



WASTE ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC DIRECTIVE (WEEE)

EU Directives on Waste and Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and the Restriction of the Use of certain Hazardous Substances in electronic and electrical equipment (RoHS) came into force 13th February 2003. The Directives are required to be transposed into Irish law by the 13 August 2005. For example, the requirement for producers to provide free take-back facilities for waste electrical equipment will come into operation from that date.

Take-back and recycling schemes are already in operation in some E.U. countries and although some of these will have to be adapted to the requirements of the WEEE Directive, nevertheless it is possible to imagine how the process will operate in Ireland.

It is thought that consumers would return all end-of-life electrical products to a Civic Amenity (CA) location, free of charge. It could also be possible that they would be entitled to return the product to a retailer on a one-for-one basis. Basically for example when buying a new Radio they will be in a position to hand back the old one to the retailer if they wish.

Retailers would be allowed to bring all waste products to the nearest C.A. site for disposal. It is envisaged that manufacturers and importers will have to collect all WEEE from CA sites around Ireland and transport it to recycling plants, which will more than likely be outside of Ireland.

It is unlikely that manufacturers will do this individually. It may be, that they will sub contract the management of their WEEE to concerns set up specifically to take care of this disposal on their behalf.

As discussions are detailed and complicated and have been taking place for some time now it is difficult to see what role the Electrical Contractor will have in this area. It is also not clear what the responsibilities the Electrical Contractor has with regards to WEEE. We will keep you informed as events occur.

TEA TIME TWISTER

Can You Answer these 3 Questions, if you can, you can be in with a chance to WIN a POCKET MULTI-METER to the value of €50, sponsored by EASTERN ELECTRICAL

Simply send your answers to us by email at aeci@indigo.ie or Fax: 01 2885870

Q.1. What is the Proper name for the symbol for resistance in an electric circuit?

Q.2. What symbol is missing from the following equation and what value does the equation seek to define?

$$? = \sqrt{3V \cos \theta}$$

Q.3. What is the maximum distance a meter cabinet can be installed from the front of a house?

Answers & Winner Next Issue
(Answers in By Monday 18th October)

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APPRENTICE REGISTRATION

Please Note: Apprentices must be registered by the employer with FÁS within two weeks of commencing employment and must be at least 16 years of age.

The following information must be provided:

1. Documentary evidence of educational qualifications.
2. Colour vision test approval.

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AECINEWS

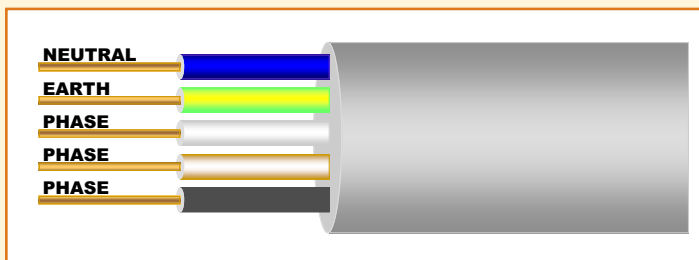


New Harmonised European Cable Core Colours

Multi-core cables will be mandatory in new electrical installations certified on and from 1st April 2006.

Before that date, wiring in new installations, including extensions, may use either the existing colour code or the new harmonised colour code.

The new three- phase core colours are brown, black and grey, with blue for neutral and green/yellow for the earth/protective conductor.



The following limitations apply:

1. Green/yellow cores shall be used only as protective conductors and shall not be converted e.g. by sleeving for use as neutral or line/phase conductors
2. Blue cores shall be used only as neutral conductors and shall not be converted e.g. by sleeving for use as protective conductors or line/phase conductors.
3. Brown, black or grey cores shall be used only as line/phase conductors, and shall not be converted e.g. by sleeving for use either as protective conductors or as neutral conductors.
4. Where more than one conductor in a multi-core cable is fed from the same phase, both shall be identified by the relevant phase colour, using sleeving as needed.
5. For single-core cables used for three-phase circuits, the core colours shall be the same as for multi-core cables.
6. Where single-core cables are used to supply single- phase circuits fed from a three-phase distribution board, the respective line/phase conductor colour may be extended to the single-phase circuits fed from that phase
7. Sleeving or tape used for identification purposes shall be permanent, heat resistant, colour-fast, non- conductive, and shall comply with EN 60454 or other appropriate standard.
8. Four-core cable without a blue core e.g. NYM-J shall be used only for circuits with balanced three-phase loads e.g. three-phase motors.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

September is BACK TO SCHOOL TIME. The A.E.C.I. is no different. Our Training and Development Programmes will commence at the end of September. Our effective Charge-Out Rate and Tender Estimating programmes, which were being run in centres throughout the country last season, proved to be extremely popular and helpful to the Electrical Contractor.

As a direct result of these successful programmes, we have been requested to add further programmes to our Training Portfolio.

Some of the Training Programmes that will be on offer from the A.E.C.I. at many venues throughout the country during the next season will be as follows:

- Effective Charge-Out Rate
- Payment Time Frame
- Project Planning and Site Management
- Managing Insurance
- Disciplinary Procedures and the Electrical Contractor
- Tax matters and the Electrical Contractor
- Effective Manager Skills for the Electrical Contractor
- Health and Safety and the Electrical Contractor
- Manual Handling
- Safe Pass
- Leadership, Communication and Motivation Skills for the Electrical Contractor.

Our programmes are delivered by qualified, experienced lecturers. Our class sizes are economic and our prices are substantially lower than all other training institutions.

Additionally, our programmes are renowned for their practical and hands-on content so that maximum learning capability is facilitated.

We have a wealth of experience of training and development in the Electrical Contracting Industry in all sizes of organisations, so whatever you need, just contact us. For a comprehensive list of all Training and Development programmes offered by the A.E.C.I. and for full details contact us at 1800 671 671 or visit our website at www.aeci.ie

ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTORS (IRELAND)



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INSURANCE ISSUES

In line with our pledge, given in December 2003 to reduce your various insurance costs, we are delighted to report average savings of 25% delivered to A.E.C.I. members on our insurance scheme in 2004.

In addition A.E.C.I. now have guarantees in place that these rating reductions will, at the very least, be maintained until 2006, continuing to deliver the certainty demanded by our members in the area of insurance costs.

Also, we are currently undertaking a "root and branch" review of all membership services going forward, including insurance, with a view to providing real and tangible benefits and savings to our members. We intend seeking comprehensive input from members as to what exactly would be the most appropriate benefits to be made available.

It is planned to hold a series of meetings and workshops throughout the country during the first two weeks in October to collate the required information. In order to be in a position to provide the most suitable benefits package we need your input urgently.

Details of meetings and workshops will be advised shortly.

INFORMATION AND BRIEFING EVENINGS

A series of Information and Briefing evenings will be held in areas throughout the country commencing in early October. A.E.C.I. members will be accompanied at these meetings by insurance experts, manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, financial institutions and experts from the accountancy profession etc.

This is a free evening whereby contractors will be given information to enable them to run their businesses better, be aware of new products and services in the industry, avail of cheaper borrowing facilities, accountancy advice etc. Refreshments will also be served.

Dates, times and locations for these meetings in your area will be available from both our website www.aeci.ie, by mail or simply contact us at FREEPHONE 1800 671 671.

A.G.M. 23RD APRIL 2005 CONFERENCE 27TH TO 29TH MAY 2005

The 2005 Annual Conference will take place in the Radisson Hotel, Athlone from May 27th to May 29th. As the Trade show was such a success at this years event, we have ambitious plans for next year. We plan to have a bigger and better Trade Show with more exhibitors and attractions. It is also planned that the Hotel costs to members wishing to attend the weekends events will be very attractive. We plan to have various activities related to the Electrical Contracting Industry taking place during the weekend. More information will be available in future editions.

It is planned to hold the A.G.M. on Sat April 23rd also in the Radisson Hotel, Athlone. As you are aware, there are still many problems facing electrical contractors in the profitable running of their businesses, so this date is also extremely important. It will also afford you the opportunity to view the hotel, it's facilities and the area in general so you will be familiar with them for the Conference.

DONEGAL BRANCH MEETING

As a result of problems being encountered by members in the Donegal area, a meeting was held on July 28th to discuss these issues. The meeting was attended by President Jack Hegarty, George Kennedy, Executive secretary, David McGloughlin, General Manager R.E.C.I., Sean Gallagher, R.E.C.I. Inspector and Tom McArdle Dept of Social Welfare.

This was a very vibrant meeting where many issues and problems were aired and debated at length. The situation regarding the way the regulatory bodies must operate in relation to the C.E.R. criteria was dealt with in detail and it was explained how the inspection service operates.

The state of non-compliance and the effect it is having on the industry was also comprehensively discussed.

Tom McArdle stressed the point that the department of social welfare will act forcefully against any company who flaunts the rules.

Because members found this meeting to be beneficial, the A.E.C.I. will continue to hold similar meetings in other areas of the country on a regular basis.

A.E.C.I. MEETS E.C.S.S.A.

On Wednesday August 23rd, senior members of both A.E.C.I. and E.C.S.S.A. met in Cork. The purpose of the meeting was to explore areas of common interest to both parties. As one of the primary objectives of the A.E.C.I. is to assist electrical contractors in improving their business, we were very satisfied with the meeting. Further meetings will be held in the immediate future to progress the relationship further.

NON-COMPLIANCE ISSUES

As has been widely stated & particularly, in our last two issues, the state of non-compliance in the industry is causing major headaches for our members.

The A.E.C.I. is working diligently on this issue and representations have been made to several Governmental bodies, Regulatory Bodies and at Labour Court Level.

Specific commitments from the Department of the Taoiseach have been secured as follows:

"In the context of the Employment Rights Section of the Mid-Term Review of Part 2 of Sustaining Progress and the recent decision by the Labour Court concerning R.E.A. for the Electrical Contracting Industry, it is agreed that there will be a range of proposals developed for consideration by Government in relation to the mandate and resourcing of the labour inspectorate to be completed by the end of 2004.

In the mean time, existing resources will be focused on expediting complaints of non-compliance in this industry."

We have advised ePace of our concerns in the matter and have been assured that this organisation will also actively participate.

CONTRACTUAL INFORMATION

This months topic is Nominated suppliers / Conditions of contract

In accordance with recognised conditions of contract relating to nominated status contracts, the conditions of contract which exist between main contractors and nominated sub contractors also apply between sub contractors and nominated suppliers. A nominated supplier is a supplier of goods, a supplier of services, or a supplier of goods and services, who is chosen and nominated by the design team on a project. Without going into full detail of the conditions of contract, the following conditions are significantly important and beneficial to Electrical Contractors: PAY WHEN PAID, RETENTION, WARRANTY, DEFECTS LIABILITY, & PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNT.

It is worth being aware of your entitlement when placing orders with nominated suppliers. "Pay when paid" means that the electrical sub contractor is under no obligation to pay until he / she (the electrical sub contractor) is paid. You normally have 7 days after receipt of payment. You are entitled to withhold retention on payments @ the rate of retention applicable to the project. The rate of retention is halved at practical completion stage and the balance is payable when the sub contractor has received payment of final retention. The nominated supplier is obliged to extend warranty on their goods, and or, services and are obliged to rectify any defects in their goods or services supplied throughout the defects liability period defined for the project. The nominated supplier will normally have quoted the design team for the goods or services being nominated for the project. The price quoted to the design team will be deemed to include a discount normally @ 5%, which is for the electrical sub contractor subject to prompt payment by the sub contractor. Prompt payment, as stated above, means within 7 days of receipt of payment.

The above conditions were negotiated and agreed for the industry many years ago and it is important that we retain such favourable conditions. Should members encounter difficulty in obtaining the agreed terms and conditions please advise AECl head office.

Phone (01) 2886499. or Fax (01) 2885870.
Freefone 1800 671 671

The A.E.C.I. Website www.aeci.ie has been revamped and updated. We have a complete "LINKS" Section with links to other industry websites, Services and Product suppliers. Our "NEWS" Section is updated monthly to provide up-to-date information to our members. We also have a new "OPPORTUNITIES" section where you can search for qualified electricians or place your own ad looking for electricians in your area. For more information or to send an ad, contact us at aeci@indigo.ie or Freephone 1800 671 671.

The Website has been a great success, with over 1500 hits last month, which is excellent for this type and size of website. Keep an eye out for pictures from the Annual Conference and Trade Show and the winners of the Golf Competition.

A.E.C.I. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Health & Safety

We have received several requests recently for help in preparing Safety Statements.

Please be aware of the following:-

- Safety Statements are specific to each business
- Safety Statements must be prepared by competent / trained persons
- Safety Statements must be upto date and accurate.

EMPLOYERS RESPONSIBILITIES:

Employers are responsible by law, for the following.

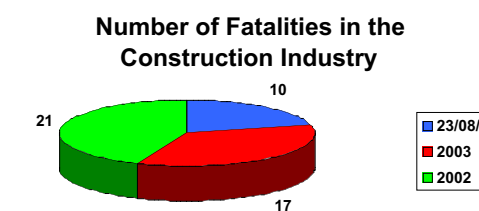
- the full scope of workplace safety
- the organisation and systems necessary to achieve it.
- the responsibilities and roles of employers, the self-employed and employees.
- the enforcement procedures where the laws are not followed.

Employers (including self employed persons) are primarily responsible for creating and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace. This includes:

- The management of safety and health in the workplace including consulting the workplace.
- A written Safety Statement, identifying hazards and outlining measures to protect employees, must be prepared.
- Risks must be evaluated periodically and a written record of risk assessment kept as part of the Safety Statement.
- Competent advice on health and safety matters must be obtained. If necessary outside advice must be taken.
- Responsibilities also include providing a safe place of work, safe access and exits, safe work systems, plant and machinery, information, supervision and training.
- The costs of safety and health measures in the place of work cannot be passed on to employees.
- Necessary emergency evacuation plans and contracts with local emergency services must be arranged.
- Employees who take on responsibilities if an emergency arises must be designated.
- Where a place of work is shared, all of the different employers (and self employed persons) must co-operate in safety and health matters.

For further details and information contact us at 1800 671 671

It is worthwhile to take note of the following statistics.



While there has been a drop in Fatal Accidents over the last two years, the HSA has reported that, as of 23rd August, there have been ten deaths in the Construction Industry.

The number of reported accidents, however, have remained roughly the same, with "trips and falls" remaining the most common cause of accidents and consequently, spinal injuries are the most common results.

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