



ETCI Prepares Irish Industry for ATEX Directives

International Seminar on Explosion Safety in Hazardous Areas

The Electro-Technical Council of Ireland will hold a Seminar on Explosion Safety in Hazardous Areas in the Convention Centre, Silver Springs Moran Hotel, Tivoli, Cork on Thursday, 15th November 2001. The aim of this seminar is to inform senior management, specifiers of equipment and equipment manufacturers of the required structures and work practices that must be in place before the ATEX Directive becomes mandatory on 1st July 2003. The seminar is particularly targeted at the pharmaceutical, chemical, oil and gas industries, consulting engineers, local authorities and relevant Government Departments.

The ATEX 100a and 137 Directives are applicable to all potentially explosive atmospheres caused by gas and dust. The 100a Directive deals with the design and production of electrical and non-electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres. The objective of the 137 Directive is to establish minimum requirements for improving the safety and health of workers in potentially explosive atmospheres, to establish specific provisions for explosion protection and to create a suitable framework for explosion protection in industry.

The speakers at the seminar include distinguished speakers from the EU Commission, the European Standardisation Committees (CEN and CENELEC), European experts in the field of explosion prevention, the Health & Safety Authority and ETCI.

The programme of standardisation, which covers over 70 standards for electrical and non-electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres, for the ATEX field will be highlighted and discussed in detail during the seminar. A session will also discuss two new ETCI publications dealing with the use of electrical apparatus in potentially explosive atmospheres: the National Rules for Electrical Installations in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres, Second Edition and the Guide to the Selection of Electrical Apparatus For Use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres. Both publications will be available for sale from July 2001 at ETCI Offices.

Full details on the seminar and the new publications are available from ETCI Offices, telephone: 01 623 9901, or from the ETCI web site: www.etcie.ie

New ETCI Publication

A new ETCI publication, Code of Practice for the Design, Selection and Erection of LV Switchboards for Residential Applications, is now available from ETCI Offices.



Pictured at the launch of the Code of Practice for the Design, Selection and Erection of LV Switchboards for Residential Applications, were, left to right, Chairman TC4, Jim Rice, Chairman ETCI, Jerry O'Dwyer, Minister for Labour, Trade and Consumer Affairs, Mr. Tom Kitt, T.D., and Secretary TC4, Michael Keaveny.

New ETCI Board of Directors

The Council of ETCI Limited elected a new Board of Directors at its recent Annual General Meeting. The new Board is comprised of: Peter Church (Chairman), Niall Dunne, John Egan, Michael Keaveny, Michael Moran, Tony O'Doherty, Jerry O'Dwyer, Noel O'Riordan, and Jim Rice.

During the AGM, the membership of ETCI Limited was increased to 19 with the election of Radio Telefis Eireann to the Council. The following are the member organisations of the Electro-Technical Council of Ireland Limited:

- 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
- Radio Telefis Eireann
- Technical, Engineering and Electrical Union
- Trinity College, Dublin
- University College, Dublin

The Future ETCI

ETCI is currently examining its present and future structure to assess the effectiveness of its role as the representative voice of the Irish Electrical Industry on technical matters relating to safety and standards in both national and international forums. As a result of this assessment, the ETCI representation should be more reflective of the changes in the electro-technical sector since the foundation of ETCI in 1972.

ETCI would welcome any input and support from organisations and associations involved with the electrical-technical industry on how ETCI could better and more fully represent the industry and more effectively promote electrical safety. Interested parties should contact the Company Secretary at ETCI for further information.



Mr. Peter Church, Chairman of ETCI Limited for the period 2001 – 2002.

Agreement on Cable Core Colours At Last!

In the November issue of the ETCI Newsletter, details of the proposed new European cable core colours were outlined.

The vote by the National Committees of CENELEC was unanimously in favour (one abstention) which means that an agreed European colour code now exists for both fixed and flexible cables as follows:

- Earth: Green/Yellow
- Neutral: Blue
- Phases: Brown (first phase)
Black, Grey

The date of implementation of this agreement, and the date of withdrawal of conflicting standards, will be decided shortly. In the case of Ireland, 3 core cables comply already (Brown, Blue, Green/Yellow). What is new is the return of Black (banned since 1988) and the introduction of Grey as the second and third phases respectively.

After twenty years of deliberation within CENELEC, this is regarded in Ireland as a very welcome result, not least because it brings the UK into line with the rest.

International Meetings in Ireland

The IEC Subcommittee 47D will hold a series of meetings at the Kingsley Hotel, Cork, from 6th – 8th June next. This subcommittee deals with mechanical standardisation for semiconductor devices. The meetings are being hosted by GS-Ireland, Macroom, Co. Cork.

The CENELEC Technical Board Task Force (BTTF) 74-1 will meet at NSAI Buildings, Glasnevin, Dublin, next September to continue its work on a draft European Standard, prEN50297. This draft deals with photoelectronic controls for road and street lighting.

The CENELEC Technical Committee 211, Electromagnetic Fields in the Human Environment, will meet in Dublin during next October. TC211 deals with various aspects of the exposure of people to electromagnetic fields from 0Hz to 300GHz. ETCI Technical Committee No. 15, under the chairmanship of John McAuley, Compliance Engineering Ireland, shadows the work of this committee.

Safety of Electrical Equipment for Explosive Atmospheres

The IECEx Scheme, that deals with certification to IEC standards for safety of electrical equipment for explosive atmospheres, has set up an online newsletter to keep interested parties informed about its activities. The ultimate aim of IECEx is to have one international certificate and mark accepted in all participating countries, using national standards that are identical to IEC standards. The newsletter is accessible at <http://www.iecex.com/newsletter>

IEC Green Guide

The IEC have recently introduced a new guide that is tied directly to environmental protection and deals with product disposal and recycling. The substances of a waste product and the potential hazards to health and to the environment that they represent must be identified to ensure environmentally friendly disposal or recycling. Therefore, the manufacturer should know which environmentally relevant substances are contained in his products. He should also know the distribution and the concentration of these substances and be able to give the information to those who need it.

This Guide, Materials Declaration Questionnaires – Basic Guidelines, is designed to assist companies which have to develop materials declaration questionnaires for products, for instance as part of purchase specifications. It intends to increase the harmonisation and the comparability of the various questionnaires. The Guide is available for purchase from NSAI, Ballymun Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, telephone: 01 - 807 3800, price £16.00.

News from Regulatory Organisations for the Electrical Contracting Industry

ECSSA News

ECSSA has recently announced the appointment of Ms. Paula Bailey as its new Administrator and also the appointment of Mary McCarrick as Secretary for the organisation. Paula began working with ECSSA in November 2000, having gained considerable experience in the administrative field working on three different continents over the past number of years. Mary too has returned to Ireland having spent thirteen years abroad. ETCI wish Paula and Mary success in their new appointments.

RECI News

ETCI has nominated Mr. Jerry O'Dwyer to the Board of RECI to replace Mr. Seamus Elmore who has retired from the board after eight years service. Jerry O'Dwyer is the past-Chairman of ETCI and is a lecturer in Electrical Engineering at UCD.

The ECA has nominated Mr. Joe Lawlor to the Board of RECI to replace Mr. Liam Redmond who has retired from the board after six years service. Mr. Lawlor is an Electrical Engineer and a director of the well-known Dublin electrical contracting firm, C J Ryder Lawlor.

NSAI Matters

NSAI Launches ISO 9000:2000 – Quality Management

NSAI recently launched its new Quality Management System – ISO 9000:2000 which is a revision and consolidation of the 1994 versions. The new 9000:2000 series consists of four separate standards:

- ISO 9000:2000 - Quality Management – Fundamentals and Vocabulary
- ISO 9001:2000 - Quality Management Systems – Requirements
- ISO 9004:2000 - Quality Management Systems – Guidelines for Performance Improvements
- ISO 19011:2000 - Guidelines on Quality and/or Environmental Management Systems Auditing

NSAI has organised training courses and a series of free half-day meetings on the new system. Future information can be obtained from the NSAI Training Officer, Patricia Whelan (telephone: 8073993 or e-mail patricia.whelan@nsai.ie) or by visiting NSAI web site at www.nsa.ie

New Appointment for ETCI past-Chairman

Jim Rice, who was Chairman of the Electro-Technical Council of Ireland from 1995 to 1998, has recently been appointed as General Manager at Schneider Electric Ireland. Jim was previously the Manager of the Low Voltage Division in the company.

During his Chairmanship, Jim introduced ETCI's Manual of Procedures with the aim of regularising ETCI's activities and to equip members of ETCI Technical Committees in understanding the modus operandi of ETCI. Other highlights during his term as Chairman included the ETCI 25th Anniversary

celebrations in St. Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle and the ISSA International Colloquium. As Chairman of ETCI's Technical Committee on Switchgear, Control Gear and Associated Equipment, the committee published the Code of Practice for the Design, Selection and Erection of LV Switchboards for Residential Applications. The committee is currently producing a similar code of practice for commercial and industrial applications.

ETCI wish Jim every success in his new appointment.



Mr. Jim Rice

ETCI Electrical Apprentice Awards

The concept of Apprenticeship Awards was first mooted by ETCI in November 1992 in order to foster a greater awareness of electrical safety, to recognise the achievements of Ireland's top electrical apprentices and to strengthen ETCI's links with the Electrotechnical Education Centres. With the assistance the Department of Education, this concept came to fruition for the 1992-93 academic year with the presentation of awards at ELEX 94, the National Electrotechnical Exhibition.

ETCI has recently revised its electrical apprentice award scheme in line with the new system of electrical apprenticeship. The new ETCI Electrical Apprentice Awards, starting in 2001, will consist of two prizes which will be presented to the prizewinners in Electrical Commercial Installation and in Electrical Industrial Installation of the National Apprentice Competition.

ETCI Circulates Draft Amendment for Public Enquiry

The Electro-Technical Council of Ireland Limited has prepared the first amendment to the Third Edition of the National Rules for Electrical Installations and a draft is being circulated for public enquiry. The draft contains changes and additions as follows:

- Chapter 51: Cable core colours change
- Chapter 52: Wiring Systems
Amendment to 522.8.1.6 concerning wiring in attics
- Chapter 53: Switchgear and Controlgear
533.3.4: Replacement of text with detailed requirements for main overcurrent devices
- Section 701: Bathrooms: Deletion of sockets supplied from isolated circuit (701.55.07)

- Section 704: Construction and Demolition Sites (New)
- Section 714: Outdoor Lighting Installations (replacing the existing "Section 714: External Lighting Installations" which was issued as a separate document with the Second Edition of the Rules)

A copy of the draft document can be obtained by writing to the Company Secretary, Electro-Technical Council of Ireland Limited, Unit 43, Parkwest Business Park, Dublin 12. Any observations on the draft amendment should be sent to the Company Secretary.

ETCI Establishes New Technical Committee

ETCI has established a new technical committee, Technical Committee No.3, to prepare national rules for high voltage power installations exceeding 1kV a.c. (1.5kV d.c.) located indoors or outdoors, including earthing. These rules will specify the design requirements of the installations and the selection and erection of electrical equipment in order to ensure the safety of persons and the proper operation of the installations. The rules will not be applicable to factory built and type tested equipment but will be relevant to the installation of this equipment. The rules will not be applicable to overhead and underground lines between separate installations.

The committee members of the new TC3 who have undertaken this task are:

- Mr. Cormac Madden, ESB (TC3 Chairman)
- Mr. Tim Moloney, Schneider Electric Ireland (TC3 Secretary)
- Mr. Tom Gallagher, Department of Electrical Engineering, UCD
- Mr. Dermot Hicks, Hivar Engineering
- Mr. Martin Keane, ABB
- Mr. Paddy Lord, Lord Consulting Electrical Engineers
- Mr. Michael O'Hara, O'Hara Engineering
- Mr. Pat Rathbourne, HVSM

Vacancy for Technical Officer within ETCI

ETCI have created a new position of Technical Officer which will involve the provision of technical support and information service on published Rules, Guides and Codes of Practice. The individual will also develop and co-ordinate the ETCI training programme and will implement the ETCI IT programme in line with its current strategy. The ideal candidate will be familiar with ETCI publications and formal technical qualifications will be a prerequisite. Experience in training management will be an advantage.

Remuneration will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Applications should be sent complete with CV to the Chairman, Electro-Technical Council of Ireland Limited, Unit 43, Parkwest Business Park, Dublin 12.

Safety Always

Safety Rules for the Electrical Expert

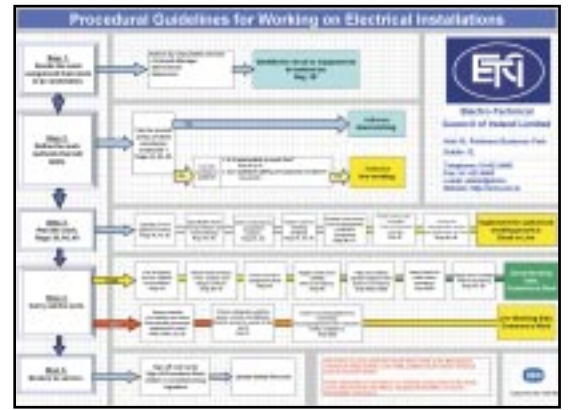
The ETCI Safety Committee, TC5, advises electrical experts to be aware of the following Five Golden Rules for Electrical Safety when working on electrical installations or electrical apparatus:

- Disconnect from the power supply
- Employ the necessary means to prevent closing of the isolating switches, e.g. lock-off
- Test for absence of voltage
- Provide earthing and short-circuiting as required
- Provide protection against adjacent live parts

Guidelines for Working on Electrical Installations

The Procedural Guidelines for Working on Electrical Installations, which is illustrated to the right is an extract from the ETCI Good Practice Guide on the Management of Electrical Safety at Work. This chart is intended to assist the electrical expert to draw up a job description to safely carry out live or dead working on an electrical installation or electrical apparatus in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application Regulations) 1993, S.I. 44, 1993 (Part VIII – Electricity).

This extract is available, free of charge, as an A3 wall-chart from ETCI Offices. It may also be downloaded from the ETCI web site in A4 format for inclusion in an organisation's work practices or in its safety statement.



ETCI is currently developing a training course to help both non-technical and technical managers understand the electrical responsibilities as documented in the Good Practice Guide. It is intended to run these courses in selected locations throughout Ireland and also to offer them as on-site courses. Further information can be obtained from ETCI Offices or from the ETCI web site.

The following publications are available from ETCI Offices

NATIONAL RULES

Code	Title	Price	Post & Packing
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	New edition published in July 2001	
ET106	National Rules for Electrical Installations in Medically Used Rooms	£10.00	£0.70

CODES OF PRACTICE & GUIDES

Code	Title	Price	Post & Packing
ET202	Guide to the Selection of Electrical Apparatus for use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres	New edition published in July 2001	
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
ET206A	Chart: Procedural Guidelines for Working on Electrical Installations	No Charge	
ET207	Guide to National Rules for Electrical Installations (3rd Edition)	To be published shortly	
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, Third Edition	£5.00	£0.70

WebWatch

TC News Live

IEC have introduced an electronic form of "TC News" on its web site to keep its members up to date about new technical developments within the IEC. The newsletter can be accessed at <http://www.iec.ch/tcnews/tcnews-welcome.htm>

Introduction of CLCTECH Server

The CENELEC server, CLCTECH, is now operational and will be the new working tool for the exchange of CENELEC information and documents through databases created specifically for each technical body within CENELEC. The system will be administered by CENELEC's Central Office and its member organisations. ETCI is the Irish member of CENELEC and as such, the ETCI Secretariat is presently issuing usernames and passwords to all ETCI Technical Committee members. All TC members can expect to be issued with these details before CENELEC goes paperless in June 2001.

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