

CHRISTMAS WISHES

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our Members, friends and supporters a very happy and healthy Christmas, to you and your family and friends and we hope despite all the doom and gloom that somehow you can enjoy a peaceful Christmas break and a very Happy New Year and a Prosperous 2010.

Yours Sincerely,
Jack Hegarty, President AECI



Above are attendees at one of the November 2009 1 Day Seminars which were held in Dublin, Cork and Galway.



Many thanks to all our Members and Industry colleagues who attended the 1 Day Seminar on Emergency Lighting Systems, Fire Detection and Alarm Systems with Safety Health and Welfare at Work Construction Regulations.

**AECI OFFICE CLOSED FOR
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS FROM
THE 22ND DECEMBER 2009
TO THE 4TH JANUARY 2010.**

Association of Electrical Contractors (Ireland),
Woodview Centre,
Main Street, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
Phone: 01-288 6499, Fax: 01-288 5870,
Email: aeci@indigo.ie, Website: www.aeci.ie

Inside this issue

- Seminars
- 2010 AECI Subscriptions
- REA High Court Challenge
- Labour Court Hearing
- CER/RECI News
- Annual Leave Entitlements

SEMINARS

The recent seminars on Emergency Lighting and Fire Alarm Systems aimed that Electrical Contractor's responsibilities. We have got a great response from our Members and others who attended.

Their request for further training in these fields was sizeable and we are looking into a more in dept training course (theory and practical) in the very near future.

We are also planning some evening sessions at NO COST for our Members on subjects like Finance, Estimating and New products of interest to our Industry in January/February 2010.



Paul Condron, lecturer

2010 AECl SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note the different categories of Membership to allow you to calculate what your 2010 Subscription would be.

SOLE TRADER	€250.00
2-5 EMPLOYEES	€400.00
6-14 EMPLOYEES	€600.00
15+ EMPLOYEES	€830.00

As all companies are experiencing difficult trading times economically the AECl Head Office is very grateful for Members who have paid the 2010 Subscriptions already.

We would encourage all others to submit their payment as early as you can to assist our cash flow in these particularly difficult times dealing with Government Bodies, TEEU etc. to achieve the aims of our Members.

A raffle will be held in early January 2010 for Subscriptions paid by the 31st Dec 2009.

REA HIGH COURT CHALLENGE

The High Court has begun to hear the challenge to the Electrical REA, which has been taken by a number of named Electrical Contractors. The defendants in the case are The Labour Court and The Attorney General. AECl are only a notice party in the case, this means that AECl receive copies of all correspondence relating to the case.

AECl Executive Council made a decision not to have representation at the High Court Hearing, as this would incur unnecessary large legal cost that AECl and its hard pressed Members could not afford. Our stance has consistently been to support the concept of the REA, which has been in existence for approximately 20 years. The AECl indicated at the Labour Court in February 2009, that we did agree with a structure of the REA, but we would be insisting that the ENJIC would agree to a complete revision of the REA, which is in progress at this time. This would lead to a new and improved REA to meet the demands of today's Electrical Industry.

The Officers and Council Members of the AECl have put forward to the Chairman of the ENJIC a Draft Document (REA) to deal with each and every issue of the REA and also issued an agenda to ensure that all of our suggestions would be dealt with in full. A request by the Chairman was made to allow the AECl, ECA & TEEU to discuss this matter in full.

LABOUR COURT HEARING

The previously postponed Labour Court Hearing to ratify or reject the proposed €1.05 wage increase is planned for Friday the 18th December 2009 and again AECI have submitted their Members position and opposition on any increase at this time.

CER/RECI NEWS

Members, please be advised that it is important that you attend a training course in Testing and Verification as the CER require all qualifying managers to have attended a training course within a 3 year period (anyone signing certificates should bare this condition in mind).

Electrical Contractors should be aware that certificates will be required for **all** minor circuits involved.

ANNUAL LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS

CALCULATING HOLIDAY PAY

An employee must have worked 120 hours in the preceding four week period to be entitled to any annual leave, i.e. for every 120 hours worked, an employee would be entitled to 1.75 days pay (13.65 hours).

PAYMENT FOR ANNUAL LEAVE

Agreed at ENJIC, the following should be included in holiday payments:

1. Basic Pay
2. Proficiency Pay
3. Any other differential (e.g. Chargehand, Foreman, etc.)
4. Average bonus payments, if any (averaged over preceding 13 weeks)
5. Daily Subsistence (Meal Allowance)
6. Tool Allowance

WORKING ANNUAL HOLIDAYS

If a man works a day of Annual Leave, he would be entitled to either a day off in lieu, for which he would be paid, of double pay for the day he works, i.e. 1 day's holiday pay + 1 day for working the day.

WORKING BANK HOLIDAYS

If a man works on a Bank Holiday, he is paid double time. The employer may then give him either:

- a) a day off in lieu and pay him a normal days pay for that day or
- b) if he does not give him a day off, he must pay him a days pay instead.

This means, in effect, that the Bank Holiday will cost the employer three days pay.

ENTITLEMENTS FOR PART-TIME ELECTRICIANS

For the first 13 weeks of employment, an employee has no holiday entitlements. Thereafter, he is entitled to 6 hours for every 100 hours worked. If his total hours of service are 1,400 or more, he would be entitled to a full holiday entitlement.

ILLNESS WHILE ON HOLIDAYS

Where an employee on Annual Leave furnishes medical evidence that he is ill, the period of illness is not counted as par of his Annual Leave.