drawings and diagrams as thorough as possible. These documents are signed by the 3 parties present, i.e. the electrician contractor, the inspection body and the owner: they form an integral part of the file kept permanently in place.

### III. FACTS AND FIGURES

Vincotte has been an accredited organisation since 1945.  
 Number of household certificates issued per year: 40,000.  
 Average duration of a household inspection: 1 hour.  
 The whole standard checked by polling and sampling.  
 250 inspectors.  
 Training: all inspectors take 3 technical training schemes a year (2 coaching sessions by their manager and 1 toolbox meeting on safety each year).

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for Energy and Water, the Electricity Director, other administrative representatives (Urban Development, State Property and Land Affairs), and a strong delegation from the Agence de Régulation du Secteur de l'Electricité (ARSEL), led by its Deputy Managing Director, Honoré DEMENOU TAPAMO. During these meetings, Adiouma DIONE presented FISUEL by emphasising its supportive and federative role and vocation as a tool for standardising practices, and lastly the advantages that countries can have by joining this Federation.



### Phase 2 Working sessions with ORAGEE

During working sessions held with ORAGEE, Adiouma DIONE gave Mr TALLA various documents and brochures on Electrical Safety in general and about FISUEL in particular. With regard to the situation in Cameroon, and having noted the existence of a law laying down the requirement for inspections before connection by the energy distributor, Adiouma DIONE suggested moving on to the following phases:

- proposing a draft ministerial order laying down the implementing methods of law 98/022 of 24/12/1998 to the Ministry for Energy and the Regulation Agency.
- creating a non-profit-making inspection body (COCASUEL for COMité CAMerounais pour la Sécurité des Usagers de l'Electricité), which should have representatives of the energy distributor, electricity contractors, manufacturers and distributors of electrical equipment, local authorities and users within its Administrative Council.
- once the ministerial order is signed, accredit COCASUEL by the Ministry for Energy.

Overall, the prospecting mission went very well, as it has already been concluded by the membership of ARSEL (Agence de Régulation du Secteur de l'Electricité au Cameroun, see elsewhere), pending that of the future COCASUEL.

Lastly, ORAGEE and the Douala 5 municipality have asked FISUEL to organise an International Forum in Yaoundé sometime in 2007, with a view to raising the awareness of the population and various Cameroonian Authorities of electricity-related risks.

### Visit to Cameroon by Mr Adiouma Dione, Vice-president



As part of the expansion of our Federation into Africa, the Vice-president Mr Adiouma DIONE visited Cameroon from 27 June to 1 July 2006.

This was to conduct a prospecting mission at the invitation of Mr Jacques-Le-Béal TALLA TCHEDJOU, Founding President of ORAGEE (ORganisation Africaine pour l'Amélioration de la Gestion de l'Energie Electrique), in partnership with the Douala 5 municipality (Douala is the economic capital of Cameroon), headed by Mme Françoise Foning, Deputy Mayor and World President of Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM) with a view to raising the awareness of the population and various



Cameroonian Authorities of electricity-related risks. The mission took place in two phases:

#### Phase 1 Meeting with the Cameroonian Authorities

Thanks to Mme Foning's help, it was possible to arrange meetings with the Cameroonian Authorities involved in issues of electricity user safety beforehand. Fruitful exchanges took place particularly with the Secretary General of the Ministry

## Dates for your diary

- **Friday 17 February 2007 – PARIS**
  - Board of Directors
- **Thursday 17 and Friday 18 May 2007 – LONDON**
  - Annual General Meeting
  - Exchanges and convergence (has to be confirmed)



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