



THE HANDS OF SAFETY

**ECSA**  
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION (SA)

# **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

## **ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND**

## **THE HOMEOWNER**

### **INFORMING THE PUBLIC**

Website: [www.ecasa.co.za](http://www.ecasa.co.za)  
E-mail: [info@ecasa.co.za](mailto:info@ecasa.co.za)



# ELECTRICITY: YOUR RIGHT TO A SAFE AND HASSLE-FREE INSTALLATION

The Occupational Health and Safety Act prescribes, through the Electrical Installation Regulations, who may carry out electrical installation work and in this way protects users of electricity. The Act also gives protection to the public by means of a Certificate of Compliance (CoC) which every user or lessor of an installation is obliged to possess, and should ideally be provided every time a house changes ownership.

## **“I have a Certificate of Compliance (CoC) and the installation is not functioning properly. What should I do?”**

Proof of safety is the CoC issued by an accredited person (electrician accredited by the Department of Labour). This person will either be the proprietor, or an employee, of an electrical contracting business which must be registered with the Electrical Contracting Board of South Africa (ECB) as an electrical contractor. It is important to bear in mind that the CoC certifies the safety of the installation. It is possible that an electrical installation is not fully functional (e.g. some lights or plugs don't work), but the installation is safe and the CoC is valid.

As homeowner, you can take the following precautions to ensure the electrician is permitted to perform the required work.

- Request his or her registration card issued by the ECB (Electrical Contracting Board of South Africa). A date stamp will indicate whether the Contractor is currently registered.
- To ensure the person is qualified to do the electrical work and authorised to issue a CoC, request his accreditation certificate issued by the Department of Labour. This will show the accredited person's name, ID number and photograph. The work itself may be carried out by the contractor's competent employees.
- When looking for an electrical contractor to carry out your work, insist that it is a member of the ECA (Electrical Contractors Association). In the event that you are dissatisfied with the work undertaken, you will have recourse in that the ECA mediates between members and their clients. **THE WORKMANSHIP OF MEMBERS IS ALSO GUARANTEED UP TO R15 000,00\***

## **“Is my Certificate of Compliance (CoC) transferable?”**

In terms of the Electrical Installation Regulations, the answer is yes. Provided that if any additions and/or alterations were done, a certificate was obtained for such work and the electrical installation was properly maintained by the user or lessor.

The seller is obliged, by the Act, to sell an installation that complies with the Regulations. The CoC is the only recognised proof of this compliance. In addition, almost all property sale agreements provide for the seller to hand a valid CoC to the buyer.

## **“Are appliances covered by the Certificate of Compliance (CoC)?”**

- Appliances such as lights, geysers, stoves, airconditioning units etc (See note 3 on front page of the CoC) are not covered by the Certificate of Compliance (CoC). The non-working of appliances does not necessarily mean that the CoC is invalid.
- The Certificate of Compliance (CoC) covers from the point of control (main switch in Distribution Board) to the point of consumption (socket outlets, terminals of lights, geysers, stoves etc.)
- The Certificate of Compliance (CoC) certifies the fixed wiring of the permanent electrical installation including all light switches, wall mounted isolators, distribution boards and socket outlets.

*\* Terms and conditions apply*

# ELECTRICITY AND THE HOMEOWNER: RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

The onus rests on you, as homeowner, to ensure that the electricity in your house does not pose a threat to you, your family, any other person or animal, or the property. This also places the responsibility on you to prevent any hazardous situations that may trigger an electrical incident. The certificate has no expiry date but if any additions, modifications or alterations are carried out to your installation you will require an additional certificate for such work or, if necessary, a new certificate for the entire installation. Failure to acquire such additional certificate will mean that the entire installation is not certified and may render the original certificate invalid.

Should an incident occur, all involved parties will be investigated and the homeowner could attract liability if the installation is not safe or is not being correctly used. It could also invalidate the insurance on the property.

Save yourself the money and heartache that accompanies these incidents and “service” your electrical installation, appliances or any other hazardous source on a regular basis.

## **Following are some less common facts about prevention of hazardous situations:**

- Ensure your household appliance bears a label of a testing laboratory.
- Avoid using several high-amperage appliances (such as irons or heat producing appliances) on the same circuit
- Dust, spider webs etc are an invitation for a fire to start in an electrical system.
- Dimmed lights, reduced output from heaters and poor television pictures can be symptoms of an overloaded circuit.
- Avoid plugging two or more appliances into the same outlet or circuit if together they exceed 1000 Watts.
- Examples of such appliances are air conditioners, hot plates, irons, washing machines, heaters, dishwashers etc. Wattages are usually indicated on the appliance itself or in the instruction manual.
- Clean your tumble dryer thoroughly as a blocked or dirty lint filter can catch fire or set fire to clothes inside the drum.
- Be cautious when drilling holes or driving nails into walls. If you hit or damage electrical wires, a dangerous situation can be created.
- Ensure that stationary appliances permanently connected by means of fixed wiring such as stoves, geysers, gate motors etc, are controlled through an isolating switch.
- Most important, never attempt to put water on an electrical fire as water conducts electricity and could cause electrocution. Use a CO<sub>2</sub> fire extinguisher. Every home should have one.
- Always use a registered electrical contractor to work on your electrical installation, and insist that he/she be a member of the ECA .

## ECA(SA) - COMPETENCE WITHOUT COMPROMISE

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E-mail: [info@ecasa.co.za](mailto:info@ecasa.co.za)

# Need a registered electrical contractor in your area?

Contact your regional ECA(SA) office or visit our website [www.ecasa.co.za](http://www.ecasa.co.za) (Locate Contractor).

## **JOHANNESBURG**

ECA(SA) HOUSE, 91 NEWTON ROAD, MEADOWDALE EXT.2, GERMISTON, 1401  
PO BOX 9683, EDENGLLEN, 1613  
TEL: (011) 392-0000 FAX: (011) 974-9402  
EMAIL: [info@ecasa.co.za](mailto:info@ecasa.co.za)

## **PRETORIA**

1074 SCHOEMAN STREET, HATFIELD, PRETORIA, 0002  
PO BOX 12011, HATFIELD, PRETORIA 0028  
TEL: (012) 342-3242/3358 FAX: (012) 342-3455  
EMAIL: [infopta@ecasa.co.za](mailto:infopta@ecasa.co.za)

## **DURBAN**

188 WINDERMERE ROAD, MORNINGSIDE, DURBAN 4001  
PO BOX 47453, GREYVILLE, 4023  
TEL: (031) 312-6313 FAX: (031) 312-0851  
EMAIL: [greager@ecasa.co.za](mailto:greager@ecasa.co.za)

## **BLOEMFONTEIN**

57 KRAUSE STREET, ORANJESIG, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9301  
PO BOX 7738, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9300  
TEL: (051) 447-0859 FAX: (051) 430-2355  
EMAIL: [arrie@ecasa.co.za](mailto:arrie@ecasa.co.za)

## **PORT ELIZABETH**

13 MANGOLD STREET, NEWTON PARK 6001  
PO BOX 7699 NEWTON PARK 6055  
TEL: (041) 363-1990 FAX: (041) 363-1997  
EMAIL: [bowles@ecasa.co.za](mailto:bowles@ecasa.co.za)

## **EAST LONDON**

SHOP 40, BEREAL MALL, BEREAL, 5241  
PO BOX 19162, TECOMA, 5214  
TEL: (043) 7211558 FAX: (043) 721 1559  
EMAIL: [danita@ecasa.co.za](mailto:danita@ecasa.co.za)

## **CAPE TOWN**

46 NEW MARKET STREET, CAPE TOWN 8001  
PO BOX 2960, CAPE TOWN, 8000  
TEL: (021) 462-2690 FAX: (021) 465-6319  
EMAIL: [ecact@iafrica.com](mailto:ecact@iafrica.com)

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