



fisuel info

FISUEL INFORMATION LETTER

International federation for the safety of electricity users

Editorial

Certiel began its activity in 1999, following a long and laborious period of study and analysis of electrical installation certification systems existing in various European countries. Finally, it was the French experience, and more specifically the support of Consuel, that led the Portuguese to adopt uniform criteria and procedures for inspection and certification of electrical installations, and thus motivated the formation of Certiel.

It would all be easier today, because of the existence of FISUEL, a meeting place and forum for discussing experience and knowledge, for any country wishing to develop electrical safety within its territory and/or set up an inspection and certification system for electrical installations.

Certiel, as a founding and active member of FISUEL, had the great pleasure of organising FISUEL's General Assembly during May of this year. In so doing it hopes to have contributed to the cohesion of its members, wider broadcasting of its image and strengthened promotion of its main objective: electrical safety at international level.

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Spotlight on Certiel, our host for the federation's General Assembly in Lisbon on 23 May 2003.

News

□ **LELECTRICAL SAFETY - 1ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FISUEL**

On the 23 May 2003 Lisbon was the venue for the 1st General Assembly of the International Federation for the Safety of Electricity



Users (FISUEL) at the invitation of CERTIEL (Association for Certification of Electrical Installations of Portugal)

A forum for meeting, discussing and sharing competence, this assembly brought together almost 40 participants representing more than ten countries from 3 continents and 2 international associations.

Fifteen months after its launch in Beirut in February 2002, FISUEL (International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users), accepting an invitation from CERTIEL (Association for Certification of Electrical Installations of Portugal), held its first general assembly in Lisbon on 23 May.

Attended by more than 40 participants, representing all the 21 members, from more than ten countries, this meeting chaired by Philippe André (CONSUEL, France) provided the opportunity to take stock of the work of the past year, validate a certain number of projects and engage in useful discussion between members.



FISUEL reminded the meeting that its Internet site (www.fisuel.com) is operational, that it has established many contacts on various continents, that it forms a "think tank" focusing on the essential requirements of electrical safety, shared by all, and that it actively co-operates with FEEDS (Forum for European Electrical Domestic Safety - www.electric-safety.org) concerning the condition of older installations in Europe.

Its major decisions for the future are:

- to set up an International Observatory of Electrical Safety in 2004,
- to participate actively in the Elec trade show in Paris during December 2004 notably on the subject of systematic inspection of older electrical installations,
- to press ahead with its enlargement, especially to take in Eastern European and Latin American countries.

Finally, given the remarkable progress made by CERTIEL concerning the organisation of inspections, training of electrical installers, statistical monitoring of detected non-confor-

mities and use of computer tools, FISUEL members were given a perfect illustration of the objectives of their Federation: "discuss the way forward", moving towards a level of harmonisation between member countries.

For all involved, it is now clear that: "one year of FISUEL is 3 years gained and 3 years of progress"



Certiel

created in July 1996 and operational since 1 February 1999 – is a certification association for electrical installations – a non-profit-making association sponsored by the Ministry of Industry with technical, administrative, economic and financial autonomy.

It is a recognised public interest association.

CERTIEL is structured as follows:

- a General Assembly representing installers, manufacturers, wholesalers, importers, power distributors and consumers,
- a Management Committee,
- a General Management Team and Services, at Lisbon – some forty persons including a techni-

cal commission, an advisory commission, technical management (with project analysis and installation certification services) and a Quality Management Team;

- 3 regional bodies for inspection of electrical installations – the ERIIEs (IEP in the North, LIQ in the South, ISQ in the South), selected for 5-year contracts after a public call for tender.

The three bodies have a workforce of 120 persons responsible for field inspections.

In other words a total of around 160 persons working in the CERTIEL structure.



Certiel

1. analyses, approves and certifies electrical installation projects,
2. certifies installations in new and renovated properties,
3. provides training.

1. ANALYSIS, APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION OF PROJECTS:

Installations with a power input of more than 50 kVA are analysed by CERTIEL and are sanctioned by its "approval". But a certain amount of information has to be provided before the project can be analysed.

Analysis: After analysis, the regional body contacts the technical manager for a clarification of any doubts or to instruct certain corrections. If this is the case, the technician in charge must send modifications within 45 days.

Decision: CERTIEL has the final responsibility for approving – and certifying – the project. This decision is formalised by issuing a "certificate of approval". If it decides to refuse the project, the technician in charge must submit another project and request a new analysis. CERTIEL analyses 8000 projects a year.

2. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS:

Certificate applications are made by professionals, approved and registered as technicians answerable to the General Energy Directorate, and each having a personal identity card.

The purpose of the inspections, carried out by sampling, is to guarantee compatibility with the Insurance Regulations for installations using electrical power.

To obtain a certificate, the technician in charge must guarantee especially:

- that the infrastructure required for the electricity supply has been set up by the distributor,
- and that the installation is complete.

His application is made on a specific form or computer medium via Internet, mentioning the following points:

- his identity
- the company identity
- the applicant's identity
- the premises to be certified
- the type of installation
- technical data, description,
- etc.

An application is made for each individual house or collective building. Once received, it is processed by a compute-



rised sampling programme for selection of the inspections to be set up.

This sampling is carried out according to previously chosen parameters (CERTINFOR software). 30% of installations are selected for inspection.



If the installation is not selected for inspection, a definitive "Certificado de Exploração" (authorisation to connect to the mains supply) is issued and sent to the technician in charge.

However, when there is an inspection, once it is complete:

- either there are no nonconformities and a temporary "Certificado de Exploração" is issued by the person in charge, enabling the property developer to obtain an electricity supply.
- or there are nonconformities and the inspector will record them in his report as needing corrective action.

Decision : ICERTIEL is responsible for approving or refusing the certification application and uses the report submitted by the regional body (ERIE) as supporting evidence. If the installation is approved, it issues a definitive "Certificado de Exploração" (authorisation to connect to the mains supply) for the electrical installation. This is sent to the technician in charge who passes it on to the installation owner.

Depending on the assessment of the inspected installation, the result will be one of the following:

Approval: The installation has no nonconformities and CERTIEL issues a definitive "Certificado de Exploração" (authorisation to connect to the mains supply) and sends it to the technician in charge of the work..

Pending certification: For CERTIEL this means that no sufficiently serious nonconformities were detected and that a "Certificado de Exploração" can be issued provided that the technician formally agrees, in a declaration, to have them corrected.

Refusal: The installation has nonconformities considered to be serious. The technician in charge is informed that the installation is not accepted and that he will have to make a

new application after correcting them.

During the last 3 years, CERTIEL has awarded 200,000 certificates a year and has rejected 16 to 18% of the applications.

3. TRAINEES

3. CERTIEL organises training seminars – 6000 to 7000 trainees a year – and regularly sends information to 16,000 technicians.

4. NOTE:

Since January, the technical manager, previously identified and given a password by CERTIEL, has been able to apply for certification directly via the computer and Internet (400 technicians registered out of 16,000; since February, 500 on-line applications).

This has cut waiting times: from 21/22 days, the entire procedure – from initial application through to receiving the certificate – has been reduced to 13/15 days. The technician has the additional advantage of being able to look up progress made with his application.

At the same time, still using computer resources, a register of detected nonconformities is kept updated and provides a guide for training subjects.

Another Internet development at the planning stage: information about the date and time of the inspection via SMS or e-mail, position finding by GPS.



PROJECTS:

- Internet development ;
- information concerning time and date of inspection by SMS or e-mail ;
- finding the site position by GPS.

Fisuel Info is available by e-mail on request.

☐ DATES TO NOTE...

> Fisuel Meeting :

Day on 7 November in Dublin

> Electrical Safety Forum

under the aegis of COSSUEL and Proquelec :

on 12 December in Dakar