



## ETCI Introduces Good Practice Guide on the Management of Electrical Safety at Work

The Minister for Trade, Labour and Consumer Affairs, Tom Kitt, recently launched the Good Practice Guide on the Management of Electrical Safety at Work during the ELEX 2000 Exhibition in the RDS, Dublin on behalf of the Electro-Technical Council of Ireland.

During his speech, Minister Tom Kitt commended ETCI on the new Guide and said that it will be a valuable asset and a useful aid for personnel involved in the use or management of electricity in the workplace. He said that "this latest very impressive and detailed handbook on the management of electrical safety at work, which is designed to assist non-technical managers in the workplace, has the specific aim of reducing the number of incidents, dangerous occurrences and, most crucially, electrocutions. A manual such as this is an excellent complement to the block of Health and Safety legislation currently in place".

The Chairman of the ETCI Safety Committee, Michael Hanly in reply said, "the Guide would be an essential proactive guide to all personnel whose job involves any of the following: the safe use of electricity in the workplace, the maintenance of electrical installations, the upgrade or extension of existing electrical installations or the management of electrical safety".

In the 10-year period, 1990-99, 60 people lost their lives due to electrocution. The primary objective of the guide is to reduce all electrical accidents, dangerous occurrences and electrocutions. It is targeted primarily at the Employer and the Line Manager responsible for safety, health and welfare at work. It often happens that neither the Employer nor the Safety Manager is electrically competent within the meaning of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act. This Guide is intended as a working handbook for such persons to show the scope of their responsibilities for enforcing safe practices in the management of electricity in the workplace. The Guide sets out the steps that the Manager must take to ensure the protection of all persons engaged at the place of work from the electrical hazard.

The Guide is available for sale from ETCI offices and from selected outlets.



*Pictured with the Minister for Labour, Trade and Consumer Affairs, Tom Kitt, T. D., at the ETCI launch of the Good Practice Guide on the Management of Electrical Safety at Work at the RDS, Dublin were, from L-R: Mr. Patrick Hession, Administrator ETCI and Secretary to the ETCI Safety Committee, Mr. Jerry O'Dwyer, Chairman ETCI, Mr. Michael Hanly, Chairman ETCI Safety Committee and Safety Specialist, ESB, Mr. Tom Kitt, T. D., Minister for Labour, Trade and Consumer Affairs, and Mr. Dick Troy, Editor of the new Good Practice Guide.*

## Incorporation of the Electro-Technical Council of Ireland Limited

Since the establishment of ETCI as a voluntary organisation for electrotechnical standardisation, the Council considered and regularly reviewed the case for registering ETCI as a company limited by guarantee. The Electro-Technical Council of Ireland Limited was incorporated as a limited company under the Companies Act on 31st October 1995. The company remained as a shelf company until the assets of the unincorporated association of ETCI were transferred over to ETCI Limited during its AGM on 17th April 2000.

The present member organisations of ETCI Limited are:

- Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland
- Association of Electrical Contractors (Ireland)
- Association of Electrical Wholesalers
- Corporation of Dublin
- Dublin Institute of Technology
- Eircom

- Electrical Contractors Association
- Electrical Manufacturers and Distributors Association
- Electricity Supply Board
- Engineering Industry Association
- Health & Safety Authority
- Institution of Incorporated Engineers
- Institution of Electrical Engineers (Irish Branch)
- Institution of Engineers of Ireland
- Irish Cable Makers Association
- Technical, Engineering & Electrical Union
- Trinity College, University of Dublin
- University College Dublin

The Directors of ETCI Limited are Jeremiah O'Dwyer (Chairman), Peter Church, John Egan, Michael Keaveny, Michael Moran, John A. O'Doherty, Noel O'Riordan and Jim Rice. The Company Secretary is Patrick Hession.

## Workshop and Annual Dinner

This year's ETCI Annual Workshops and Dinner takes place at the Davenport Hotel, Merrion Square, Dublin 2 on Tuesday, 28th November. The Annual Workshops is the occasion when the members of ETCI's Technical Committees meet with the members of Council to review the activities of the past year and look forward to the organisation of the work programme for the year ahead. The workshop is followed by the Annual Dinner.

This year's Workshop will consist of presentations by selected Technical Committee Chairmen. These will be followed by an address by the ETCI Chairman. During his address, the Chairman will present an overview of ETCI funding along with ETCI 3-Year Plan for 2000 - 2002. The Workshop will conclude with an open forum debate moderated by the ETCI Chairman.

ETCI is availing of the occasion of the Annual Dinner to launch the Code of Practice for the Design, Selection and Erection of LV Switchboards for Residential Applications. The guest of honour at the Annual Dinner, Minister Tom Kitt T.D., will formally launch this new publication.



*At the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between ETCI and NSAI were, from left to right: Mr. Dan Tierney, Chairman NSAI; Mr. Simon Kelly, CEO, NSAI; Mr. Jerry O'Dwyer, Chairman ETCI and Mr. Noel Treacy, T.D., Minister for Science, Technology and Commerce.*

## Proposed New Cable Cores Colours

Following many years of discussion in CENELEC on the phase core colour of cables, a proposal has emerged for a European-wide system. This is the result of compromise between the member countries, notably the UK which has promised to abandon the red/yellow/blue/black system.

This will apply to fixed cables and flexible cables for power applications having not more than five cores. The proposed new colours are:

Earth: Green/Yellow  
Neutral: Blue  
Phases: Brown Black Grey  
(First phase will be brown)

ETCI, the Irish National Committee of CENELEC, is in favour of the proposal. Voting will be completed by 31st December 2000.

## Amendment 14 to EN61000-3-2:1995

CENELEC has ratified the amendment A14 to the standard EN 61000-3-2:1995 'Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) - Part 3-2: Limits - Limits for harmonic

current emissions (equipment input current up to and including 16A per phase)'. The following implementation dates were fixed:

Date of ratification: 2000-10-03  
Date of announcement: 2000-12-01  
Date of publication: 2001-01-01  
Date of withdrawal: 2004-01-01

In its Press Release, CENELEC announced that the availability of EN 61000-3-2:1995/A14 to the National Committees will be ensured as well as the urgent transmission of the EN reference to the European Commission for immediate publication in the Official Journal under the heading of the EMC Directive.

The statement continued that with the present decision, it is ensured that from 1st January 2001 the relevant products will have the possibility of choice to benefit from the presumption of conformity to the essential requirements of the EMC Directive by complying either with the specifications laid down in the EN, or those of the EN as modified by its amendment 14 and this up to 1st January 2004. After this date only the latter configurations will apply.

## General Assembly

The Chairman of ETCI, Jerry O'Dwyer and the ETCI's Permanent Delegate to IEC, Brian Cunningham, attended the 64th General Meeting of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in Stockholm, Sweden from 11th to 22nd September. More than 1000 delegates attended the meeting. In addition, thirty IEC technical committees (TCs) and subcommittees (SCs) held their meetings in conjunction with the General Meeting. A number of members of the Irish TC on Electrical Installations attended the IEC TC64 meeting which also deals with Electrical Installations.

ETCI is the Irish member of the IEC. Founded in 1906, the IEC is the world organisation that prepares and publishes international standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies. The membership consists of some 60 participating countries, including the world's major trading nations.

The IEC Charter embraces all electrotechnologies including electronics, magnetics and electromagnetics, electroacoustics, telecommunication, and energy production and distribution, as well as associated general disciplines such as terminology and symbols, measurement and performance, dependability, design and development, safety and the environment.

# International Meetings in Ireland

A very successful series of meetings for the IEC SC62A Chairman's Advisory Group and also for the Joint Working Group of IEC SC62A and ISOTC121/SC3 were held recently in Bewleys Hotel, Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin. These meetings were hosted by ETCI Technical Committee 10 (Electrical Equipment in Medical Practice).

Dell Products hosted meetings of IEC TC74 Working Groups (WGs) 8 & 9 at the South Court Hotel in Limerick during September last. Four days of very productive meetings were held. The delegates also enjoyed an evening of Irish food and music in Dick Darby's, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

The CENELEC Technical Board Task Force (BTTF) 74-1 held a series of meetings from 14th - 18th October last at NSAI Buildings, Glasnevin, Dublin to discuss work on a draft European Standard, prEN50297. This draft deals with photoelectronic controls for road and street lighting. Brian Cunningham, NSAI is the Convenor for BTTF 74-1.



Pictured at the IEC SC62A meeting in Bewleys Hotel, Ballsbridge were, from L - R, the Secretary and Chairman of IEC SC62A, Mr. Charles Sidebottom (USA) and Mr. Lawrence Knucky (Australia).

## New IEC Technical Committee for Avionics

The IEC Technical Committee 107 (TC 107) was set up in August 2000 to develop process management standards on systems and equipment used in the field of avionics. Avionics includes electronics used in commercial, civil and military aerospace applications.

A CENELEC Task Force, BTTF 101-3, is also associated with standardisation work on avionic equipment and associated components.

Interested industries or experts in contributing to or following the work of these committees should contact Brian Cunningham, Tel: 01 807 3905, Email: cunninghamb@nsai.ie for further information.



Delegates at the meeting of Working Groups 8 and 9 of the IEC Technical Committee 74 that was held in Limerick.

# ETCI Introduces New Code of Practice

ETCI Technical Committee TC 4 (Switchgear, Control Gear and Associated Equipment) has recently produced a Code of Practice for the Design, Selection and Erection of LV Switchboards for Residential Applications. This Code of Practice applies to low voltage switchgear assemblies having a rated voltage not exceeding 300V a.c. (Phase to Neutral) and a rated current less than or equal to 250 amps. These are for use in residential type applications. The Irish Standard ISEN60439-3 covers equipment for such applications, however, this Code of Practice deals with additional aspects not specifically dealt with within the standard.

The Minister for Labour, Trade and Consumer Affairs, Tom Kitt T.D., has kindly offered to launch the Code of Practice during ETCI's Annual Workshop and Dinner on 28th November 2000.



## News from Regulatory Organisations for the Electrical Contracting Industry

### ECSSA

The ECSSA Inspector for the Dublin Region, Brian Moran, was recently accepted to represent ECSSA on ETCI Technical Committee 2 (Electrical Installation of Buildings). Prior to joining ECSSA, Brian worked with the ESB.

### RECI

RECI has recently introduced a Periodic Inspection Report on which the contractor can list any defects, omissions and non-compliance with standards. RECI based this new report on the draft European Specification for Inspection and Testing Electrical Installations in Domestic Properties.

## Maurice F. Lowe - An Appreciation

Maurice Lowe's association with ETCI goes back to its foundation. He served ETCI in many aspects of its work, with thoroughness and a professionalism that was evident to all involved.

After his graduation from UCD as a mechanical and electrical engineer, he worked with AEG in Germany for a few years, and afterwards in Dublin.

He then joined the Public Lighting Section of Dublin Corporation, where he remained for the rest of his career.

When ETCI was constituted in 1972, Maurice represented Dublin Corporation on the Council, and continued to do so until his retirement, Maurice's contribution to Council business was considerable.

His mathematical and precise approach to matters under discussion, enlivened by his humorous and witty observations, was invaluable to Council meetings. Maurice was also a founder member of TC/2 'Electrical Installations' which was set up in 1970 before ETCI was formally established. His contribution to the work of TC/2 was monumental.

As an Irish delegate to CENELEC TC64 meetings since 1976, he 'did his country proud', and was a member of the CENELEC Expert Group on Bathroom Installations.

Maurice also served on the Electrical Division Board of the IEI for many years. After his retirement from Dublin Corporation, Maurice became a member of the three-man project group that produced the Third Edition of the National Rules in 1999, a project that owes a great deal of its success to him.

Indeed, as we know now, he continued this work in spite of his encroaching illness - a professional man to the end.

All of us in ETCI remember Maurice Lowe as a man of outstanding integrity, an exemplary engineer, a conscientious colleague, a deeply religious man. Above all, his keen sense of humour and lively wit, and his able command of both the English and Irish (and German) languages were very much appreciated by all his colleagues - in fact it enlivened many an otherwise tedious meeting.

To Gisela his wife and to his son and daughters we in ETCI extend our deepest sympathy. We shall remember Maurice. R.I.P.



## NISO Conference

ETCI had a very successful time at its Stand during the NISO Annual Conference, which was held in the Corrib Great Southern Hotel, Galway on 27th October last. This was due to the interest shown in ETCI's new Good Practice Guide on the Management of Electrical Safety at Work.

*Pictured at the ETCI Annual Apprentice Awards were, from left to right, Liam Traynor, DIT, Kevin Street, Robert Byrne (Joint Second Prize), Brian King (First Prize), Brian Redmond (Joint Second Prize), Jerry O'Dwyer, Chairman ETCI and Kevin O'Connell, DIT, Kevin Street. All prizewinners were students at DIT, Kevin Street.*

## TC10 in Tanzania

Charlie O'Neill, a longstanding member of TC10, has recently returned from a six-week assignment of voluntary service in Africa at the request of the Agency for Personal Service Overseas (APSO). Charlie was assigned to one of the largest hospitals in Tanzania with 450 beds, 1000 employees, 6 schools and caters for approximately 10 million people in its hinterland. The hospital is located near the town of Moshi, near the foot of Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.

Charlie's task was to advise, train personnel and make recommendations for the future maintenance of the hospital's medical electrical equipment. Among the problems that Charlie encountered was a lack of detailed knowledge of electronic circuitry amongst the engineering staff and a lack of test equipment resulting in a build-up of unserviceable equipment. The hospital relies on donations for its upkeep and particularly for the acquisition of equipment. However, a

large proportion of this equipment is not compatible with the Tanzanian operating voltage. Charlie's advice and technical assistance contributed to the repair of vital medical equipment, which was greatly appreciated by the hospital authorities.

His career as a Bio-Medical Engineer spanned thirty-three years in the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospital. Over this period he witnessed the development and expansion of medical electronic technology from its early beginnings, during and after World War II, to its becoming the essential and indispensable part of modern medicine. He retired as Chief Technologist from the Department of Medical Physics and Bioengineering, St. James Hospital, Dublin in 1992.

Charlie has been a member of TC10 (Electrical Equipment in Medical Practice) since its inception in 1975 and has represented TC10 in many international meetings.



Mr. Charlie O'Neill pictured with Mr. J. Kifwanga, Head of Engineering Department at KCMC Hospital at Moshi, Tanzania.

## WebWatch

### MyIEC

The IEC website has recently added a facility, MyIEC, on its home page to allow those engaged in standardisation work to create a list of documents from IEC committees in which they are interested in and have this e-mailed to them as they need it. The frequency of notification of new documents can be weekly or monthly. All IEC committees are listed for selection in MyIEC; however, as this is within the restricted area of the IEC website, ETCT Technical Committee members can only access documents from committees to which they have authorised access.

### Useful Links Relating to ETCT

#### EU Directives:

<http://www.NewApproach.org/directivesList.asp>

**IEC:** <http://www.iec.ch>

**CENELEC:** <http://www.cenelec.org>

**NSAI:** <http://www.nsaie>

**ECSSA:** <http://www.ecssa.ie>

**RECI:** <http://www.reci.ie>

The following publications are available from ETCT Offices:

### NATIONAL RULES

Code	Title	Price	P & P
ET 101	National Rules for Electrical Installations (3rd Edition 2000)	£50.00	£5.00
ET103	Particular Requirements for Leisure Accommodation Vehicles, Caravans and Caravan Parks	£10.00	£0.70
ET104	Supplementary Requirements for L.V. Synchronous Generator Installations	£7.00	£0.70
ET105	National Rules for Electrical Installations in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres	<i>To be published shortly</i>	
ET106	National Rules for Electrical Installations in Medically Used Rooms	£10.00	£0.70

### CODES OF PRACTICE & GUIDES

Code	Title	Price	P & P
ET202	Guide to the Selection of Electrical Apparatus for Use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres	£8.00	£0.70
ET204	Code of Practice for Control Systems Involving Programmable Electronic Products & Systems	£10.00	£0.70
ET205	Guide to the Installation of Extra-Low Voltage Lighting Systems	£10.00	£0.70
ET206	Good Practice Guide on the Management of Electrical Safety at Work	£35.00	£2.50
ET207	Guide to National Rules for Electrical Installations (3rd Edition)		
ET208	Code of Practice for the Design, Selection & Erection of LV Switchboards for Residential Applications	£8.00	£0.70
	Seminar Papers of Regional Seminars on National Rules for Electrical Installations (3rd Edition)	£5.00	£0.70

## NSAI Matters

The Final Draft International Standards (FDIS) texts of ISO 9000, ISO 9001 and ISO 9004 are now available for purchase from NSAI. At the FDIS stage of development, ISO members are asked to vote for or against the documents with no further substantive modification of the texts so, barring minor editorial changes, the FDIS versions will closely resemble the final documents. If the vote is positive, it is expected that the documents will be issued as Irish Standards in December 2000. An NSAI spokesperson said that publication of these standards will have significant implications for organisations holding ISO registration.

## IT Course

ETCT conducted an IT Training Course as part of its preparation towards a paperless environment for its Technical Committees work. The objective of the course was to introduce ETCT Technical Committee members to ICT tools to enable them to communicate electronically through email and the internet and to access documents on ETCT, CENELEC and IEC websites.

Almost thirty people attended the course which was held in the Engineering Building, UCD, Belfield and was given by Brian Abbott, NSAI, and Pat Hession, ETCT. ETCT is very appreciative to Jerry O'Dwyer, Brian Turner and Brian Mulkeen from the Engineering Department for their assistance and the facilities that were made available to ETCT.

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