

AECINews



Secretary's Message

Dear Member,

Welcome to the fourth edition of the A.E.C.I. News. As you are aware the Annual Conference will take place on the 28th and 29th May 2004, in The Great Southern Hotel Killarney. So make sure you mark this date on your Diary.

The Conference is a fantastic opportunity to meet old friends, and make new ones. Your support at your Conference is of vital importance, as it is one of the biggest events on the Electrical Industry Calendar. Check out the brochure inside.

Insurance.

Check the information in this issue regarding your cover with the A.E.C.I. Group Insurance Scheme, as laid out by Hodgins Percival & Associates.

Questionnaire.

In August 2003 we sent out a Questionnaire to get your views, and requirements as to how the A.E.C.I. may serve you better in the future. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who responded, and ask that the bigger the response the better equipped we will be to deliver your requirements. The result of the draw will be in our next issue.

eP.A.C.E.

No doubt you will be well aware of eP.A.C.E. as it is advertised throughout the Media, and every Electrical Contractor in this country was written to, and information requested.

It is of great interest to the Contractor to comply with the requirements, as eP.A.C.E. was set up to police the industry, and create a level playing field for all contractors.

Should you have any queries, or require information about the industry. Please do not hesitate to contact the friendly staff here at A.E.C.I.

Yours faithfully

Noel Jameson
Executive Secretary.
Phone: 01 - 2886499 Fax: 01 - 2775870 email: aeci@indigo.net

The Irish Electrical Benevolent Association

A Charitable Organisation

IBEA's objective is the need to raise funds so that they can be used to alleviate distress and hardship that may occur from time to time to members of the Electrical Industry.

Why do we require a benevolent Association?

As you are very much aware, the pace of life today has accelerated dramatically. There is no network to support people in our industry who suddenly fall ill or suffer changed circumstances.

Hopefully by now you will be aware of the Irish Electrical Benevolent Association. Formed some 18 months ago, the Association is made up of voluntary members representing the Distribution, Wholesaling Contracting and Retailing sectors. We have achieved considerable success so far, both in raising money and in helping fellow members in the electrical industry that might need us.

We can do a lot more on both counts.

The Appropriations Committee, under the Chairmanship of Oliver Maloney, has helped people who were lonely, isolated and suffering greatly as a result of changes in their life.

Please remember, this is all voluntary and in confidence - so be assured that anything that you can do will help.

How can you help?

The Irish Electrical Benevolent Association is run on a simple principle. We need money in so that we can give money out.

EIFI Ball - Berclay court hotel

November 21st 2003 Tickets €75 (per head)
All Welcome

*Contact office to place bookings asap

MATERIAL ORDERS

The A.E.C.I. suggest that all members should include the following wording on all orders placed for the supply of goods from wholesalers not signed up to the quality charter.

Wording:

It is important that all materials supplied on this order must meet the conditions laid down for the supply of electrical goods within the Irish state

ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS (IRELAND)



McKinley House, 16 Main Street,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

Tel: 01 288 6499, Fax: 01 288 5870

E-mail: aeci@indigo.ie

The Correct Use of ETCI certificate

The Following instructions describe to whom and when the particular certificate should be given i.e. green to Supply Authority and yellow to Client, but only after post connection tests have been completed and filled in.

Certification

The Contractor must sign the Certificate in two places - pre-connection and post connection. Before submitting the green copy of the certificate to the Supply Authority for supply of electricity, the contractor must sign the Pre-connection box. This indicates that the post connection tests outlined in Chapter 61 of the National Rules for Electrical installation have been completed, that the installation complies with the Wiring Rules and the installation is safe for a connection to the electricity supply. After electricity has been connected to the isolator by the Supply Authority the electrical contractor completes the post connection tests as outlined in Chapter 61 and signs the Post Connection Box on the yellow certificate when these are satisfactory. The Supply Authority identification number (SA-ID No.) for the installation should be inserted in the box provided where appropriate.

Distribution of Certificates

The distribution of Certificates and copies is shown at the bottom of each Certificate and copy. The yellow Certificate is deemed to be the "Completion Certificate", the green and white images are copies. The yellow Certificate should not be submitted until after the post-connection tests have been completed and entered on the Certificate and the Certificate signed to that effect. - R.E.C.I.

Redundancy Payments Act, 2003

Sections 1 to 6, 8, and 13 to 17 of the Redundancy Payments Act, 2003 came into operation on 25th May 2003.

The new Act provides for a new enhanced entitlement of two weeks statutory redundancy payment for every year of service, regardless of age. The present bonus week and employer 60% rebate will continue.

The new rates of statutory redundancy payments are applicable to all redundancies where Notice of Redundancy is formally conveyed to the employee on or after 25th May, 2003 by means of the receipt of a Notice of Redundancy on the Prescribed format i.e. the RPI form.

Other improvements in the Redundancy Scheme are:

- Employees employed through Employment Agencies are now covered for redundancy.
- The insurability requirements have been amended to bring them in line with the Social Welfare Acts and the Protection of Employees (Part-time Work) Act, 2001.
- Employees employed under fixed term/fixed purpose contracts are now covered for redundancy. When these 'contracts' cease a redundancy situation exists.
- Employees who commence work in a company abroad, work there for some time and are transferred to the company or an associated company in this country, work here for at least 2 years will have all their service counted as reckonable when calculating redundancy entitlements.
- Persons who defraud the system stand to have penalties of €3000 imposed on them.

- The minimum rates of pay laid down in the National Minimum Wage Act, 2000 as updated, should be taken into account when calculating a statutory redundancy lumpsum.
- Employees of insolvent companies can make claims for minimum notice entitlements under the Insolvency Payments Scheme without having to obtain an award from the Employment Appeals Tribunal. Section 6 of the Protection of Employees (Employers' Insolvency) Act, 1984 has accordingly been amended.
- To make a redundancy calculation under the new Scheme you can double click on the Redundancy Calculator icon on the Home Page of the Department's Website at www.entemp.ie.

For more general information on the new Scheme you can contact Employment Rights Information Section of the Department - telephone (01) 6313131 or go to the Departments, website at www.entemp.ie

Re: Public Lighting.

Contractors should be aware that before carrying out these Installations, they should check with local E.S.B. as the type of fitting they may use, might not be suitable from a maintenance point of view when the E.S.B. are asked to include them with other Public Lighting Maintenance Fittings in the area. We understand that this has caused some problems for contractors.

"Sponsoring Of Newsletter"

Would you like to advertise your companies services or do you know someone who would? We are looking for sponsors for our Newsletter at very reasonable rates. Interested!! Please contact the office for more information.

Rates: 1 Issue = €300
 2 Issues = €500

Culture of late payment persists

Legislation designed to curb late payment of invoices by companies has had no effect, according to the latest late payment figures from Experian.

Statistics released by the global business solutions company show that overall, the average time companies in the UK take to pay their invoices stands at 57.9 days - exactly the same as in October 1998, when the legislation was introduced.

Small companies take on average 56.4 days, nearly three quarters of a day longer than 1998 - and medium sized companies, the figure is 58.3 days, two days longer than in 1998.

Phil Cotter, MD of Experian's Business Information division, said: "The latest late payment figures clearly illustrate that the culture of late payment is still endemic across British industry some five years after legislation was introduced to change that culture.

"There are, of course, average figures, and many companies are meticulous about paying on or before the date agreed with their suppliers. But in the current economic climate, many companies suffering from falling profitability are trying to juggle payments from their own customers and to their suppliers to manage their cashflow."

He added: "Whilst this can temporarily benefit those businesses, persistent late payments and the ensuing bad debts associated with this pose a real danger to the livelihood of many UK businesses."

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Asbestos Awareness

Electrical contractors and all those involved in the construction industry should be alert to the dangers of working with materials which may contain asbestos and to avoid exposure to all dusts of asbestos.

Asbestos was used extensively between 1950 and 1980 in insulation boards for fire protection, thermal insulation, wall partitions, etc. Also in millboard, paper and paper products used in insulation of electrical equipment. Lagging for pipework and sprayed coatings for insulation frequently contained asbestos.

Electrical contractors sometimes find old consumer units fixed to asbestos type boards. When electrical contractors are carrying out contracts in old buildings they should ask the person responsible for health and safety whether the site has been checked for asbestos. Unless such a check has been undertaken work should not proceed.

Do you have a friend or work colleague who may wish to receive information on AECI Membership, if you do please fax or post to: AECI, McKinley House, 16 Main Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Fax: 01 288 5870

A.E.C.I. Group combined liability scheme benefits

Hodgins Percival & Associates Limited have been providing combined liability covers to the members of the A.E.C.I. since 1986.

Over that period the wording of the scheme has been enhanced on several occasions both in respect of the policy wording and indeed the indemnity limits provided.

The covers provided under the scheme can be summarised as follows:-

1. The limit of indemnity in respect of **Public Liability** is **Eur 6,500,000 may one event and unlimited in the period of insurance.**
2. The limit of indemnity in respect of **Products Liability** is **Eur 6,500,000 any one period of insurance.**
3. The limit of indemnity in respect of **Employers Liability** is **Eur 25,500,000 any one event.**
4. The policy extends to provide cover in the event of **failure of products (other than alarms)** to fulfil the purpose for which they were specifically intended up to a limit of indemnity of **Eur 2,600,000 any one period** and limited to **Eur 1,300,000 any one event.**
5. The policy extends to provide in event of **failure of alarms** to fulfil the purpose for which they were specifically intended up to a limit of indemnity of **Eur 2,600,000 any one period** and limited to **Eur 1,300,000 any one event.**
6. The policy extends to cover Financial Loss (not accompanied by loss of physical damage to physical property) up to a limit of indemnity of **Eur 130,000 any one period.**
7. The policy fully complies with the requirements of the "**Register of Electrical Contractors of Ireland Ltd.**"
8. You are not restricted to the percentage of work that you do in an **industrial environment.**
9. Directors under a contract of service with an insured company are not excluded under the Employers Liability Section.
10. The policy automatically includes the **manufacturer or assembly** of electrical control panels or boards used by you in connection with your business.
11. The policy can be extended to cover you for **sub-contractors** working for you in connection with your business.
12. The policy **does not** contain a height restriction.
13. The policy is not subject to substantial excesses and indeed the only excess applicable is in respect of **Third Party Property Damage at Eur 300.00.**

It is important to point out that all the above benefits and features are available in the standard policy wording, however, if increased limits are required there is a separate facility to provide quotations and cover in respect of same. This, for example, would apply if a higher public liability indemnity limit was required.

It is important to point out that the policy was specifically designed for members of the Association of Electrical Contractors of Ireland working as **Electrical Contractors in the electrical industry.**

Each member of the Association is issued with their own policy document and annual Certificate of Insurance, which can be used as evidence of insurances when requested by your Principals.

The above is only a brief summary of some of the benefits that are applicable under the policy. However, they are subject to the policy terms, conditions, limits and exclusions. There are also additional insurance products available complementing the Combined Liability Scheme providing a range of quality insurance products at competitive rates. The additional products included Private Motor, Commercial Motor, Household, Personal Accident and Goods in Transit.

Guy Percival is Managing Director of Hodgins Percival & Associates Limited, Insurance Brokers & Consultants to the A.E.C.I. he can be contacted at Tel. No. 01-4783344, Fax No. 01-4780166, e-mail: guy_Percival@hodginspercival.ie. The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author.