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FISUEL NEWSLETTER

International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users

Editorial



By a new member, ASEC

The safety of electricity users depends on the quality of electrical installations and products. This quality is itself the fruit of the combination of numerous actions, human, administrative and organisational. It took some 60 years to create the French model, and there are others. Standards, regulations and the NFUSE quality mark certainly existed in the 1950s, but they were little known and rarely applied. There were no controls regarding access to the occupation of electrical installer.

The electrical quality process was launched in 1955. Professional electricians founded the Qualifelec Association, with the aim of qualifying electrical contractors. The need for information was quickly felt. In 1962 the Promotelec Association was founded, with the aim of promoting the use of electrical energy by providing information to professionals.

Under French law, the person doing the work is responsible for what he has done. Accordingly, an electrician is liable for the electrical installation he has carried out. In 1964 Consuel was founded, with the aim of verifying installers' assertions, i.e. that electrical installations are carried out in compliance with the applicable French standard, NFC15100.

Subsequently, for a variety of reasons (accidents, new technologies, increasing requirements from domestic equipment, television, computers and automation, energy efficiency, globalisation, ageing accommodation, etc.) the review of normative and regulatory texts began.

In 1973 a decree imposed a certificate of compliance (issued by Consuel) for all new electrical installations, which was extended to all entirely renovated installations in 2001. NFC15100 was revised and completed in 1990 and 2000 to take account of new developments. Information and communication were given greater emphasis through Promotelec, and especially in recommendations for the use of appliances carrying the NF compliance logo.

All these actions, now on-going, could have led us to believe that we had wrapped up electrical safety for good! This, however, would have meant overlooking the arrival of new, dangerous and non-compliant appliances on the French market. In 2008 ASEC was founded with the backing of the French manufacturers, with the aim of contributing to the combat against these dangerous, non-compliant electrical appliances, supporting the actions of the market control and surveillance authorities.

To summarise, the electrical safety chain in France is made up of several links: standardisation, regulations, qualification, inspection, promotion, certification and the struggle against dangerous, non-compliant appliances.

Maurice DHOOGHE
ASEC President

20th February: Electrical safety day in Buenos Aires (Argentina)



APSE (the Association for the Promotion of electrical Safety), with the support of other chambers and organisations, considers it important to include electrical safety among subjects for consideration by

the authorities. Accordingly, contact was made with the member of parliament for Buenos Aires, Ms Lía Rueda, to draw her attention to the subject.

She was presented with a draft bill establishing 20th February as "Electrical Safety Day for the city of Buenos Aires", which was taken into consideration by the member of parliament and examined by the commissions for safety, energy and consumer protection, and discussed in a public hearing. The project was approved unanimously in each case, and subsequently enacted as Law n° 4210. The date chosen is not without significance: it is the birthday of Professor Alberto Rubén Iaconis, former CEO of APSE and an untiring worker for electrical safety.

An action was organised at the Buenos Aires statehouse on 19th February 2013 to celebrate the first "Electrical Safety Day". On that occasion, Ms Patricia Yerfino, Engineer and President of FISUEL (International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users) gave a presentation in which she discussed the fundamental concepts of electrical safety and underlined the importance of the compliance of buildings in terms of electrical safety and their ability to receive new technologies. Ms Lía Rueda, member of parliament for Buenos Aires and responsible for the implementation of the law, also made a speech, as did Alberto Pérez, engineer and founder of ASEL (Civil Association for Electrical Safety in Argentina) and Carlos Manili, engineer and academic secretary to the National Technological University Higher Institute of Technical Professorship.





New members



Founded in 2008 by key players in the electrical sector, ASEC shares a vision of a safe, secure electrical market in the service of electrical installations throughout Europe.



ASEC's mission is to contribute actively and effectively to the struggle against dangerous or non-compliant electrical appliances through concrete action, within a controlled legal framework, to ensure the safety of the users of electrical equipment.

ASEC's main aims are:

- To reinforce the actions of the control and surveillance authorities
- To obtain the withdrawal from the market of dangerous electrical appliances
- To curb the proliferation of dangerous or non-compliant electrical appliances
- To reinforce the vigilance of all stakeholders with regard to the risks incurred.

The electrical appliances which are targeted as a priority are those having a protective function, such as contact breakers and differential switches.

As a result of ASEC's actions on the French market, some dangerous appliances have disappeared from the market while others now are of an acceptable quality following modification, and more electrical devices now carry the NF mark of compliance.

Over the next three years we aim to broaden our action to cover all supply routes, and strengthen our communication and awareness programme.



BI Electrical Services is a full service electrical engineering company based in Northern Ireland and provides three key services: facilities management, electrical contracting and design and build. Since 1989, we've worked with local UK organisations like Belfast Education and Library Board as well as major international players including Capita and KPMG. As a leading UK electrical contractor, we are an active proponent of electrical safety. This is reflected in our work to promote best practice for the effective implementation of existing and new regulations and control systems, for the Safety of Electricity Users. Electrical safety continues to play a critical role in our business and is reflected in the demand for our services in international markets such as China. Our representative to FISUEL is Jim Speirs and we aim to actively promote the standardisation of international safety standards. We believe that Jim will make a positive contribution to FISUEL given his background as the ex-Chairman of the Ascetiva Group and current President of the Chartered Quality Institute (CQI) and a Past President of its forerunner, the Institute of Quality Assurance (IQA). We look forward to working with members in the pursuit of excellent in electrical safety in the months and years ahead.

Jim Speirs



L'ELECTRICITE SECURISEE POUR TOUS

Form and aims

CONSUELEC is an independent body composed of professional and consumer associations in the electricity sector, whose purpose is to ensure the application of quality and safety standards in the production and use of electricity in Gabon.



Missions

- To prepare and carry out studies in the design and provision of electrical installations
- To implement the legal and regulatory provisions with regard to compliance monitoring of these installations
- To initiate training programmes for installers
- To proposer improvements to regulations in force with regard to electricity
- To carry out inspections of existing or new electrical installations
- To undertake communication activities to raise awareness among users
- To set up a national energy control programme
- To issue approvals and conformity certificates
- To monitor the quality of electrical equipment marketed in Gabon.

Organisation

CONSUELEC is governed by its Board of Directors and Steering Committee. It is supported in the exercise of its missions by skilled staff and external experts.

Resources

CONSUELEC's resources derive from the members' annual subscriptions, revenues generated by the activities of the Committee, interests and revenues from its assets and securities, loans it may be called upon to contract, subsidiaries from which it benefits, and any other legally authorised source. The accounting surplus for each financial year is allocated to a reserve fund earmarked for the development of the electricity sector in Gabon.



President's visit to India



Within the context of the promotion of FISUEL, and in line with the strategic plan, the President of FISUEL paid a visit to New Delhi on 27th and 28th May 2013.

Meetings were organised with private and public players in

the energy market, in cooperation with Copper Alliance. A round table was held to discuss problems at the national level, concentrating on best practices in the application of the main concepts in electrical safety, which led to a very rich exchange of views and provided the opportunity to present the statistics for electrical accidents.

Our visit generated a high level of interest, and we would like to thank those who took part for sparing us their valuable time. Each visit took place in the offices of the body concerned, and our actions were oriented towards the presentation of the Federation, emphasising the importance of the exchanges of views and the sharing of knowledge and expertise on which FISUEL relies to promote its activities, with the aim of creating the synergies which will be useful to each country.

We also met the President of AVUT (the Association of the victims of the Uphaar tragedy, caused by an accident involving electrical causes).

This meeting was of the greatest interest, and leads us to envisage the possibility of pursuing these exchanges, or even carrying out joint actions in the months to come. We have invited the representatives of the Indian market to take

part in the next Forum organised by FISUEL, which will take place in Poland in November of this year.

List of official representatives met: Mr P. UmaShankar (Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India), Mr CK Varma (CE (Elec), CPWD), Mr Deepak Chugh (Chief Technical Officer, Tata Power Delhi Distribution), Mr Uday Mishra, Mr KumalPareek, Mr SaurabhSrivastava.

Report of the three sessions which preceded the General Meeting

1) Session on unfair products

This aspect is gaining in importance in varying ways in different areas of the world: from the definition of human incidents, from non-compliant products to counterfeiting, from criminal activity to a global scourge, from personal actions to collective actions. Since electrical appliances, products and components make a major contribution to electrical safety, we have concluded that FISUEL should communicate and consolidate, raising awareness of end-users and globalizing the world level of statistics and best practices in this sector.

2) Session on the electrification of shanty towns

This is a new theme for FISUEL. It is a major, global phenomenon. Numerous countries are concerned: from new, rapidly constructed buildings to illegal electricity consump-

tion, from the theft of electrical components to unsafe connections.

A large number of projects have been launched around the world to meet this demand: the legalisation of electrical connections for shanty towns, the training of shanty town populations, think tanks on energy efficiency, education, the replacement of old home electrical appliances, specific projects such as MICEM: all of these create a foundation for saving lives.

This must be supported by FISUEL, and FISUEL must define its added value.

3) Session on Safety and Electrical Statistics

Safety and Statistics are key subjects for FISUEL: from verification to periodical inspections, from normalisation to the assessment of conformity, from the residential sector to industry, from individual accommodation to communal buildings, from new to existing electrical installations, from mains connections to the qualification of installers, from communication to market monitoring, from accidents to fires with electrical causes, from existing housing to innovations (photovoltaic) on compliant electrical installations.

Safety and Statistics are the basis and are fundamental to FISUEL's credibility worldwide.

Three lines of approach are proposed: solutions and best practices in electrical safety, statistics and communication, supported by three actions: the creation of the electrical safety barometer for the country, issuing a questionnaire to collect local information and data, transposing local communications to the international level.

General Meeting in Lisbon

The Annual General Meeting co-opted two new

members of the Board:

Mr Akio Nakamura and Mr MalickDiallo for the remainder of their predecessor's mandate.

The 2012/2013 Activity Report comprised:

- the creation of 5 working groups based on major geographical regions, 3 of which have been made official (Africa, Asia and Europe) and the production of a working guide which defines the main lines of approach and aims;
 - the harmonisation of the FISUEL image, the launch of a debate on the Federation's graphic identity and the development of an electrical safety barometer;
 - the arrival of three new members: ASEC in France, BI Electrical Services in Northern Ireland and Consuelec in Gabon.
- With regard to 2013/2014, it sets out the three key lines of approach for the development of the strategic plan and the main actions to be carried out, including the organisation of the upcoming Forum in Poland.

The accounts for the 2012 financial year have been approved as well as the 2013 budget, and the 2014 subscriptions are increased from €4200 to €4500 for active members and from €3200 to €3500 for associate members.

The Extraordinary General Meeting

was convened in order to modify clause 6 of the articles of association regarding the definitions of "active member" and "associated member". The new definitions adopted are as





follows: the status of active member shall apply to any legal person in charge of a mission related to the safety of electricity users, and the status of associated member shall apply to any legal person implied or interested in the safety of electricity users and wishing to contribute to its development.

The new articles of association have been lodged with the Préfecture and may be consulted on line at www.fisuel.org

Guidelines for Exchanges and Convergences Working Groups

The regions retained for 2013 and group leaders are as follows:

- Africa WG: Ms Emma AmaniAmenan Bony of L.B.T.P. Securel Cote d'Ivoire
- Latin America WG: To be defined
- Asia WG: Mr Heung-Shik Shin of Kesco, Korea
- Europe WG: Ms Maria João Almeida of Certiel Portugal and Mr Patrice Bukisow of Consuel France
- Middle East WG: To be defined

The scope covers Residential as priority, followed by Tertiary and Industry.

Action plan

- To make the Working Group official, confirm a group leader and experts, and define a schedule of meetings
- To open the Working Group to new experts not members of FISUEL
- To define the contributions from the different players in the electricity sector within the framework of electrical safety (standard setter, installers, builders, inspectors, energy distributors, etc.)
- To define a chart of general rules related to electrical installations for each country: access to the occupation of electrician, qualification of companies, regulations and applicable standards, different inspection and monitoring systems for new and existing installations
- To detect the best practices and local communications in the following four areas: the safety of new and existing electrical installations, unfair products (non compliant, dangerous and counterfeit) and statistics (electrical installations, accidents and fires with electrical causes)
- To establish how FISUEL may provide added value for access to electricity in shanty towns

- To maintain the electrical safety barometer defined by the criteria which contribute to electrical safety
- Extend the characteristics of electrical safety for innovations: photovoltaic installations, electrical vehicle supplies, lightening and current surge protection, traceability, etc.
- To organise FISUEL's international communication.

Overall coordination will be undertaken with the Executive Officer.

Europe WG report

Following the departure of Denis Hannotin, the coordination of the Europe Working Group is now provided jointly by Maria Joao Almeida and Patrice Bukisow.

During the preparatory meeting in January, a list was drawn up of the members belonging to this group, and those who take an active part. Targets have been defined in line with those set out in the FISUEL strategic plan. The emphasis was placed on an increase in the active participation of current members and new members.

The first meeting of the Europe WG was held in Paris in April 2013, when the following subjects were dealt with:

- The identification of the updated versions of the FISUEL documents on the web site, and their authors
- The approval of the new design approach for FISUEL documents
- The creation of a system for the identification of documents and their different versions
- The provision of French and English versions of all documents
- The use of accident statistics provided by Copper Alliance, bearing in mind that this data is essential to help countries to understand the importance of guaranteeing the safety of electrical installations and to consider the economic and social impact of such accidents.

The Group also examined the technical problems which must be dealt with in the forthcoming FISUEL documents. The emphasis was placed on the need to have documents which follow the technical lines of the international standards (IEC and CENELEC).

The next work will concern:

- The complete reorganisation of the documents
- The definition of the subjects of the next documents
- The analysis of accident statistics in Europe.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 2013.

Dates for your diary

■ Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November 2013

- FISUEL international forum in Warsaw, Poland, preceded on 27th November by meetings of some working groups.

■ Thursday 28th November, Warsaw (Poland) March 2014, Paris (France)

- Next Board of Directors meeting.



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