



Electro-Technical
Council of Ireland

NewsLetter

Issue 4

February 2003

ETCI Seminar on Mandatory Worker Protection Directive

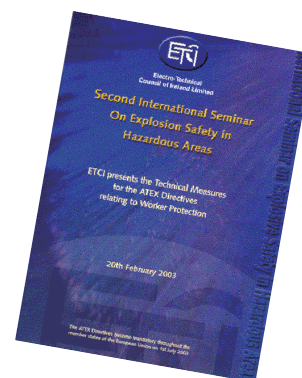
The ATEX Directive relating to worker protection becomes mandatory throughout the EU Member States from 1st July 2003. In response, ETCI is hosting a one-day seminar in Cork on Thursday 20th February 2003 to prepare Irish industry for the full implementation of the requirements of the Directive.

Directive 1999/92/EC on the protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres, commonly known as ATEX Directive 137, specifies the minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of such workers and imposes stringent requirements on site operators and employers.

The seminar will be addressed by distinguished speakers from the European Commission, the European Standardisation Committees (CEN and CEN-ELEC), the UK Health & Safety Executive, and ETCI, as well as by national experts on explosive atmospheres.

The event, which will include the first public presentation in Ireland of the EC Guide of Good Practice for Implementing ATEX Directive 137, will be of special interest to the pharmaceutical, chemical, oil and gas industries, consulting engineers, local authorities and relevant Government Departments.

The seminar will be held at the Rochestown Park Hotel in Cork and costs €450.00 per delegate. Full details and booking forms are available from ETCI Head Office.



Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork, on Thursday 20th February 2003 is the venue and date for ETCI's one-day seminar on ATEX Directive 137.

Online Completion Certification "Goes Live"

The new web-based Electronic Completion Certificate system, developed by ESBI Computing on behalf of ETCI, will "go live" on a pilot basis during February 2003.

The Completion Certificate is part of the National Rules for Electrical Installations. It is the method by which the electrical contractor certifies that an installation complies with the Rules and advises the ESB that power can safely be supplied to, and be used at, that installation.

ETCI believes that the new Electronic Completion Certificate will greatly enhance the certification process for the electrical contracting industry, and reduce the administrative demands on the ESB, ETCI, the regulatory organisations (Electrical Contractors Safety and Standards Association and

Register of Electrical Contractors of Ireland) and their members.

Other advantages associated with the introduction of ECCs will include:

- Automatic verification of the installation electrical parameters
- Automatic verification of the electrical contractor's competence and membership status
- Ease of archiving and traceability
- Environmentally friendly
- Promotion of e-business in the electrical contracting industry

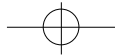
The Electronic Completion Certificate will undergo user trials with a number of selected electrical contractors from ECSSA and RECI. Basically, the online system operates as follows:

- The electrical contractor downloads

a Completion Certificate from his/her organisation's website

- They input the installation's electrical parameters – all of which must be within the specified limits
- The Certificate is submitted online to the ESB for power connection and to the relevant regulatory organisation (ECSSA or RECI) for archiving
- The contractor's copy may be filed electronically
- The contractor prints off the Certificate as the customer's copy – and may supply an electronic copy if so requested by the customer

The online system will process two types of Completion Certificate – domestic/small commercial and industrial/commercial – and will cater for new, alterations, temporary and miscellaneous types of installations.



ETCI Technical Committees and Task Forces

The Electro-Technical Council of Ireland operates two Committees, 14 Technical Committees, and three Task Forces. Some of their main projects for 2003 are as follows:

Technical Management Committee

The TMC monitors and co-ordinates the work of the Technical Committees and Task Forces. The TMC has been monitoring recent developments in relation to the regulation of the electrical contracting industry, and has amended ETCI procedures to address the receipt of comments on draft publications subject to the public enquiry procedure.

International Policy Committee

The scope of the IPC is to monitor the strategy and administrative matters of the European and international standardisation bodies, CENELEC and IEC respectively, and to determine the ETCI position in relation to these. ETCI is the Irish member of CENELEC and IEC.

TC1: Safety of Household & Similar Electrical Appliances

This committee is monitoring the significant changes that are currently being proposed in the revision of the European Commission's Low Voltage Directive, as well as revisions to the Machinery and Electromagnetic Directives.

TC2: Electrical Installations

A Guide to the National Rules for Electrical Installations (Third Edition) will soon be published. A second Amendment to the Rules is being prepared this year.

TC3: Power Installations Exceeding 1kV AC (1.5kV DC)

A Medium Voltage Completion Certificate has been finalised and forwarded to the ETCI TMC for ratification and issue. It is intended that this Certificate and procedure for completion will be accepted by the industry by end-2003.

TC4: Switchgear, Control Gear & Associated Equipment

A new Code of Practice for the Design, Selection, Testing and Erection of Low Voltage Switchboards for Industrial and Commercial Applications has been drafted and will be published in spring 2003.

TC5: ETCI Safety Committee

TC5 is now focused on delivering on commitments detailed in its Strategic Plan 2003 - 2005, as follows:

* Complete the development of an intelligent RCD Tester (that can be plugged into any 13A socket) that can be easily used to activate the RCD (on the distribution board) and determine if it is operating correctly (@30mA in less than 0.3 seconds). Time to trip will be indicated.

* Develop a new Guide on "The Principles of Electricity and Electrical Safety" and an associated training course. The guide will explain the basic principles of electricity, how it can harm and how to prevent such harm. This Guide should, when completed, lead on towards the present Guide on "The Management of Electrical Safety at Work".

* Develop a Database for the recording and analysis of electrical incidents (fatal and non-fatal) and have it available on the ETCI website. It will be populated with a significant amount of information from past incidents (details of electrical fatalities from 1929 still available) and will detail the precautions that could and should have been taken to prevent or minimise the consequences.

* Recommend (to TC2) that all 230/400V electrical circuits be protected by independent RCDs, i.e. sockets protected by one RCD, lights by another and fixed installations by one or more other RCDs. Smoke detectors and associated emergency lighting should make this proposal easier.

* Other work as appropriate and possible, e.g. study of fire incidents and keeping abreast with international developments (ISSA, ACOS, IEC).

TC6: Electrical Apparatus for Explosive Atmospheres

For 2003, TC6 plans to develop a Completion Certificate for installations in potentially hazardous areas. An international seminar on Directive 1999/92/EC will be held in Cork on 20th February 2003.

TC10: Electrical Apparatus in Medical Practice

In 2003, TC10 plans to advance proposals to widen the electronic circulation of IEC TC62 documents to interested parties in various industry associations.

TC11: Electronic Information Processing Hardware

This TC takes a particular interest in the development of IEC Publication 60950-1, which addresses the safety aspects of IT equipment.

TC12: Electronic Communication Systems

Various aspects of optical fibre are a major facet of TC12's work.

TC13: Alarm Systems

Recently published are "CLC/TS 50398 Alarm systems: Combined and integrated alarm systems - General requirements" and "EN 50130-4/A2 Alarm systems: Part 4: Electromagnetic compatibility - Product family standard: Immunity requirements for components of fire, intruder and social alarm systems".

Recently circulated were "CLC/prTS 50131-7: Alarm systems - Intrusion systems - Application guidelines" and "EN 50131-1/prAA: Alarm systems - Part 1: General requirements".

In 2003, TC 13 will be involved in Security Expo Ireland, Dublin, from 6th-7th March, and will host the CLC/TC 79 meeting in Dublin on 4th-5th June.

TC14: Electric Cables

Work is being finalised on I.S. 273 and the TC is considering production of a Guidance Document for users of low, medium and high voltage cables.

TC15: Human Exposure to EMF

Ireland holds the Convenorship of Working Group 2 in CENELEC TC 106X and it is hoped that participation in IEC TC 106 by the Convenor, Ian Brooker, will result in an international standard based on the WG2 documents.

TC16: Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC)

A new area for EMC is the measurement of emissions at frequencies above 1 GHz, which is driven by the higher operating speeds of computers and the increased use of this spectrum for mobile communications.

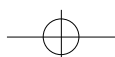
TC17: Automation & Programmable Systems

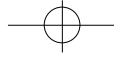
It is likely that an ETCI forum will be required to deal with the electro-technical aspects of the machinery sector, which may also be covered by a new NSAI Consultative Committee.

RCD Task Force

It is proposed that a Draft Code of Practice for the use of RCDs will be published during 2003.

Further information on the work of ETCI's Technical Committees can be obtained by visiting ETCI's website, www.etcie.ie, or by phoning 01 623 9901.





CENELEC SG Addresses ETCI Workshop



Pieter Parlevliet, Secretary General of CENELEC, who was Guest Speaker at the ETCI Annual Workshop, held in Dublin on 9th December 2002, outlined CENELEC's strategic plan, the benefits of international standards to global trade, and the forthcoming CENELEC Global Framework promotion.

New NSAI Certification Scheme for Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting Systems

NSAI's two standards I.S. 3218 Code of Practice for Fire Detection and Alarm Systems for Buildings – System Design, Installation and Servicing, and I.S. 3217 Code of Practice for Emergency Lighting have served the industry well in the 13 years since their introduction in 1989.

However in recent years Chief Fire Officers and others within the industry have felt that the self-certification system envisaged by these standards was somewhat unclear, in that sometimes contractors did not know what sort of Completion Certificate was required and with Fire Inspectors being unable to obtain sight of the required certificates. This problem was further compounded by the absence of any system of verification of the status of the signatory.

Following an initial meeting between NSAI and the Fire Industry Association of Ireland, at

which it was decided that NSAI should develop a certification scheme based on the two standards, a further meeting was held with the broader industry. This meeting, hosted by NSAI, included representatives of FIAI, Chief Fire Officers, IEI, EIFI, CER, ECSSA, RECI, and FÁS. The meeting emphatically supported the proposal for an NSAI certification scheme.

It is envisaged that the new schemes would be based loosely on the existing I.S. 199 Intruder Alarm scheme and would include Internet-based certificates.

NSAI's Fire Safety Standards Committee, which drew up the original standards, is now reviewing them for use in the new scheme. It is also considering a longer term and more fundamental review. NSAI believes that the new schemes could be up and running by the middle of 2003.

On and Off Site Training Seminars

Newsletter readers are reminded that ETCI offers a one-day "Training Seminar on the Management of Electrical Safety at Work, for between 10 and 20 delegates per seminar.

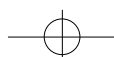
Seminars can be given on-site in an organisation's own premises (€350 per delegate, including Guide ET 206) or, alternatively, in a nearby location arranged by ETCI (€400 per delegate, including Guide ET 206 and lunch).

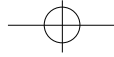
The objective of the seminar is to prepare managers, who may not be technically competent in the electrical sense, to carry out their responsibilities as outlined in the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act to ensure the protection of all persons at the place of work from the electrical hazard.

A second seminar, "The Principles of Electricity and Electrical Safety", is currently being prepared by ETCI TC5. This seminar will explain the basic principles of electricity, how it can harm and how to prevent such harm.

On the Move

The Electro-Technical Council of Ireland will be moving to new premises in 2003 from its present location in Parkwest Business Park. The ETCI Council has recently approved the purchase of new offices at Centrepoint Business Park and it is expected that ETCI will move to these offices in early June 2003. Further details will be given in the next issue of the ETCI Newsletter.

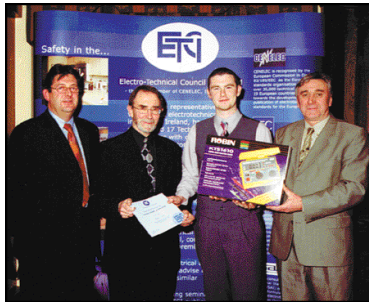




Apprentice of the Year Awards

Two presentations of Apprentice of the Year Awards were made at the ETCI Annual Workshop held in Dublin on 9th December 2002.

The Commercial Category Award, sponsored by Electrofast, was won by Conor Casey of Trevor Cunningham Electrical, Monaghan, while the Industrial Category Award, sponsored by Instrument Technology, was presented to Declan Sheehan of ESB, Tralee.



Conor Casey (second right) receives the ETCI Apprentice of the Year Award, Commercial Category, from Peter Church, ETCI Chairman; Tom Reeves, Director, Commission for Energy Regulation; and Eamonn Cullen, Electrofast.



Declan Sheehan (second right) is presented with the ETCI Apprentice of the Year Award, Industrial Category, by Peter Church; Tom Reeves; and Paul Sharkey, Instrument Technology.

New Publications

The ETCI will soon be publishing the following seven new documents dealing with particular aspects of electrical installation not covered in detail by the ET 101: "National Rules for Electrical Installations (Third Edition)". These documents constitute a response to requests from the industry for technical information on a number of topics.

* ET 107: "National Rules for Inspection and Certification of Existing Electrical Installations for Reconnection to the Distribution System". Expected date of publication: summer 2003.

* ET 207: "Guide to National Rules for Electrical Installations (Third Edition)". Expected date of publication: summer 2003.

* ET 208: "Code of Practice for the Design, Selection and Erection of LV Switchboards for Residential Applications (New Edition)". Price: €10.16

* ET 209: "Maintenance Routine for Electrical Installations in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres". Price: €35.00

* ET 210: "Code of Practice for the Selection and Installation of Low Voltage Generators". Price €25.00. This supersedes in part the old Part 3.7 of the Rules and is intended to be used with Section 551 of the National Rules Third Edition.

* ET 211: "Code of Practice for Public Lighting Installations in Residential Areas". Price €12.00.

* ET 212: "Guidelines for Extensions, Additions and Alterations to Existing Electrical Installations". Expected date of publication: Spring 2003.

Another new document is the "Declaration of Compliance for Minor Work", which must be issued by the electrical contractor for work where the usual Completion Certificate would not apply. It is not a certificate as is normally understood, although it is somewhat similar in layout to the Completion Certificate. The Guidelines document includes a copy of the Declaration.

A Second Amendment to ET 101: "National Rules for Electrical Installations (Third Edition)" is currently in preparation.

Four New ETCI Members

Since the inauguration of ETCI as the representative voice of the Irish electrical industry in 1972, the structure and composition of this industry has changed.

In response, and in particular to broaden its influence in promoting electrical safety, the ETCI Council is currently examining its structure and all facets of its operation to more accurately reflect this representative role.

As a result, four organisations have recently joined as ETCI members. These are:

- Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs
- Consumers Association of Ireland Limited
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ireland
- National Irish Safety Organisation

ETCI Member Organisations

Electro-Technical Council of Ireland Limited is a voluntary body of the following 23 organisations representative of all aspects of electro-technology in Ireland. The ETCI Council comprises one representative from each organisation.

Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland
 Association of Electrical Contractors (Ireland)
 Association of Electrical Wholesalers
 Consumer Affairs, Office of the Director of
 Consumers Association of Ireland Limited
 Dublin City Council
 Dublin Institute of Technology
 Eircom
 Electrical Contractors Association
 Electrical Manufacturers and Distributors Association
 Electricity Supply Board
 Health & Safety Authority
 Information and Communications Technology Ireland
 Institution of Electrical Engineers
 Institution of Engineers of Ireland
 Institution of Incorporated Engineers
 Irish Cable Makers Association
 Irish Engineering Enterprises Federation
 National Irish Safety Organisation
 Radio Telefís Éireann
 Technical, Engineering & Electrical Union
 Trinity College, Dublin
 University College, Dublin



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