



Commission for Energy Regulation

An Coimisiún um Rialáil Fuinnimh

**CONSULTATION ON NEW APPROACH TO THE
REGULATION OF THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING
INDUSTRY**

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CONSULTATION ON
DRAFT CRITERIA PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 6th 2002**

CER/02/225

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INTRODUCTION

In March 2002, the Government approved a mechanism for the future regulation of the Electrical Contracting Industry.

Under the proposed new approach, the Commission for Energy Regulation ('The Commission') will be responsible for the **supervisory regulation** of the Electrical Contracting Industry with the Distribution System Operator (DSO) as **the day-to-day regulator** of the self-regulatory bodies in this sector.

The DSO Licence will be amended to cover this additional function and the receipt of a valid completion certificate, by the DSO, prior to connection to the Networks will become mandatory.

In August 2002, an implementation timetable for the new approach was agreed and published. The DSO was tasked with developing new and more detailed draft criteria, for approval by the CER, for the issue of a regulatory licence (by the CER) to an Electrical Contracting Regulatory body meeting these criteria.

Between August and October 2002, the DSO, in discussion and consultation with interested parties, developed draft criteria for the regulation of the electrical contracting industry, which were published on the 6th November 2002, as part of the public consultation process.

All interested parties were invited to comment on the draft document by 2nd December 2002. This document summarises the comments received by the Commission, as part of the public consultation process.

It is intended to publish the finalised criteria, which will be approved by the Commission, in early January, 2002.

RESPONDENTS

Written submissions on the published Draft Criteria were received from the following parties: -

- ETCI
- CVS DOYLE AGENCIES
- RECI (2)
- AECI
- METEOR MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS
- TEEU
- NSAI (3)
- AIDAN MCGUINNESS (BALFOUR BEATTY)
- ECA

In addition, a number of meetings and telephone discussions also provided useful comments, inputs and clarifications.

The Commission would like to thank all respondents for their valuable inputs. Every effort was made to incorporate the comments received in the finalised criteria and to reconcile different viewpoints where they existed.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

- Submissions received covered general issues (e.g. commenting on the approach and raising issues), as well as specific wording of the clauses in the document (e.g. seeking clarification, suggesting modifications/amendments).
- Concerns with the present system of self-certification were highlighted and suggestions made for improvement e.g. issuing of certificates to be mandatory for a range of installations including subsystems of large projects, rewired and modified installations, medium and high voltage installations, emergency lighting and fire alarm systems, and for post-connection test record sheets to be associated with the relevant completion certificate (a certificate is not valid without these tests being done).
- One respondent submitted a view that specialist installations (e.g. Fire Alarm Systems) covered by their own Code of Practice/Compliance Certification systems should be excluded from the completion certificate process.
- The move to widespread use of the new Electronic Completion Certification system, when it becomes available, should be encouraged.
- The need for a procedure requiring **prior formal approval** for installations, which do not conform to the ETCI wiring rules, was also raised.
- Issues were raised concerning commercial aspects of electrical contracting by three of the respondents covering items such as tax compliance, business structure, arbitration and, also, conformance with industrial relations agreements.
- Membership issues raised included the need for a rule that membership be restricted to one self-regulatory body and that a formal clearance process should be in place for transfer of membership
- Other issues raised in these areas concerned the disciplinary process, the skills, experience, training and qualifications for the grades of membership and for non-registered contractors for whom inspection services would be provided.
- Increasing the minimum number of inspections to two per annum plus spot-checks was advocated by a number of respondents.
- Applicability of the regulatory regime to construction/installations on the networks' side of the meter was also raised as an issue.
- The need to clarify the appropriate standards (IS EN 45011 or IS EN 45012) for the Quality Management Systems was also suggested.

- Finally, the issue of access to premises for inspectors to carry out inspections was again mentioned. This is being addressed in the New Electricity Bill, which should be completed by end 2003.

CONCLUSION

All of the suggestions/comments made and issues are being examined and will be taken on board in the final document in so far as is practicable and appropriate. It is intended to publish the final document in early January 2003.

For further queries in relation to the above or the proposed approach for the regulation of the Electrical Contracting Industry, please contact:

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