

ECA NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2009

ECB REGISTRATIONS

Members are reminded that in terms of regulation 5(1) of the Electrical Regulations, 1992, all persons operating as electrical contractors are required to register with the Electrical Contracting Board of South Africa on an annual basis. The current registrations expired on 28 February 2009.

To enable you to register for the period 1 March 2009 to 28 February 2010 you need to do the following:

- Complete the ECB registration form. Copies are available from our offices in Port Elizabeth and East London on request.
- Forward your current ECB registration card for updating.
- If you yourself are not the Accredited Person (i.e. Electrical Tester for Single Phase, Installation Electrician or Master Installation Electrician) a certified copy of the certificate of registration of your Accredited Person. Such person must be employed by you on a full time basis:-
- Issue a cheque or postal order for R200.00 in favour of the Electrical Contracting Board. You may also pay with your credit or debit card at the speed point facility in our offices.
- If you are in full time employment, but registered as an Electrical Contractor in your private capacity, a letter from your employer stating that there is no objection to your operating a business. (Employees of Electrical Contractors are prohibited from registering with the Board);
- Should you have no employees and not be registered with the National Bargaining Council for the Electrical Industry, indicate this on the form and you will be provided with an affidavit to complete in this regard.

Your failure to re-register timeously will result in your being prohibited from operating as an Electrical Contractor. You are urged, therefore, to complete and return the application form correctly and in full. Also, please ensure that all of the necessary documents, together with the payment, are attached otherwise your registration will be delayed.

LONG SERVICE AWARD

At the East London general members meeting held on 4 February 2009, local ECA chairman Wayne Nicholas presented a 10 year service certificate to Danita Jordaan.

Over the years the East London office has developed into a hive of activities where members have become accustomed to good service and a friendly smile from Danita.

Through hard work and loyalty towards her employer, Danita has ensured that attendances at meetings and training courses have improved drastically.

We are indeed proud to have you as a member of our team Danita, and thank you for your dedication and commitment in going the extra mile for our members in the area.

ELECTRICIAN CONSTRUCTION OPERATOR TRAINING

With the shortage of scarce skills that are being experienced in the Electrical Industry, members are reminded that the Electrical Bargaining Council Main Agreement provides for training of semi skilled employees.

The training is tailor made for electrical contractors and has been registered as a Skills Programme at the Energy Seta.

Commonly referred to as "Elconops," the Council system allows employers to train semi skilled workers on site at levels 1, 2 and 3. No theoretical qualification is required to enter the system.

Workers would progress "in house" to Elconop 1 level. In order to advance to Elconop 2 the worker requires on the job training and must successfully pass an examination after completing 2 weeks practical training at an accredited Training Centre.

To progress to Elconop 3 an employee must have been employed in the Electrical Industry as Elconop 2 for a continuous period of at least 12 months and must have undergone 2 weeks practical training at an accredited Training Centre.

Many employers in the Industry have taken their workers through a process of in house training over the years. The Elconop training system enables employers

to give formal recognition to workers who have progressed through the ranks despite the fact that such workers may have no theoretical qualifications.

We need to reiterate that the Elconop training system is a voluntary process aimed at uplifting and empowering those workers in our Industry who are unable to register for a formal training programme.

For more information and application forms to start the process please contact the office.

NEC CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

A number of government departments and larger clients in South Africa have introduced the NEC suite of documents for use by contractors on their projects.

As a result a need has arisen for engineers, users, contractors, and project managers to familiarise themselves with the different types of NEC contracts.

A service provider in Johannesburg has submitted their 2009 Training Schedule to the ECA.

Any member company who may be interested in attending these courses may obtain further details from the ECA website @ www.ecasa.co.za.

COC COURSES

We are pleased to report that Cecil Lancaster, Regional Director of the Bosveld Region of the ECA, presented yet another series of successful COC courses in East London and Port Elizabeth during February 2009.

The East London course, held at the Sounds of the Sea Guesthouse and Conference Centre in Beacon Bay was attended by 19 delegates whilst 20 persons attended the course in Port Elizabeth, which was again held at the Clipsal offices.

A number of the students in each course were unfortunately not successful in the examination but feedback that were received from candidates who attended confirms that these courses are invaluable to the accredited person who needs to keep ahead of the ever increasing changes in legislation and technology in order to accept responsibility for the electrical installations carried out under his control.

Thank you to Cecil for giving up time in his busy schedule, and also to Danita and Michelle for all the arrangements.

Certificates for the successful candidates are currently being prepared at the ECA Head Office and should be available within the next few weeks.

SANS 10142-1 - AMENDMENT NO 6

The first series of general branch meetings for 2009 in the East / South Cape has been concluded. Craig Hendricks addressed our meetings in East London, George and Port Elizabeth on the most recent changes to the Wiring Code which became effective on 1 January 2009.

There was much debate about the re-introduction of requirements for the installation of surge protection devices, although this is not mandatory.

With regard to the consumer's earth terminal, the wording in clause 6.11.1 has been amended to determine exactly where such terminal shall be located.

As far as bonding of telephone, audio and video systems to the earthing system is concerned (clause 6.11.5) the size of the conductor has now been added. A note has also been added to the effect that providers of other services i.e. telephone, audio, video, security etc may not access the distribution board or other parts of the electrical installation.

Members are reminded that 2 new questions, relating to the installation of an earthing terminal for non-electrical power services and for standby generators have been added to the COC.

Until such time as these questions have been included on the COC forms, members are advised to add these questions, whenever applicable, as an addendum when issuing a COC.

Members were also reminded that a 230V generator with a V-O-V earth connection may not be connected to a fixed electrical installation, in terms of 7.12.2.7.