

Representing the Scottish
electrotechnical industry

cabletalk

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024 | £4.50

On course for victory

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President's Cup golf contest

→ **Water, wiring
and wildlife**
Tackling some unique
challenges while working
on Stornoway's new port

**Holiday home's
hidden horrors**
One Member shares their
experience of uncovering
a dangerous installation

**Expert knowledge
and know-how**
Technical team answers
Member questions about
the wiring regulations

SELECT



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Please phone our membership team on 0131 445 5577 to apply to become a Member of SELECT or if you would like more information about joining. Alternatively you can email us on memberservices@select.org.uk or submit an online enquiry. *cabletalk* is the official magazine of SELECT and is distributed free to qualifying readers. ISSN 1365-3288. SELECT is the trading style of the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland. The SELECT logo is a registered Collective Mark.



Contents

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024

Regulars

| | | | |
|----|---------|----|-------|
| 05 | OPINION | 06 | NEWS |
| 58 | PROZONE | 66 | DIARY |

Features

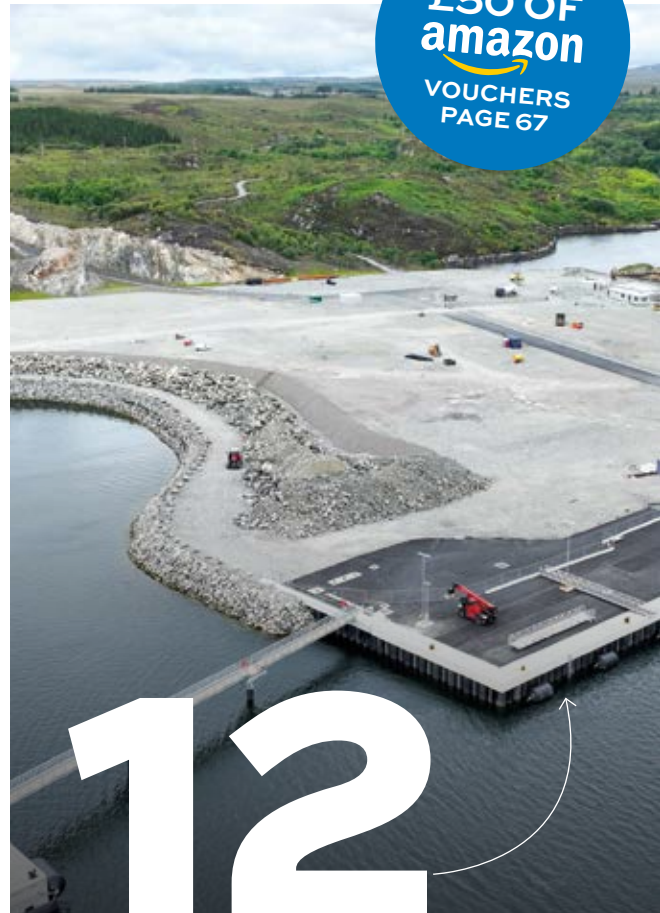
| | |
|----|--|
| 18 | News and updates from the Major Contractors' Forum |
| 20 | SELECT Member lifts the lid on dangerous installations |
| 22 | In-depth focus on the recently launched Amendment 3 |
| 28 | Colleges receive free SELECT technical posters and resources |
| 29 | MSPs back our regulation campaign in <i>Sparks' Remarks</i> |
| 30 | Associate Member LiveCosts reveals exclusive SELECT offer |
| 32 | All the action from this year's President's Cup golf challenge |

Technical

| | |
|----|---|
| 38 | Answering your questions about wiring regulations |
| 42 | Vericon discusses how AI is changing emergency lighting |

"AS AN INDUSTRY, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO NURTURE THE NEXT GENERATION OF TALENT"

// PAGE 5



MEMBER'S PORT CHALLENGE

Training

- 44 Make sure you stay safe when managing and supervising sites

Industry Insight

- 46 Advice on the right way to deal with VAT across your business
- 48 Why promoting physical health can help you build a winning team
- 50 Update on the Conflict Avoidance Process and Best Practice Guide
- 52 Keep your talent pool topped up with recruitment and retention

SECTT Update

- 54 Regional winners of Apprentice of the Year 2024 are revealed

SJIB Bulletin

- 56 Important reminder about not letting your SJIB ECS Card expire



TOOLBOX TALKS WRAP UP WITH ISLAND TRIPS

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6+
hours of on-demand content



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26
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A wealth of invaluable technical updates
and expert commercial guidance

SCAN THE CODE TO START WATCHING
OR LOG IN TO MY SELECT AT SELECT.ORG.UK



Apprenticeships will power our future

SCOTLAND stands at a pivotal moment in its history, with ambitious targets for renewable energy systems reshaping our electrical landscape. But who will install, maintain and innovate these systems? The answer lies in nurturing a new generation of skilled electricians through our industry apprenticeship programme.

Electrical apprenticeships are the lifeblood of our industry, ensuring a steady influx of talented, well-trained professionals and producing electricians who aren't just qualified on paper, but are also competent and confident in real-world scenarios.

One of the most pressing issues facing our sector is the skills shortage.

As increasing numbers of experienced electricians retire, we're seeing a widening gap in the workforce. Apprenticeships help towards a solution to this challenge, providing a pipeline of fresh talent and instilling the values and work ethic our industry demands.

Electrical apprenticeships also play a vital role in driving innovation, bringing fresh perspectives and embracing new technologies. In an era when smart homes, renewable energy systems and electric vehicle charging points are becoming the norm, this adaptability is invaluable.

The economic benefits of apprenticeships are substantial. For employers, they represent a cost-effective way to build a skilled

workforce. For apprentices, they offer a debt-free route to a rewarding career with excellent earning potential. On a broader scale, a robust apprenticeship system contributes to Scotland's economic resilience, reducing unemployment and boosting productivity.

However, to fully reap these benefits, we must address the need for greater awareness about the opportunities that electrical apprenticeships offer, with better career guidance in schools and more visible success stories from the industry. We must also ensure that our apprenticeship programme keeps pace with technological advancements. The electrician of tomorrow needs to be as comfortable with digital systems and renewable technologies as they are with traditional wiring.

Collaboration between industry, education providers and government is crucial too, so we need policies that incentivise businesses to take on apprentices and we must ensure that apprenticeship standards are consistently high across the country, maintaining the reputation of Scottish electricians for excellence.

As we look to the future, the importance of electrical apprenticeships in Scotland will only grow. The transition to a low-carbon economy, the increasing electrification of transport and the ongoing digital revolution all point to an ever-increasing demand for skilled electricians. By investing

in apprenticeships today, we're laying the groundwork for a prosperous and sustainable tomorrow.

As an industry, we have a responsibility to nurture and support the next generation of electricians.

This means not just offering apprenticeships but also mentoring, encouraging and challenging our apprentices to reach their full potential. It means creating a culture where continuous learning is valued and where innovation is encouraged.

To the young people of Scotland, I say consider an electrical apprenticeship – it's a path that offers not just a job, but a career.

To my fellow industry leaders, I urge you to embrace apprenticeships wholeheartedly.

And to our policymakers, I call for continued support and investment in electrical apprenticeships. They're not just a way to fill jobs, they're a strategic asset in Scotland's journey towards a greener, more prosperous future.

Electrical apprenticeships aren't just important for Scotland – they're essential. They're the conduit through which we will power our homes, energise our industries and illuminate our future. By championing apprenticeships, we're not

only training electricians, we're also building a brighter, more sustainable Scotland for generations to come. ■

WORDS
ALAN WILSON
Managing Director, SELECT



KEY INDUSTRY NEWS AND THE
LATEST ON SELECT STRATEGY,
CAMPAIGNS AND COLLABORATIONS

News

+ PAGE 8 /

Free webinar is not to be missed
as it focuses on the important
issue of asbestos safety

+ PAGE 10 /

Annual Professionals' Day
is set to return, with electric
heating top of the agenda

+ PAGE 9 /

Job board will help Members
find the right candidates
with the skills they need

+ PAGE 11 /

How to get free advice and
support from leading industry
experts on clean heat products

SHARE YOUR VIEW IN UK-WIDE NEUTRAL CURRENT DIVERSION RESEARCH PROJECT

SELECT Members are being asked to provide their feedback to help an industry-wide research project into neutral current diversion (NCD).

The association is working with sector partners IET, ECA, Electrical Safety First, NICEIC and NAPIT to help shape a UK-wide picture of the scale of the issue.

Contractors who come across NCD are being asked to submit their findings by scanning the QR code below or going to bit.ly/NCD-SURVEY

You'll then be asked to answer a short survey, including questions on the postcode of the installation, the voltage/current measured and if the incident was reported by calling 105.

The research period will run for six months, during which submissions will be reviewed.

Director of Technical Services Bob Cairney said: "Currently, there's not a lot of data about NCD available in the public domain, which is why this industry-wide research is being conducted.

"What happens next depends on what is uncovered; if there are lots of incidences in one area, then the DNO in that area will be made aware of the size of the problem, and if there are lots of incidences countrywide, then every DNO will be alerted.

"Should the findings indicate a problem wider than expected, it may be that the group also decides to inform the UK Government."

SELECT has already issued a range of NCD resources to help contractors, including posters, a downloadable flowchart and a pocket-sized foldout that advises how to check for the issue.

NCD was also among the hot topics at our recent Toolbox Talks, with Technical Advisers delivering an update to hundreds of Members across Scotland in May and June.



Employment Director role for Catherine

Experienced HR professional is looking forward to the challenge ahead as she takes on senior position at SELECT

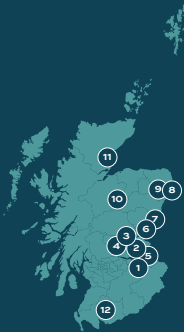
CATHERINE Gillon, a highly accomplished human resources (HR) professional with almost 30 years' experience, has been appointed Director of Employment Affairs at SELECT.

Most recently HR Business Partner for EDF Energy at Torness power station, Catherine's role at SELECT will encompass delivering expert employment guidance to

Members, shaping industry policies and liaising with trade unions.

A Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Professional Development (CIPD), she will also provide HR support to the SELECT Management Team as well as contributing to strategic planning and upholding the association's values and customer service principles.

Catherine has honed her expertise across multiple industries, including house building, healthcare, finance and



12 FIRMS HAVE BECOME SELECT MEMBERS SINCE 1 JUNE 2024

1. McBeath Electrical Services Ltd, Currie
2. D McGill Electrical Ltd, Kirkcaldy
3. SKR Electrical Services, Perth
4. Bonthron Security Services Ltd, Forganenny
5. WS Electrical, Port Seton
6. McPhee Electrical, Dundee
7. Blu Electrics Ltd, Dundee
8. GT Electrical Services, Aberdeen
9. Esson Electrical Ltd, Aberdeen
10. Ohmega Electrical Solutions, Aviemore
11. Safety Welding & Lifting (International) Ltd, Invergordon
12. Muirhead Electrical, Dumfries



↑ Catherine with fellow SELECT Directors John McGhee, Bob Cairney and Iain Mason

the nuclear power sector. Her diverse career has allowed her to excel in various HR roles, from recruitment and talent management to employee relations and organisational development.

She said: "This extensive background has provided me with a robust understanding of industry-specific challenges and the ability to implement effective HR strategies tailored to each unique environment.

"I am passionate about driving positive organisational change and supporting workforce development to achieve both employee satisfaction and business success.

"Specifically, I want to help SELECT Members overcome challenges by providing up-to-

date training and certification, facilitating networking opportunities and advocating for favourable industry policies, as well as offering essential resources and tools, professional development programs and conflict resolution services."

In addition to her SELECT role, Catherine has been appointed Secretary of the Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB) which regulates relations between employers and employees.

Alan Wilson, Managing Director of SELECT, said: "In Catherine we have an outstanding professional

with a highly distinguished background in all aspects of human resources.

"We are delighted that she has agreed to join us in our mission to highlight to the entire community in Scotland and beyond the significance of the electrotechnical sector to both society and the economy and its growing importance in a world where the future is electric."

Five Minutes with Catherine: Page 66

"I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT DRIVING POSITIVE ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE AND SUPPORTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO ACHIEVE BOTH EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION AND BUSINESS SUCCESS"

MEMBERS REMINDED TO REPORT ANY INCIDENTS OF METER TAMPERING

SELECT Members are being reminded to report any incidents of meter tampering to Stay Energy Safe to help tackle the rising scourge of energy theft across Scotland.

The charity has reinforced its call for contractors to flag up any issues to its anonymous free service and has also repeated its plea for real-life examples that it can use to help build awareness among consumers. The reminder follows an article in the previous issue of *cabletalk* in which Crimestoppers revealed how it works alongside the energy sector to operate the high-profile service and educate the public about the dangers of meter tampering.

Kristina Jusyte, Network Engagement Manager for Stay Energy Safe, said: "We have been encouraged by the response to our initial plea for information and would ask that all SELECT Members continue to keep an eye out for energy theft and report it to us.

"Any Member who comes across meter tampering and isn't comfortable speaking to the client, police or DNO can contact Stay Energy Safe anonymously on our free, round-the-clock service

"All tip-offs are passed to the supplier, DNO or transporter so they can begin to investigate and ensure the meter is safe."

If you find evidence of meter tampering, call Stay Energy Safe anonymously on **0800 023 2777** or visit **www.stayenergysafe.co.uk**

To submit details of energy theft and take part in the Stay Energy Safe questionnaire, email **kristina.jusyte@crimestoppers-uk.org**

↓ Meter tampering is dangerous and must be stamped out



WEBINAR PUTS FOCUS ON HOW TO STAY SAFE WITH ASBESTOS

SELECT is preparing to co-host a free Member webinar on asbestos safety, in partnership with Associate Member the Building Safety Group (BSG).

The one-hour session on Thursday 5 September will start at 1pm and will cover a wide range of topics, including the health effects of exposure to asbestos, legal requirements and the risks for electricians.

The expert speakers will be SELECT Technical Adviser Robert McGoogan and Andy Harper, Head of Technical and CDM Support at BSG.



REGISTER TODAY

Register for the free BSG webinar on 5 September by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/asbestos-web



UPDATE No19: APR-JUN 2024

MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS

1,237
Full Members

30
Probationers

37
Associate Members

20,438
Viewers on YouTube

5,508
Followers on social media



TRAINING

60

courses delivered, with free heat pump wiring sessions for Members held in Aberdeen, in partnership with Daikin

TECHNICAL

88
Technical inspections

240
BSG Health & Safety users

182
Technical Helpline calls

366
SELECTcerts subscriptions

EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

51%
First-time pass rate for FICA

77%
Resit pass rate for FICA

1,095
ECS HSE assessments created

540
ECS HSE assessments marked

1,376
ECS Cards issued

INFOGRAPHIC IS FULL OF FACTS AND FIGURES

The second SELECT infographic of 2024 has been released, showing

the activity carried out by the association between April and June this year. The quarterly update shows our achievements in technical, training, membership, communications, employment and skills.

Best practice explored

Neutral current diversion (NCD) and high-tech light fittings were among the hot topics when SELECT hosted the most recent meeting of the Local Authority and Client Forum (LACF).

Chaired by Andy Graham from Fife Council, the hybrid meeting at The Walled Garden on 18 June saw industry professionals once again gather to discuss industry best practice.

Also on the agenda was a presentation on the electrification of clean heat and mould prevention, delivered by

Steve Thompson and Shaun Hurworth from Associate Member Dimplex.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Fife Council, West Lothian Council, Stirling Council, City of Edinburgh Council, East Ayrshire Council, Angus Council, Falkirk Council, South Lanarkshire Council and Kingdom Housing Association.



LOCAL AUTHORITY & CLIENT FORUM
ELECTRICAL BEST PRACTICE



↑ LACF members at The Walled Garden

New online resource is just the job

Recruitment board will let Members advertise vacancies and find the very best candidates during ongoing skills shortage

SELECT has responded to Member demand by introducing a new employment resource to help electrical firms across Scotland.

The association launched its new job board in July to assist Members in finding suitably qualified candidates to fill current vacancies.

Available to all SELECT Members, the online tool will allow firms to advertise any vacancies they have directly on the front page of the SELECT website.

Adverts include the full job description and details of how to contact the company to find out more.

During its first week in operation, a number of Member firms across Scotland submitted vacancies for staff including electricians, fixed wiring testing and inspecting engineer, E&M electrical craftsman and trainee

quantity surveyor. To ensure the widest reach, the board has been made public, with SELECT only hosting vacancies for Members and all applications made directly to the relevant firm.

Iain Mason, Director of Membership & Communications, said: "The board has been created in response to Member demand, with a number of firms asking us to create a resource to help them find suitable operatives during the ongoing skills shortage.

"It is designed to act as an additional outlet for Members who may already be advertising for staff elsewhere, to help them recruit suitably qualified operatives. The response so far has been very positive."

The new board can be viewed on the SELECT home page at www.select.org.uk. Member firms who wish to post a vacancy should email memberservices@select.org.uk to discuss next steps.

↓ The new job board will help Members to fill their vacancies

MORE NAMES JOIN MEMBER SCHEME

Super Rod and National Ventilation are the latest manufacturers to join our Associate Member scheme, which now boasts 38 organisations offering a wide range of services.

As one of the most recognisable names in the industry, Super Rod's famous sets and innovative attachments are a must for any electrician, helping contractors work smarter, even on the most complex of installations.

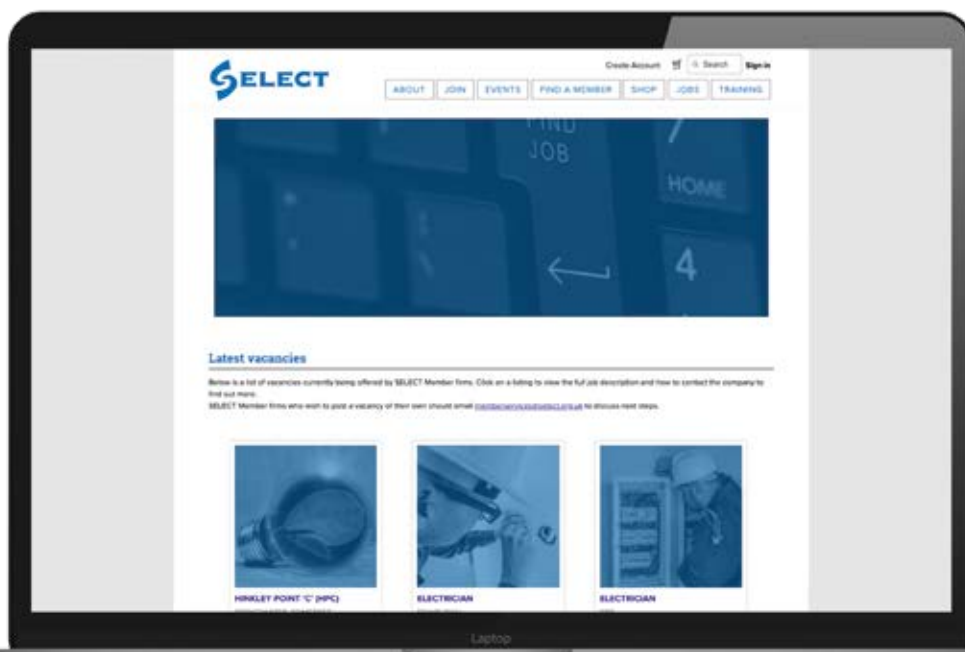
National Ventilation is a UK manufacturer and distributor of ventilation products for domestic, commercial and industrial and is part of Volution Group, a leading supplier of ventilation products with primary markets in the UK, Europe and Australasia.

Colin Hepplewhite, Regional Sales Manager at National Ventilation, recently visited The Walled Garden to collect the firm's membership certificate in person from Iain Mason, Director of Membership & Communications.

Iain said: "We are delighted to see our Associate scheme go from strength to strength and we look forward to introducing Super Rod and National Ventilation to our Members."



➔ Associate Member news: **Pages 58-65**



↑ Colin Hepplewhite from National Ventilation, left, with Iain Mason

ADVICE ON GAS WORK SAFETY

Members still have time to sign up for our next free webinar, which will deliver an insight into working safely with gas courtesy of our Associate Member, CORGI Technical Services.

Starting at 1pm on Thursday 28 August, points for discussion during the one-hour session will include:

- Consumer unit and distribution board distances from gas installation pipework
- Ventilation and distances from flues
- Cable entries for boilers and gas meter boxes
- Protective equipotential bonding
- Carbon monoxide alarm installation to BS EN 50292.

The speakers are Bob Cairney, SELECT Director of Technical Services, Calum Mansell, CORGI Technical Safety Manager – Electrical and John Brown, CORGI Contract Manager – Scotland.

John Brown



JOIN US NOW!

Register for the free CORGI Technical Services webinar on 28 August by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/corgi-web



↑ The event will be held at the home of BE-ST

A day for the professionals

Experts are set to share their knowledge at get-together in Blantyre, with electric heating sure to be a hot topic

SENIOR decision-makers from across the construction industry will gather in Lanarkshire next month for the third SELECT Professionals' Day.

Architects, surveyors, specifiers and construction project managers are among those who have been invited to the event at the home of Built Environment – Smarter Transformation (BE-ST) on Thursday 19 September. Electric heating will be top

of the agenda at this year's get-together in Blantyre, with SELECT Associate Member Dimplex updating delegates on the Scottish Government's Heat in Buildings Strategy.

A representative of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) will then deliver a timely insight into recent changes that professionals should be aware of.

This will be followed by a presentation from Associate Member Flexel, who will outline the pros and cons of electric heating and discuss options for various types of

Schneider tour is a journey of discovery

The association was well represented when the ECA Technical Committee met recently at the home of SELECT Associate Member Schneider Electric.

Director of Technical Services Bob Cairney travelled south to join industry colleagues for the meeting at the manufacturer's Leeds Innovation Hub on Wednesday 3 July.

During its tour, the group was given demonstrations of Schneider's packaged substation 11kV transformer/

ring master unit and low voltage (LV) distribution, plus the Genie Evo range of high voltage (HV)

switchgear and LV distribution.

The meeting also included a discussion on the imminent



↑ Schneider gave the group a tour of its facility

housing stock. Skills & Client Relations Manager Yvonne Wilson said: "After two excellent events, we're excited to be making more expert knowledge available to the wider industry and giving sector colleagues invaluable technical insights to help inform their decision making."

This year's Professionals' Day follows a successful get-together at the Falkirk Wheel last September, during which delegates learned about the latest developments in solar PV, battery storage and heat pumps.

A full report covering the latest event will appear in the next issue of *cabletalk*.



↑ Innovative construction ideas will be outlined at the event at BE-ST

Get free advice on clean heat products



↑ The free support will help businesses to discover which products will suit them best

Scottish Enterprise is offering Members who are interested in clean heat products free access to advice from industry experts EP Consult Energies.

Companies that are considering diversifying into heat pumps, heat networks and energy efficiency products, or are already in the market and developing new products or services, are eligible to apply.

EP's industry specialists can help companies of all sizes and types, with one-to-one support to help you:

- Understand whether your capabilities are or could be made transferrable to the clean heat sector

- Review the market opportunities and competitors
- Understand the scale and nature of the opportunity and its relevance for your business
- Gain a realistic overview of the potential benefits of diversifying into clean heat or expanding into another part of the sector.

The support provides up to three days of free consultancy with an industry expert, who will develop an understanding of your current areas of operation, review your capabilities and ambitions and create a short, tailored report.

For more information and an application form, go to bit.ly/heat-support

phasing out of sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) gases in the HV units, which are to be replaced with a vacuum and dry air equivalent. The European Commission has proposed that SF6 should be banned from most new electrical equipment as early as 2026 for switchgear up to 24kV and for higher voltages by 2031 as part of its broader F-gas reduction plans

Bob said: "As always, the meeting was an invaluable way to meet up with industry colleagues and discuss the latest developments across the sector."



↑ Left to right: Paul Marsland, NG Bailey and ECA JPELB/64 Representative; Russell Knight, Knight Electrical; Tony Sidwell, ECA Health & Safety Manager; Jeremy Parkin, Powerlink Electrical Services and ECA Technical Committee Chair; Luke Hodson, Lark Technology Group; Darren Crannis, ECA Technical Manager; Andrew Streets, Sovereign Group Network; Bob Cairney, SELECT

→ The new port will bring major benefits to the local economy

↓ Great crested newts live in and around ponds



Island port team gets back to nature

SELECT Member firm BMES (Scotland) Ltd had to learn how to tackle ticks and navigate the challenges of newts when it began work on a mammoth electrical job in Stornoway

WORDS
TIM POWER



↑ Dolphins are common around the harbour

IT's not often you get warned about the dangers of ticks and are asked to be respectful to newts in an onsite induction course, but that's what the team from Member firm BMES (Scotland) Ltd learned before starting the M&E package for the Stornoway deep water port project in Lewis and Harris.

The £49 million investment involves the creation of a new port, on land opposite the existing ferry terminal in Stornoway, which will help service the growing offshore renewables industry, attract cruise ships and stimulate the economy of the Outer Hebrides.

The contract, which was awarded to McLaughlin & Harvey (MCLH) in 2022, involves dredging nearly 500,000 cubic metres of material from the seabed and associated land reclamation works, plus the removal of two shipwrecks – the cargo ship SS Alabama, which sank in 1904, and the coal hulk SS Portugal, which sank in 1953 – to create a new deep-water port to accommodate vessels up to 360 metres in length to berth.

In addition to the 195m-long combi-piled steel main berth quay wall and concrete berthing 'dolphin' – a stand-alone mooring structure in the water off the port that increases the mooring capacity of the facility – the contract also involved the construction of new access roads to connect the port to Stornoway and the development of 6.5 hectares of land for unloading, storage and industrial uses.

As the site is located in a beautiful and environmentally sensitive area, an in-depth environmental impact assessment was done to



↑ Orcas are commonly spotted around the Isle of Lewis and Harris in the summer months



not only minimise the disturbance to wildlife and marine animals – particularly dolphins, porpoises and minke whales – and the surrounding area, but also to the local community.

That's why the induction programme for new contractors gave a detailed information about respecting the island's wildlife and warning them about the dangers of tick bites.

Scott Anderson, BMES Contracts Manager, who worked with Contracts Director Allan Logan on the project, said: "The scale of this enterprise has to be seen to be appreciated. It is absolutely mammoth and I think you can only appreciate it by seeing aerial photographs of the construction area.

"Our planning had to be meticulous as we were dealing with very long cable runs and most of our pre-construction work had to be done from plans, rather than on site.

"At the start of the contract our emphasis was on using the pre-construction period to the best effect, maximising the build quality and process to ensure the services planning was carried out prior to installation, and we produced detailed drawings to clarify the exact requirements to our installation teams.

"We prefabricate elements of services and our carefully thought-out construction methodology helped to speed up production during the construction phase with a view to reducing both time on site and preliminary costs."

For the mechanical side of the port facility, BMES was charged with designing the facilities for an underground water system which included a cold-water storage tank fitted with valves so that vessels can take on fresh water, particularly important for large cruise ships.

Craig Downie, BMES's Mechanical Project Manager,

said: "We designed and developed the cold-water booster pump sets and booster housing which fed via underground pipes into four cluster boxes on the port side. These were fitted with water meters so that the volume of water could be measured and charged to vessels.

"We've also designed and built a building management system (BMS) that runs independently, located within the booster housing, which obviously houses the booster pump itself, and is linked to the meters in the cluster boxes.

"We've incorporated an integrated circuit piezoelectric (ICP) as well, as there are sensors within the underground water tank to assess levels and they get picked up by the BMS."

The big issue in a marine environment is protecting everything from moisture and salt water, so the units were constructed of stainless steel to



Scott Anderson



Allan Logan

The deep water port with foot bridge to the dolphin mooring structure



CCTV column installation





A ‘GAME-CHANGER’ THAT WILL BENEFIT LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Stornoway Deep Water Port was described as a “game-changer” for the islands by John Swinney, when he was Scotland’s Deputy First Minister, as it is expected to bring “transformative and sustainable change” to the economy of the Outer Hebrides. The new facilities will help to attract more tourists to the islands and will also put the port in a strong position to compete for future opportunities in other sectors, including renewable energy fabrication and aquaculture.

Port facilities:

- A new main berth for vessels up to 360m long
- A freight ferry berth
- Water depths of 10m below Chart Datum
- A new platform area for unloading, storage and industrial use
- A heavy lift slab at the quayside
- A haul route to the Arnish fabrication yard for transport of large components
- A pedestrian link to the Lews Castle grounds, to allow cruise visitors to walk/cycle into town.



“OUR PLANNING HAD TO BE METICULOUS AS WE WERE DEALING WITH VERY LONG CABLE RUNS AND MOST OF OUR PRE-CONSTRUCTION WORK HAD TO BE DONE FROM PLANS, RATHER THAN ON SITE”

QUICK FACTS

**BMES
(SCOTLAND) LTD**

BRANCH:
Edinburgh & South
East of Scotland

BASED:
Bonnybridge

WEBSITE:
www.bmes-scotland.co.uk



✦ A cold-water storage tank fitted with valves was installed so that vessels can take on fresh water

stop corrosion and, as the port is in an environmentally sensitive area, the team also installed an oil leak detection system.

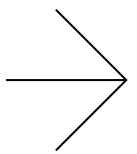
The electrical component of the port project was multifunctional, from designing and delivering the switchgear unit to connecting to the newly-built substation on a hill above the port and laying the main cables, including fibre optics. Other work involved installing port-side lighting – including lighting on the small bridge connecting the ‘dolphin’ to the port – as well as CCTV and door access to the facility. The final part of the contract involved testing and commissioning.

Scott said: “While SSEN undertook the HV aspect of the work, we had to design and install the CT chamber, LV switchboard, generator connection box and electrical clusters boxes.

“The electrical cluster boxes had various outlets ranging from 32A TP&N to 63A TP&N to plug into depending on what power requirement was required.

“The LV switchboard supplied cluster boxes, the dolphin feeder pillar and various distribution boards throughout the port. Our design and install was carried out with the assistance of Kestral Controls. As there was a remote power panel (RPP) close by, we needed cables going across from our switch room to supply that and for ‘Spa Cabin’, which housed the controls.”

BMES designed a bespoke cable spreader box with load distribution and metering panel and provided a services consumer unit. This featured an Acti9 Schneider 10-way



unit wired with MCBs to monitor internal light and heating, the BMS outstation, plus water cluster frost protection and the internal fibre to conversion unit. They also installed cluster internal equipment/services and 'rear of enclosure' sockets.

A BMS junction was also designed and supplied, along with a fibre junction and fibre-to-copper conversion units to be fitted by contractors. BMES used a specialist contractor to install fibre optics and to transform it to copper wire through the BMS from the transfer as an energy monitoring system.

Scott added: "We've got fibre optics running the whole length of the pier and port area to pick up at various outlets, particularly the CCTV, and the cluster boxes have got these converters – and that all goes back to the Spa Cabin where everything can be monitored."

The street lighting was unusual as the client had stipulated using a Controlux Air lighting system controlled by a wireless network connection. This smart system uses a state-of-the-art network interface device which synchronises the outdoor lighting controller with the street lighting management software, with in-built smart

"RODDY WAS A GREAT ASSET AS HE NOT ONLY KNEW THE LAY OF THE LAND BUT ALSO LOCAL PEOPLE, WHICH WAS VERY HANDY WHEN HE NEEDED EXTRA HELP IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS"



monitoring tools which can notify the port operators about the status of lamps and the overall network.

All the bespoke items had to be designed and built at Kestral Controls' facility in Glasgow and transported to the island.

Scott emphasised the design and pre-construction element of the contract: "As nothing was 'straight off the shelf', all the items had to be designed and tested before they were sent to the island. This included the CT cabinet designed to take the cables coming off the transformer, the switch gear that was made up with the panel boards, and the cluster boxes."

Another challenge that gave Scott some sleepless nights was measuring up the underground cables to ensure they were the right length for the port facilities, as he explained: "One of the most difficult aspects of the project was simply the length of the cable runs: there were four 95mm five-core cables running up to 460m but we couldn't confirm the lengths required on site as the port was still being constructed."

"We had to calculate the lengths we needed from the plans and hope that the contractors had put the ducts exactly where the plans said they should be, otherwise we could end up being a metre short. That was probably the first time I've ever estimated material in this way, so I was quite nervous given the sheer length and the value involved."

In addition to the technical demands, one of the most challenging aspects of the work was organising the logistics, as all the components, as well as the team and subcontractors, had to travel across the mainland to Ullapool on the west coast and make the crossing. The ferries were often at full capacity during the summer months when tourists flocked to the islands and finding accommodation for staff



↑ External service distribution board contained within the electrical switchroom



⬆ Electrical cluster box. The majority of the electrical equipment was designed and built on the mainland and transported to Stornoway



⬆ Land for large stored deliveries. The Stornoway deep water port is being developed to help service the growing offshore renewables industry as well as attract cruise ships



⬆ External streetlighting



⬆ Water cluster box



⬆ Electrical cluster box

and contractors was also an issue. However, this wasn't a problem for electrical supervisor Roddy McLeod as he was a Lewisian and was able to stay with his parents who still lived in Stornoway.

Craig said: "Roddy was a great asset as he not only knew the lay of the land but also local people, which was very handy when he needed extra help in certain situations. If an item wasn't available it could take three weeks to get over to the island but Roddy, with his local contacts, could generally find a solution. This varied from plant and material."

Another issue about working on Lewis and Harris was that there was no working on Sunday out of respect for the islanders' religious traditions.

Unsurprisingly, the weather in this part of Scotland also presented some problems with the project timetable but BMES's electrical and mechanical specialists were able to complete the majority of their work

during September and October last year, and returned in late February when the facilities were powered up to complete testing and commissioning.

On 1 April, the aptly-named 216m-long Ambassador Ambition became the first cruise ship to berth at Stornoway's new Deep Water

Terminal, where nearly 1,200 passengers disembarked to enjoy the beauty and attractions of the Outer Hebrides – heralding a new phase in tourism for the islands and prosperity for this remote part of Scotland.

BMES Managing Director Barry Munnoch was delighted with the contract win and completion of the project.

He said: "To do this type of job in Glasgow would be nothing unusual for us but undertaking this on a remote island is another matter. I'm very proud of how our guys dealt with the logistics of working on the island and keeping our main contractor and the people of Stornoway happy with our professional approach." ■



⬆ Barry Munnoch

Meeting is full of talking points

Representatives from some of SELECT's largest Member firms gathered in Edinburgh to hear presentations from a range of industry experts

WORDS
YVONNE WILSON
Skills & Client
Relations Manager



SELLECT was delighted to welcome Members and guest speakers to the latest meeting of the Major Contractors' Forum (MCF) at the Edinburgh Marriott Hotel Holyrood on 20 June.

Representing Member firms were Mark Heaney, Managing Director of John Heaney (Electrical) Ltd, Brian Boyd, Head of Employee Relations at NG Bailey Ltd, and Stephen Robb, Project Manager at Enterprise Control Engineers Ltd.

Also in attendance was Forum Chair and former SELECT President Alick Smith, current President Mike Stark, Managing Director Alan Wilson and Yvonne Wilson, Skills & Client Relations Manager.

The meeting's speakers included Peter Reekie and Karen Stevenson from Scottish Futures Trust, who delivered the latest on the Construction Accord Transformation Action Plan. Updates were also provided by Sean Dunn of BDO LLP and Euan Robson from Caledonia Public Affairs Ltd.

Other guests included Neil Kelly, Head of Construction at Morton Fraser MacRoberts LLP, Catherine Watt, Head of Employee Relations at ECA and Professor Sean Smith, Professor of Future Construction and Director of Centre for Future Infrastructure at the University of Edinburgh.

Alick said: "SELECT has operated the MCF for a number of years and it is an invaluable way for Members to come together with senior industry figures to discuss topical issues that impact us all." ■



↑ Guests line up at the MCF in Edinburgh

↓ Alick Smith chaired the meeting



↑ Neil Kelly, Karen Stevenson and Professor Sean Smith



↑ Mark Heaney and Brian Boyd



↑ Alan Wilson shares a joke with Alick Smith, Peter Reekie and Mike Stark



↑ Stephen Robb, Alan Wilson and Sean Dunn



↓ Brian Boyd makes a point during the Forum



↑ There was plenty of lively debate around the table

Vital checks helping to highlight hidden risks

Inspection and testing is an important part of Scotland's new regulations on short-term accommodation and, as SELECT Member Peter Young discovered, it's playing an important role in uncovering examples of poor practice that have been dangerously overlooked

WORDS
STEWART McROBERT

↓ The initial photo sent to Peter that showed the signs of damage



SOME landlords are unaware of their inspecting and testing (I&T) obligations when it comes to short-term accommodation. That's the first thing SELECT Member Peter Young found out when he received a call from the owners of a holiday let on Scotland's west coast looking for advice.

But there was another surprise to come for

Peter – and one which turned a routine enquiry into something much more urgent. He explained: “Unfortunately, they didn’t have a clue about the new regulations. They phoned for advice and I said I’d look at the property.

“A few days before I was due to visit, the woman who manages the changeover of guests sent me a picture showing a concerning sight. It was the burnt switch for an electric shower.

“Looking closely, I saw that someone had wrongly used a wood screw rather than a proper M3.5 screw in the fitting. It had been getting hot and been doing so for a while. I’ve seen this situation before with poor connections – the

box has a brass insert that pulls out and people often put a wood screw in rather than replace the circuit protective conductor (cpc) properly. What’s more, since the earth wire was burnt it indicated there was a neutral-earth reverse somewhere.”

A story of neglect emerged when Peter visited the property and found the fitting hanging off the wall.

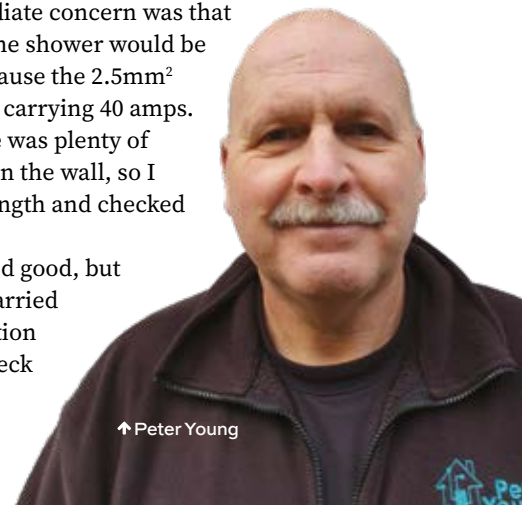
“It had been like that for some time,” he said. “There was a gap someone could get their fingers in. It needed further inspection, so I put the shower on, attached the clamp meter and it immediately showed 40 amps flowing down the earthing conductor. That confirmed my suspicions.”

And he soon spotted the reverse polarity in the connection. “The date code on the shower was 2013,” said Peter. “It could well be the reverse polarity had been in place for 10 years.

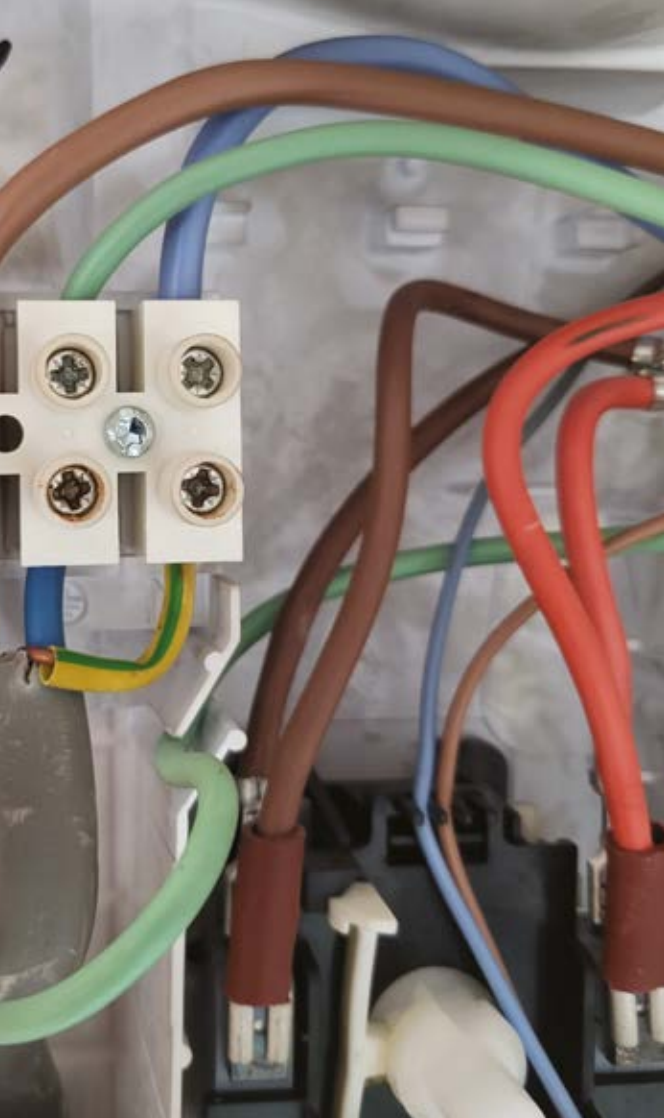
“My immediate concern was that the cable to the shower would be damaged because the 2.5mm² cpc had been carrying 40 amps. Luckily, there was plenty of cable length in the wall, so I stripped to length and checked it out.

“It all looked good, but to be sure I carried out an insulation resistance check and it passed

↑ The shower cover was removed to reveal the source of the problem



↑ Peter Young



with flying colours. I put the connections back properly, installed a new switch box, put the shower on and noted there was zero flowing back to earth.”

The haphazard approach to wiring appears to be in line with the property’s own chequered history. Peter said: “Even when it was built 18 years ago, there were reportedly problems with subsidence.

“The original owners got an insurance payout and the insurance company took on the house. It was sold then occupied for around eight years before the present owners came on the scene. On my visit it was clear there hadn’t been any inspection and testing done during its lifetime.”

He suspects the dangerous shower fitting was installed by a DIYer and not a qualified electrician. “During the EICR I spotted a socket-outlet in the kitchen that had simply been extended from the lounge,” he said. “Nothing was labelled accurately and there was a lot of poor practice on show.”

Although Peter said the situation he was faced with is rare in his part of the world – he’s based in Dundonnell in the north-west Highlands – there are examples that give cause for concern. He said: “In this area there are a lot of properties let out for holiday rentals. In my experience 99% of the owners are very responsible and keep up to date

A STRONG SENSE OF FAMILY

Peter Young Engineering is made up of Peter and his son, Sam. Originally from Hertfordshire, Peter moved north in 2000 after holidaying in the Highlands and falling in love with the area. He said: “I’ve been a member of SELECT’s Inverness and North of Scotland Branch for 10 years. I really like the Toolbox Talks and the training is excellent. I try to do one or two courses a year and have just taken the module on EV charging. It’s important to have an organisation like SELECT to protect and enhance the status of the profession.”

“SOMEONE HAD WRONGLY USED A WOOD SCREW RATHER THAN A PROPER M3.5 SCREW IN THE FITTING. IT HAD BEEN GETTING HOT AND BEEN DOING SO FOR A WHILE”

with legislation, however, there are the odd one or two that see rules and regulations as a waste of money.”

He described another recent

property visit where the I&T on smoke alarms was five years out of date. Peter added: “While the alarms work, the sensors have a finite life. If there’s a fire, and the loss adjuster sees that inspection and testing are not up to date, they will throw out any claim.

“Many of the short-let properties I deal with are large with three or four bedrooms. It’s easy to spend a day there doing the EICR plus any repairs and from some cynical owners’ view, all they get at the end of the process is a piece of paper.

“But as these cases show, it’s vital to carry out inspection and testing. We need to get people into that mindset.” As well as making potential life-saving interventions, Peter has made at least two property owners aware of the need for regular I&T. He’s determined to keep hammering that message home to the people of Ross and Cromarty. ■



↑ The earth strap on the back of the shower isolator had been getting very hot

QUICK FACTS

**PETER YOUNG
ENGINEERING**

BRANCH:
Inverness and
North of Scotland

BASED:
Inverness



Focus on update to regulations

Last month saw the launch of Amendment 3 to the IET Wiring Regulations, with new requirements and guidance to ensure correct selection, application and connection of protective devices. Here, we provide an insight into the changes and the background to their introduction

IN THE UK, it is increasingly common for a modern home to have an additional means of generation of electricity provided over and above the normal supply from the distribution network operator (DNO). This can help to reduce the consumer's electricity consumption from the grid and reduce associated suppliers' energy costs.

WORDS
BOB CAIRNEY
Director of Technical
Services, SELECT



Many new housebuilders specify the installation of roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to provide such capability and, in older properties, many homeowners have had such systems retrofitted over the last 10 years or so.

These systems are designed to operate in parallel with the DNO supply and are designated as microgeneration systems as they have a limited generation capability of not more than 4 kW or 16 A of electricity to satisfy certain DNO requirements.

COMPETENCE

Electrical contractors and electricians involved in the design, installation and commissioning of microgeneration systems should be suitably competent to carry out this type of work and will require to have a good working knowledge of the requirements given in BS 7671:2018+A2:2022 (IET Wiring Regulations 18th Edition) to ensure the safety and proper operation of installed systems.

The current requirements that need to be considered include:

SECTION 551 – LOW VOLTAGE GENERATING SETS

Section 551 applies to low voltage generating sets generally. Additional requirements are given in Regulation 551.7 for installations where the generating set may operate in parallel with other sources of supply, including systems for distribution of electricity to the public.

SECTION 712 – SOLAR PV POWER SUPPLY SYSTEMS

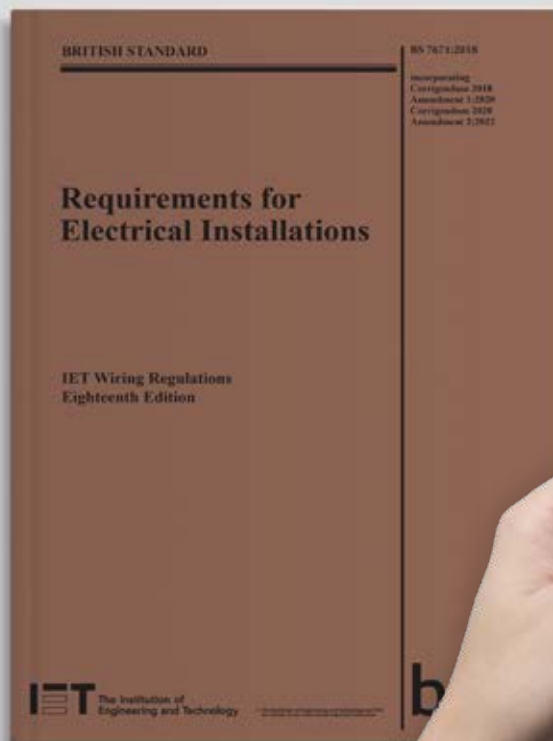
Section 712 is one of the special installations or locations given in Part 7 of BS 7671. Regulation 712.551 provides additional requirements for installations where the generating set may operate in parallel with other sources of supply, including systems for distribution of electricity to the public.

CHAPTER 82 – PROSUMER'S LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

A prosumer is defined in Part 2 of BS 7671 as “an entity or party which can be both a producer and a consumer of electrical energy”.

↓ Solar panels are a popular option with housebuilders





↑ Wiring regulations have been updated

Chapter 82 includes requirements for local production and/or storage of energy in installations. A prosumer's electrical installation (PEI) may comprise a number of supplies, including the grid supply, which are managed through an electrical energy management system (EEMS) to achieve safe operation, sustainability and efficient use of energy when integrated into a smart grid.

Alternative means of supply can be provided by microgeneration systems that operate in parallel with the grid supply or independently, e.g. during a grid fault or where the grid is deliberately disconnected by the prosumer or DNO.

In such installations, energy can also be stored and used during peak times to offset consumption from the grid supply.

DEVELOPMENTS AND CORRECT CONNECTION

Developments in the technology associated with such systems are significant and mean that, unlike traditional consumer installations where the flow of current is normally in one direction – i.e. from the DNO supply to the connected electrical loads – electricity in a prosumer installation can also flow from the microgenerator supply back to grid supply.



↑ Residual current devices (RCDs, above) and miniature circuit breakers (MCBs, below) are an essential part of the safety measures required in any electrical installation



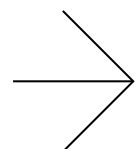
This evolution in electrical installations therefore needs careful consideration by those involved with microgeneration and prosumer installations to ensure the correct selection and erection of equipment and, most importantly, its correct connection.

This is especially true when considering the suitability of protective devices to be installed, e.g. residual current devices (RCDs) such as residual current circuit breakers (RCCBs) and residual current breakers with over-current (RCBOs), or miniature circuit-breakers (MCBs), which are an essential part of the safety measures required in any electrical installation.

The suitability and correct installation of protective devices has been the source of much recent debate in the industry and electrical contractors and electricians should therefore also be aware of the following:

BEAMA TECHNICAL BULLETIN

As we outlined in the April/May issue of *cabletalk*, BEAMA has produced a technical bulletin, *Connection of Unidirectional and Bidirectional Residual Current Devices (RCDs) and Miniature Circuit-Breakers (MCBs) to power supplies e.g. battery storage, Photovoltaic (PV) systems, Electric Vehicles (EV) to home, a micro-generator, or grid (mains) supply*, a link to which can be found on the



opposite page.
This should
be considered
as it discusses
requirements

for the correct connection of RCDs and MCBs where power supplies are provided from various sources of supply.

It mentions requirements in BS 7671:2018 + A2:2022, specifically Regulation 551.7.1, which requires that when a generating set is used as an additional source of supply in parallel with another source – e.g. a PV system in conjunction with a grid supply – the RCD providing additional protection in accordance with Regulation 415.1, **SHALL** disconnect all live conductors, including the neutral conductor.

This is necessary because there is a theoretical electric shock risk which could exist under certain conditions where a single-pole RCBO has been installed to facilitate connection of the supply circuit from a microgenerator systems.

This is also outlined on page 14 of Electrical Safety First Best Practice Guide No 3, *Connecting a microgeneration system to a domestic or similar electrical installation in parallel with the mains supply*, a link to which is available on the opposite page.

BEAMA's bulletin also highlights requirements given in relevant product standards to spell out the differences that exist between unidirectional protective devices and bidirectional protective



devices and that under **NO** circumstances should the load terminals of a unidirectional protective device be connected to a source of supply.

To distinguish between the supply and load terminals of a unidirectional protective device, the product standard requires the device to have designated marked terminals – typically either 'line' and 'load' or 'in' and 'out' or by directional arrows, as shown in Figure 1, left.

Taking account of manufacturer's instructions and compliance with Regulations 134.1.1 and 510.3 in BS 7671 is therefore particularly important to ensure that these devices are appropriately connected.

If a supply were to be inadvertently connected to the load terminals of a unidirectional protective device, this could result in damage to the device, resulting in its failure to operate correctly during a fault.

This could be a critical safety issue, especially where RCD protection is provided via an RCCB or RCBO for additional protection or fault protection for the supply where required.

Where a supply requires to be connected to the load terminals of a protective device, as may be the situation where a microgenerator has been installed, a suitable bidirectional protective device is necessary and should be installed.

Bidirectional protective devices are available from most major manufacturers – but be aware





USEFUL DOWNLOADS



↓ BEAMA
Technical bulletin
on connection
of unidirectional
and bidirectional
RCDs and MCBs



↓ ESF Best
Practice Guide 3



that the product standard does not require these to have a specific mark or markings, as connection of a supply can be made to either set of terminals.

Electrical contractors or electricians may be aware of certain manufacturers' protective devices which are marked as if they are unidirectional, however the specific manufacturer may provide information that the

device has been tested to operate bidirectionally.

This would mean that the device does not comply with the product standard and the use of such products would need to be regarded as a departure from BS 7671:2018 + Amendment 3:2024.

This is not necessarily a problem, and a simple risk assessment should be carried out by the designer to ensure that the installation is no less safe than would otherwise be achieved by using a compliant product.

The provision of documented evidence such as a declaration that the device has been tested to operate bidirectionally may be sufficient to enable the designer to consider this achieved. However, it would be recommended that such evidence is appended to the relevant BS 7671 certification issued for the installation.

BS 7671:2018 INCORPORATING AMENDMENT 3:2024

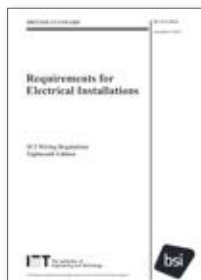
Having become aware of all the issues discussed in this article, JPEL/64 – the joint BSI/IET committee responsible for the maintenance of BS 7671 – has acted to ensure they are addressed in BS 7671 by publishing BS 7671:2018 incorporating Amendment 3:2024.

This was published for immediate use from 31 July and comprises a single additional regulation and two additional definitions.

The new Regulation 530.3.201 requires that selection and erection of equipment for protection

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Amendment 3:2024 is a separate publication from BS 7671:2018 + A2:2022 and is free to download by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/IET-A3



shall take account of appropriate use of either a unidirectional protective device or a bidirectional protective device.

An informative note located below the regulation advises that product standards as listed in Appendix 1 for some protective devices – including RCCBs, RCBOs, circuit breakers and arc fault detection devices (AFDDs) – require these devices to be marked to indicate if they are unidirectional, e.g. 'in' and 'out' or 'line' and 'load' or arrows.

The first additional definition provided is for a unidirectional protective device, which is defined as: "A protective device where it is intended by the manufacturer that a source of supply is only connected to one defined set of connection terminals."

The second definition is for a bidirectional protective device, which the amendment says is: "A protective device where it is intended by the manufacturer that a source of supply is connected to either or both sets of connection terminals." ■

↓ Builders must follow the
rules around electrical wiring



Road trip wraps up with island adventures



The final leg of the 2024 Toolbox Talks saw SELECT staff and Associates hop on ferries and flights to deliver essential technical updates to our Members on Orkney, Shetland and Islay

A

WARM welcome certainly awaited us in the islands as the intrepid Toolbox Talks team touched down in some of the most far-flung corners of Scotland.

The last three weeks of our annual roadshow saw us pack our bags and hop across the water as we delivered technical updates to Members on neutral current diversion (NCD) and additions and alterations.

Following the update in the previous issue of *cabletalk*, our crew flew into Shetland on 11 June, where Technical Advisers Keith Hagan and Neil Sim delivered the event's northernmost technical update and Members chatted to Associates Aico and Flexel.

The following week it was destination Orkney as our roadshow set up camp in Kirkwall for our session on 18 June, joined by Flexel, KSR Lighting, Ovia Lighting and Scolmore.

As in previous years, it was fantastic to see most of the teams from Member firms E Fraser Electrical and RS Merriman join us at the Pickaquoy Centre, with apprentices, electricians and management enjoying the two presentations and asking plenty

"THE THING THAT SHONE THROUGH WAS THE WARMEST OF WELCOMES FROM MEMBERS AND THEIR APPRECIATION AT US MAKING THE EFFORT TO VISIT THEM"

of questions. The final date of the 2024 tour saw us visit Islay on 26 June, where guests once again learned about NCD and alterations at The Machrie hotel, courtesy of Technical Advisers Robert McGoogan and Mark McLaughlin, with Frankie Greig of the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) also among the guests.

Once again there were many highlights on this final leg of our 12-date tour, but just like 2023, the thing that shone through was the warmest of welcomes from Members and their appreciation at us making the effort to visit them.

Now we're back on the mainland, I'd like to say a huge thank you to thank you to Acutest, Scolmore Group, Test Instrument Solutions and

WORDS
LINDA ROLFE
Events, Marketing
& Communications
Coordinator



↑ RS Merriman was well represented in Kirkwall



↑ It was great to see another full house in Orkney



↑ The whole E Fraser Electrical team attended our Orkney event



↑ The prize winners at our Islay event

↓ Our quiz and prize draw winners in Shetland



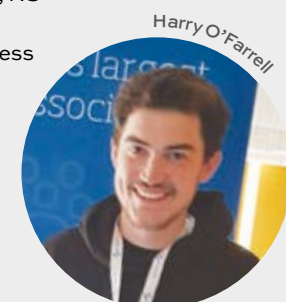
Ross Promotional who donated competition prizes for the quickfire technical quiz that rounded off every event.

And thanks also to the generous folk at Megger for once again donating a voltage tester and proving unit for the fastest contestant on our Beat the Buzzer game at each event.

I'd also like to thank everyone who took part in this year's roadshow, whether as an exhibitor, delegate or colleague. We're now taking on board all feedback to ensure next year's Toolbox Talks are a fitting part of SELECT's 125th celebrations. ■

BEAT THE BUZZER leaderboard

- 1 **19.11 seconds** – Chris Grant (Dundee event)
- 2 **21.87** – Kevin Simpson (Borders)
- 3 **21.90** – Mark Higgins (Glasgow)
- 4 **23.10** – Alan Smith (Dumfries)
- 5 **25.30** – Owen Paterson, RS Merriman (Orkney)
- 6 **29.01** – Steven Smith, Ness Engineering (Shetland)
- 7 **29.24** – Derek McCulloch (Edinburgh)
- 8 **32.60** – Harry O'Farrell, Iain Woodrow Electrical Contractor (Islay)
- 9 **33.28** – William Burns (Ayrshire)
- 10 **34.50** – Ewan Robertson (Inverness)
- 11 **40.00** – Barry Ferguson (Oban)
- 12 **46.50** – Richard Blundell (Aberdeen)



↓ L-R: Kyle Paterson, Adam Souter (both apprentices), Craig Wallace (SECTT Training Officer), Iain McBean (lecturer), Kyle Garnsey-Bruce (apprentice)



1 / UHI MORAY

Posters have the power to protect

SELECT has completed its handout of technical resources to colleges, with our Member Representative heading north for the final presentations



APPRENTICES and adult trainees across Scotland are now equipped with vital information on protective devices, neutral current diversion (NCD) and safe isolation thanks to SELECT.

The association has completed its mission to distribute resources on all three topics to colleges to reinforce the knowledge that learners need during their training and beyond.

The penultimate hand-out saw Member Representative Emma Paterson delivering the posters to apprentices studying at UHI Moray in Elgin. Also there to greet her were SECTT Training Officer Craig Wallace and lecturer Iain McBean – father of WorldSkills finalist Danny McBean.

Emma then headed north to Thurso, where she distributed resources to apprentices at UHI North, West & Hebrides. Among the recipients was learner Shaynee Moar from Member firm RS Merriman in Orkney, who featured in our International Women's Day video.

Emma handed over three posters on protective devices – including circuit

breakers, residual current devices (RCDs) and arc fault detection devices (AFDDs) – that were produced in partnership with Associate Member Electrium.

She also distributed updated versions of our safe isolation collateral, which includes posters and a toolbox card, and handed out copies of our NCD resource, which has proved extremely popular as the main theme of this year's Toolbox Talks. The giveaway was spearheaded by our Membership Representatives, who distributed the resources to the

22 approved training centres which deliver apprenticeships run by the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) on behalf of the Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB).

Bob Cairney, Director of Technical Service at SELECT, said: "We are delighted to have completed this latest hand-out and will continue to identify areas where we can produce resources to help educate and protect the talent of tomorrow." ■

➔ SECTT Update: Pages 54 & 55

↓ L-R: Emma Paterson (Membership Representative), Shaynee Moar (apprentice), Graham Keil (SECTT Training Officer), Marc Hunter (apprentice)



2 / UHI NORTH, WEST & HEBRIDES

MSPs add voices to campaign

In the latest episode of our *Sparks' Remarks* podcast, senior politicians reveal why they're supporting SELECT's call for protection of title

SENIOR MSPs have voiced their support for regulation of the electrical industry in the latest episode of the SELECT podcast, *Sparks' Remarks*.

In a special edition of the show, political figures revealed why protection of title for electricians is so important – and why they want fellow MSPs to also back the campaign which SELECT has been leading for years.

Jamie Halcro Johnston, Conservative MSP for the Highlands and Islands, told podcast host Kim McAllister: "I've been aware of the need for this legislation for a very long time and have put forward a bill to ensure that anybody who calls themselves an electrician is on a register and has the appropriate training."

"The problem is the volume of bills currently going through Parliament, so we have to get all parties fully involved and get the support on board to really take things forward."

Monica Lennon, Labour MSP for Central Scotland, added: "We need skilled people to stay in the industry and to feel valued and by having this protection

in law, it creates equality with so many other professions.

"I would pay credit to Jamie for trying to lead this as it's difficult to get cross-party working; it's a good example of Parliament listening and people wanting to make change happen."

Brian Whittle, Conservative MSP for South Scotland, also told the podcast: "I'm extremely surprised that the industry isn't regulated and struggle to find a good reason why it hasn't been done long ago."

"My weight is fully behind the campaign and it's now about galvanising other MSPs. We can't leave the door open for cowboys to come along and do botch jobs."

The hard-hitting episode,

Regulation: If it's good enough for street sweepers, why not electricians?, also

hears how the issue is dealt with in Europe courtesy of Julie Beauflis, Secretary General of EuropeOn.

She told the podcast:

"The regulation situation is varied across Europe."

"In France, we have no strict protection of the title but qualifications are supervised by a specific authority, whereas the Germans have regulated the trade and are very proud of it."



↓ Brian Whittle



↓ Julie Beauflis



↓ Jamie Halcro Johnston



↓ Monica Lennon



SELECT Managing Director Alan Wilson, also appears in the episode, saying: "There are currently around 132 protected titles in the UK, including farriers and street sweepers, and we want legislation in Scotland to protect the title of electrician too." ■

SCAN NOW

Listen to the latest episode of *Sparks' Remarks* by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/pod-regulate



Take control of costs to stay on track

Accurate cost tracking can help transform backroom operations for a modern electrical business. Our new Associate Member outlines how its own software works – and how Members can save money and enjoy other benefits through its exclusive SELECT portal

WORDS
IAN WHITTLE

Head of Partnerships,
LiveCosts



FOR today's busy electrical business, it's essential to have full visibility on your project costs and profitability.

As a contractor, you want to gain control of your costs with on-demand data and also automate managing labour, material and sub-contractors.

Most importantly of all, it's vital to have full visibility on your project, so there are no nasty surprises around the corner.

So what if I was to tell you that all this is possible? And that you can enjoy it all – and more – through a tailor-made package that's been designed exclusively for SELECT Members?

"LIVECOSTS NOW CAPTURES WHO PLACED THE ORDER, FROM WHAT PROJECT AND PHASE AND WHAT THE AGREED PRICE WAS"

WHAT IS LIVECOSTS?

LiveCosts is a construction cost management software that offers a comprehensive solution to streamline your electrical project financial forecasts.

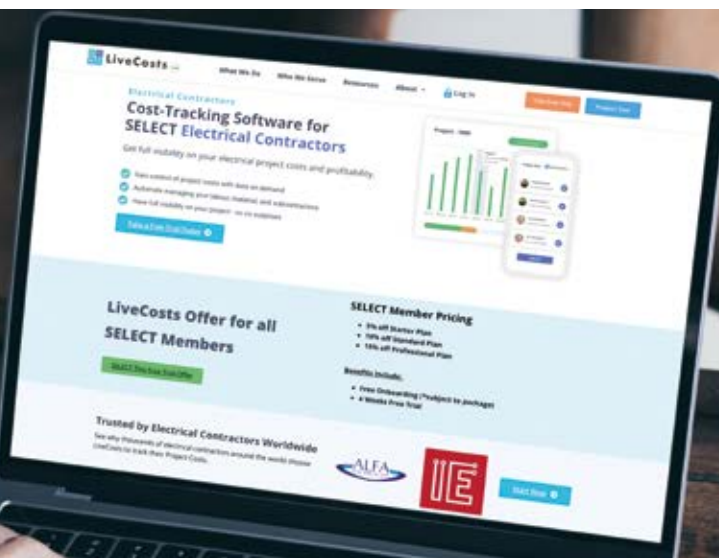
As well as making things more efficient, quite simply, it tells you if you're making money on projects or not, capturing costs at the earliest opportunity, so at the end of each day you can get a true reading of exactly where you are. LiveCosts captures

↓ LiveCosts can help you see if you're making money on your projects

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Dedicated SELECT portal
- Discounted rates
- Free one-month trial
- Expert customer support
- Exclusive offers

Find out more and book a demo at www.livecosts.com/select



labour costs and purchase orders from site, so as you're spending money it's also building in costs on the dashboards.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

With intuitive project dashboards, management can monitor budgetary allocations, expenditures and variances in real-time, ensuring proactive decision-making.

When developing LiveCosts, we put a lot of focus on the purchase order as we found that other software missed out on the construction context. We needed to know what materials were being ordered, by whom and at what agreed rate. We also needed to understand what materials were being used on each project.

LiveCosts now captures who placed the order, from what project and phase and what the agreed price was.

Once this information is captured, it applies a temporary cost to the project's phase. It's temporary because it then needs to know if all goods were received at delivery and if the supplier's invoice matched the agreed amount. Delivery can be captured on the LiveCosts mobile app.

Once delivered, LiveCosts captures who ordered the goods, who received the delivery and at what time, the uploading of dockets to the office and any issues with photos and descriptions.

INVOICE AUTOMATION

As a fast-growing electrical business, the amount of invoices coming in by post and email can take a huge amount of time to process. Using LiveCosts, the system reads these invoices from your main suppliers. This process finds the purchase order and will send the costs to the correct project and phase. It also will find the logged delivery for the order.

Not only that, LiveCosts will extract the material details and their associated prices, which can be saved and used to re-order materials and to check the prices against your saved prices.

Lots of companies who we speak to have this process, whether in Excel or accounts, but it's just not massively efficient and also takes time away from the business to actually do it.

WHO IS LIVECOSTS FOR?

LiveCosts was built for the construction sector by people who work in construction and is especially valuable for businesses that have multiple projects, materials or costs that need to be measured and controlled through simple software.

We like to think it's perfect for busy electricians of all sizes as we know that whether you're a sole trader or large contractor, controlling costs is key to successful and profitable project delivery.

HOW DOES THE INFORMATION MIGRATE TO MY ACCOUNTANCY SOFTWARE?

With just one click, LiveCosts seamlessly connects your project costs to your accounting software.

With robust procurement and accounting integration with Xero, Sage and Quickbooks, our solution ensures there is seamless collaboration between teams and departments, optimising costs control across the project lifecycle.

HOW DO I KNOW IF LIVECOSTS IS RIGHT FOR MY BUSINESS?

That's the easy bit! We've partnered with SELECT to present an exclusive, tailor-made package designed specifically for Members. This special arrangement ensures you get the best value and benefits unique to our collaboration.

Most importantly we offer a **FREE** four-week trial, so you can discover first-hand how LiveCosts can save you time and money while enhancing your productivity – and all through one intuitive application. Check it out today at www.livecosts.com/select ■

Want to streamline your project costs and get real-time reports on your electrical projects? Take a free trial or book a demo at www.livecosts.com/select or call Ian Whittle on 07729 644 747.



SOFTWARE WAS A GAME-CHANGER FOR SAVING CASH

SELECT recently hosted a webinar with LiveCosts, in which Lizzy Baxter revealed how the software had played a pivotal role in transforming her electrical business.

Lizzy, Head of Operations at Initial Electrical Ltd, told LiveCosts CEO Ciaran Brennan that it identified thousands of pounds' worth of cost savings and simplified their overall purchasing experience. She said: "It's completely changed our day-to-day operations for the better and I'm more than happy to share the transformative impact it's had on the business."

NOW WATCH THE WEBINAR

To watch the webinar again, scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/watch-livecosts



Simply the West



↑ The triumphant West team line up with the President's Cup

The 2024 President's Cup, sponsored by Luceco Group, was a closely fought affair as 50 golfers took to the fairways in the Perthshire sunshine, with the West of Scotland team emerging triumphant and reclaiming the famous silver trophy



President's
CUP

LUCECO
G R O U P



WORDS
LINDA ROLFEEvents, Marketing &
Communications Coordinator

The West of Scotland team finally enjoyed that winning feeling as they reclaimed the President's Cup for the first time since 2017 at this year's event, sponsored by Luceco Group.

Triumphant captain Chris Murchie was handed the prestigious silver trophy by SELECT President Mike Stark after a nip-and-tuck affair at Dunblane New Golf Club. And it was the first time the West team had got their hands on the cup in five attempts, with the 2020 and 2021 events cancelled due to COVID-19.

Some 50 golfers from across Scotland gathered in the sunshine on the first tee on Monday 29 July.

Split into the traditional East and West teams, the Stableford competition saw Member firms joined by guests and sponsors as they battled it out across 18 holes.

After an extremely narrow contest, the West team triumphed by 206 points to 202, with Chris being presented with the cup after high tea in the clubhouse.

The owner of Kilmarnock-based MIE Electrical Ltd also received an engraved bottle of malt and glasses to mark the victory, with the three best performers on each team also taking home various prizes.

Members scooped goodies for the longest drive and nearest the pin, courtesy of sponsors Electrium and Scolmore, plus as always there was a special endeavour award for the highest round on the day.

Dunblane New Golf Club also donated two four-balls, which were won by John Espie of Kilbean Electrical Co Ltd and Steven Scott from BSS Electrical Services.

Mike Stark said: "The President's Cup is the highlight of the year for many Members, and we enjoyed a superb day of golf, played in the right spirit with plenty of banter and friendly rivalry. I'd like to thank Luceco Group for sponsoring the day and I'm sure the East will be looking for revenge when we return in 2025 as part of SELECT's 125th celebrations." ■



↑ Past President Kevin Griffin, Thorn Lighting's Robert Booth and Technical Adviser Keith Hagan



↑ Luceco's Steve Conn lets rip



↑ President Mike Stark tees off at the first



↓ Paul McMeeking, Kenneth Frew, Mark Turner and Bruce Fraser from OCS



↓ Liam Skinner, David Walker and Jordan Hossack from RSE



↑ Getting in the swing of things at Dunblane



↑ Golfers battled it out over 18 holes



↓ Scott Johnston, Steven Scott, Garry Shirkey and Bruce Findlay



↑ Playing out of trouble on the 18th



↑ Checking the scorecards in the clubhouse



→ Competition was fierce but good-natured



↑ Lining up a tricky putt

FEATURE // PRESIDENT'S CUP 2024



↑ Guests enjoyed dinner after the day's play



↑ Jim Kelly collects the four-ball prize on behalf of John Espie



↑ Steven Scott won the other four-ball prize



↑ Davie Walker of RSE won the longest drive



↑ Gordon Gill was second for the West



↓ Gary Evans posted the top score for the West



↓ Bruce Findlay was the East's best player



↑ West captain Chris Murchie collects the trophy from President Mike Stark



↓ Grant McCormick was all smiles after recording the highest round of the day



↓ Scolmore's Shaun Harrison won the prize for best guest score



↓ Mark Turner of OCS was nearest the pin



↓ Grant Stewart posted the second best score for the East



↓ Steven Brown collects third prize for the West Team



↓ Chris Turner was third for the East Team



PRESIDENT'S CUP 2024 RESULTS

PRESIDENT'S CUP 2024

West of Scotland,
captained by Chris Murchie, MIE Electrical Ltd

TOP 3 EAST

- Bruce Findlay, SELECT
- Grant Stewart, G Stewart Electrical
- Christopher Turner, Ideal Electrical

TOP 3 WEST

- Gary Evans, RSE
- Gordon Gill, RSE
- Steven Brown, Laplace Building Solutions (North) Ltd

LONGEST DRIVE, SPONSORED BY ELECTRIUM

electrium

Davie Walker, RSE

NEAREST THE PIN, SPONSORED BY SCOLMORE GROUP

Scolmore
GROUP

Mark Turner, OCS

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR ENDEAVOUR Grant McCormick, Electrium Sales Ltd

BEST GUEST SCORE

Shaun Harrison,
Scolmore Group



President's
CUP

LUCECO
GROUP

Technical

↑ **MORE INFORMATION**
For further information on our technical support and advice, please call 0131 445 9218 or email technicalhelp@select.org.uk

Worried about wiring? We're here to help

As a key contributor to the Wiring Regulations Advisory Group, SELECT helps provide answers to a wide range of technical questions – including several submitted on behalf of SELECT Members themselves. Here, we run through some of the most recent queries...

A **LONG** with our fellow industry organisations, SELECT is an enthusiastic participant in the Wiring Regulations Advisory Group (WRAG) hosted by Electrical Safety First (ESF).
A range of technical questions is raised at our monthly meetings, many of which are typical of the queries we receive from Members via our own Technical Helpline.

WORDS
BOB CAIRNEY
Director of Technical Services, SELECT



Where agreement is reached by WRAG, output is published in one of two relevant categories – *New rewired and similar installations* and *Inspection, certification, testing and reporting*.

With this in mind, we thought it would be useful to share some of the questions discussed during the group's most recent meetings, along with guidance about where you can find further information.

NEW REWIRED AND SIMILAR INSTALLATIONS QUESTIONS

Q Is it permissible to install electric vehicle charging equipment or other items of electrical equipment/switchgear within a meter cabinet – i.e. the cabinet specifically designed and intended to house distributor supply and metering equipment – at the service position of domestic and similar premises?

A. While a meter cabinet is owned by, and is the responsibility of, the homeowner, the space within the cupboard is designed for the use of electricity industry apparatus only,

and no allowance is made for additional equipment to allow safe access for maintenance or replacement. For this reason, it is strongly recommended that such items of electrical equipment are not installed within a meter cabinet. A link to government guidance on this topic can be found at the end of this article.

Q Does BS 7671 require protective bonding of the metallic pipework within a building?

A. Protective bonding is only required where the pipework is an extraneous-conductive-part. Such protective bonding should be applied as near as practical to the point of entry of that pipework to the building.



↑ Protective bonding is not required on plastic incoming service pipework



"PROTECTIVE BONDING IS ONLY REQUIRED WHERE THE PIPEWORK IS AN EXTRANEOUS-CONDUCTIVE-PART. SUCH PROTECTIVE BONDING SHOULD BE APPLIED AS NEAR AS PRACTICAL TO THE POINT OF ENTRY OF THAT PIPEWORK TO THE BUILDING"

| Safe level of current | Where the resistance values are higher than these values then the conductive part need not be considered to be an extraneous-conductive-part |
|-----------------------|--|
| 10 mA | 22 K Ω |
| 30 mA | 6.67 K Ω |

resistance value where bonding would not be required could be within a range of 6.67 and 22 k Ω . The table above gives indicative values depending on example levels of current. Note: Other verification methods may be suitable.

Further information: Part 2 Definitions, (extraneous-conductive-part), Regulations 411.3.1.2 and 643.1

Q Where plastic incoming service pipework – e.g. gas, water, oil, etc – enters a building, is protective bonding required?

A. One word: No.

Further information: Regulation 411.3.1.2

Q When would it be necessary for main protective bonding to be connected to metallic pipework within a dwelling?

A. When it is proved to be an extraneous-conductive-part.

Further information: Regulation 411.3.1.2

Q How can it be determined if a conductive part is an extraneous-conductive-part?

A. One method would be to carry out resistance testing using an insulation resistance tester at 500 V DC, between the main earthing terminal (MET) and the conductive part. Depending on the safe level of current deemed acceptable, the minimum

↑ Metallic pipework connected to a heat pump only requires a main protective bonding conductor if it is an extraneous-conductive-part

Q Where additional protection is required for a circuit connecting a generating set, e.g. PV generator to the installation, is the RCD required to switch all live conductors, including the neutral conductor?

A. Yes, for reasons as described in Best Practice Guide 3, Figure 2. This requirement was originally introduced in BS 7671:2008 17th Edition.

Further information: Regulations 522.6.202, 522.6.203 and 551.7.1

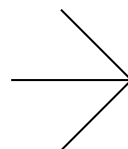
Q Does metallic pipework connected to a heat pump, which is located outdoors, require connection to the main earthing terminal (MET) by a main protective bonding conductor at the point of entry to the building?

A. Only if the metallic pipework is an extraneous-conductive-part.

Further information: Part 2 Definitions (extraneous-conductive-part), Regulations 411.3.1.2 and 544.1.2

Q Are there any particular requirements for heat pump installations in BS 7671 which preclude the use of a PME earthing facility as the means of earthing for the supply of such equipment?

A. One word – no.



INSPECTION, CERTIFICATION, TESTING AND REPORTING QUESTIONS

Q During a periodic inspection what classification code, if any, should be allocated where a Type AC RCD is fitted?

A. Type AC RCDs shall only be used to serve fixed equipment where it is known that the load current contains no DC components. It should be noted that some appliance and equipment manufacturers now specify that a Type A, F, or B RCD is installed where fault or additional protection by RCD is required. Where such an appliance or equipment is encountered or could foreseeably be connected and supplied via a Type AC RCD, a classification code C3, i.e. improvement recommended, would be appropriate. However, if it is identified and confirmed that an RCD in the circuit does not operate correctly when tested, a classification code C2 – potentially dangerous – would be appropriate. Where it is known that no connected loads can produce DC components that may impair the operation of the device no recommendation code is necessary. The recently updated BEAMA RCD Handbook provides further information on the different types of RCD and their suitability for connected loads. A download link can be found at the end of this article.

Further information: Regulation 531.3.3, Annex A53, Figure A53.1

Q When undertaking a periodic inspection, what classification code should be applied,



↑ A lockable meter cupboard is classified as an enclosure



↑ BEAMA's RCD guide

if any, where the sheath has been removed such that basic insulation of a conductor that forms part of the consumer's installation is exposed within an external meter cupboard which can only be opened with a key or a tool?

A. A meter cupboard which can only be opened with a key or a tool would be classified as an enclosure based on the definition given within BS 7671. Where all of the following conditions apply, no code would be applicable:

- The cupboard door locking mechanism operates as it should
- All hinges are intact and functional
- There are no signs of damage to the exposed insulation.

If any of the conditions above are not met, then a classification code C2 would be appropriate.

Note: Where inadequacies in the intake equipment are encountered, the inspector should advise the person ordering the work to inform the appropriate authority.

Q What code if any, should be attributed to isolating switches or switches for mechanical maintenance provided for showers, extractor fans, cookers, etc that aren't lockable in the off position?

A. No code is required provided the requirements of BS 7671 are met, i.e. appropriate precautions to prevent unintentional or inadvertent closure are applied, e.g. located within a lockable

WHAT IS WRAG?

Electrical Safety First (ESF) is the campaigning charity that aims to reduce deaths and injury caused by electricity in UK homes.

ESF provides important guidance on electrical safety issues, an important part of which is to provide specific professional resources, including the development of industry best practice guides and hosting the Wiring Regulations Advisory Group (WRAG).

WRAG is a now well-established group comprising experienced industry professionals, including representatives from SELECT, BEAMA, ECA, IET, NAPIT and NICEIC.

The group meets regularly at the end of each month to review questions which have been submitted on the application of BS 7671 by the industry and, wherever possible, to seek consensus and produce answers designed to help contractors, electricians and their clients.

Where agreement is reached, output from the group is published in one of the two specific categories relevant to the question and answer.

Find out more at www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk



space or lockable enclosure, padlocking, located adjacent to the associated equipment.
Further information: Regulations 462.3, 464.2 and 537.2.4

Q What classification code is required when cable green goo is found at electrical accessories/equipment?

A. An insulation resistance test to detect tracking, preferably at 500 V, should be applied to all circuits using the cable where green goo is thought to be present. If an unsatisfactory insulation resistance test result is recorded, a C2 classification code should be applied. It is also recommended that, where possible, you visually inspect and functionally test any equipment, including protective devices, the operation of which may have been adversely affected by the green goo. If any equipment which provides protection or has a safety-related

function fails to operate, the inspector should record an appropriate classification code based on the item's function and purpose. The inspector should also consider reducing the frequency to the next periodic inspection and test to monitor further deterioration more closely.
Further information: Regulation number 643.3.2: *Electrical Installation Condition Report to evaluate safe continued use.*

Q Are all cables installed at low level on the outside of a building subject to premature collapse in the event of a fire?

A. No. Wiring systems attached to the outside of a building at low level are not likely to experience premature collapse in the event of a fire. Although wiring systems attached to the outside of a building can eventually collapse, this will not necessarily

FURTHER READING

WRAG guidance

Guidance on new rewired and similar installations, and inspection, certification, testing and reporting, as discussed by WRAG.



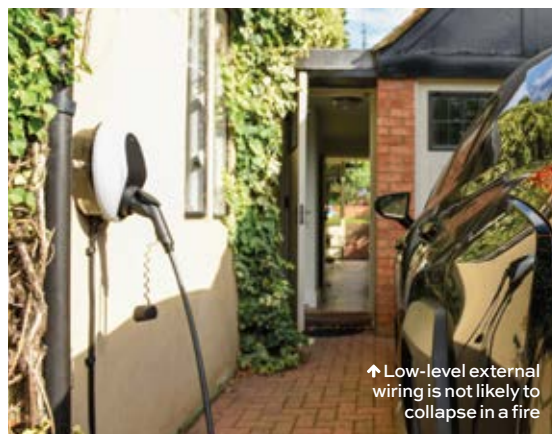
Meter advice

Government guidance on smart meters, relevant to all those involved in the specification of metering locations in domestic new builds.



RCD Handbook

The recently updated BEAMA RCD Handbook provides information on the different types of RCD and their suitability for connected loads.



↑ Low-level external wiring is not likely to collapse in a fire

be prematurely. In a situation where wiring systems are installed at low level and would not hinder evacuation and firefighting activities, no classification code would apply. In a situation where the premature collapse of a wiring system would likely hinder evacuation and firefighting activities, a classification code C2 should apply.
Further information: Regulation 521.10.202

Q When undertaking a periodic inspection in a single dwelling, what classification code should be applied, if any, where it is identified that wiring systems are not adequately supported to prevent premature collapse in the event of a fire?

A. Where premature collapse of the wiring system can hinder evacuation or firefighting activities in the event of a fire due to possible entanglement, a classification code C2 would be appropriate. Where it is identified that a wiring system is not adequately supported, however premature collapse of the system would not hinder evacuation or firefighting activities, then no classification code needs to be awarded.

Further information: Regulation number 521.10.202

Q During a periodic inspection it is identified that an RCD providing additional protection for a circuit connecting a generating set, e.g. a PV generator, does not switch all live conductors, including the neutral. Would a classification code be applicable for this observation?

A. Yes, a classification code C3 is advised. ■

"THE RECENTLY UPDATED BEAMA RCD HANDBOOK PROVIDES FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF RCD AND THEIR SUITABILITY FOR CONNECTED LOADS"



↓ No code is required if isolating switches aren't lockable

Lighting the way to a smart future

Our guest author reveals how artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things is revolutionising emergency light testing, with automated systems transforming compliance and making the process far more efficient



WORDS
JORDEN GUEST
Marketing Manager,
Vericon Systems



EMERGENCY lighting is the unsung hero of any building's safety infrastructure. In the event of a power outage or fire, these systems spring into action, illuminating escape routes to ensure occupants can safely evacuate the premises. However, ensuring these systems are functioning correctly and compliantly is a labour-intensive task.

Traditionally, emergency light testing has been a manual nightmare. A facility or building manager must perform tests on each luminaire, simulating a power failure, waiting for the specified time to ensure the lights remain on and then restoring power and verifying the lights return to charging mode. This laborious process requires significant resources and

distracts from other important facility management tasks.

But what if there was a better way? Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) technology are transforming how we approach emergency light testing, with automated systems

revolutionising compliance and making the process far more efficient.

THE POWER OF AUTOMATION

Vericon's EmeRed system is an example of an automated system that leverages AI and IoT to create an autonomous testing system that removes the human element completely.

These devices connect to the emergency lighting system and perform scheduled, simulated power failures to test the luminaires.

The AI-powered unit then analyses the results and provides a detailed report on the functionality and duration of each light.

The benefits of automated testing are vast. Firstly, it eliminates the need for on-site visits, freeing up facilities teams to focus on other tasks. Automated systems ensure tests are performed consistently and accurately, reducing the risk of human error.

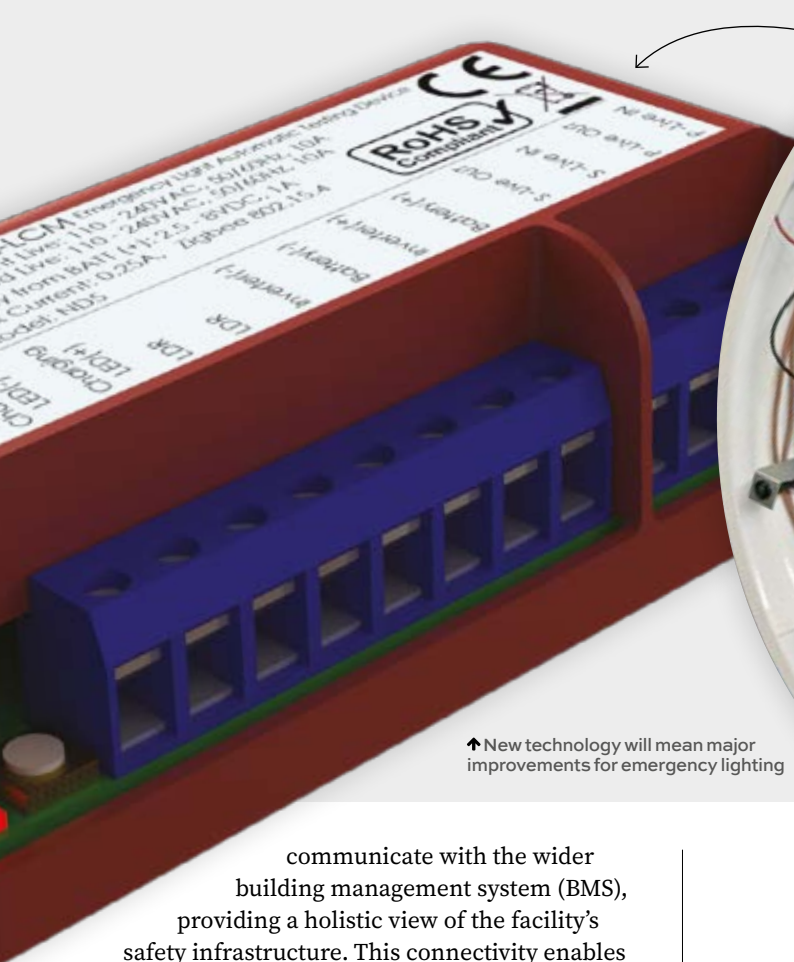
This AI-powered approach also provides real-time data and insights on the emergency lighting system. Facilities managers can access reports remotely, gaining a clear picture of the system's health and any potential issues.

This proactive approach allows for swift maintenance scheduling, preventing unexpected failures and ensuring ongoing compliance.

EMBRACING THE IoT REVOLUTION

The integration of IoT technology takes automated testing to the next level. IoT devices are able to

"THE BENEFITS OF AUTOMATED TESTING ARE VAST – AUTOMATED SYSTEMS ENSURE THAT TESTS ARE PERFORMED CONSISTENTLY AND ACCURATELY, REDUCING THE RISK OF HUMAN ERROR"



↑ New technology will mean major improvements for emergency lighting

communicate with the wider building management system (BMS), providing a holistic view of the facility's safety infrastructure. This connectivity enables real-time monitoring and alerts, ensuring any issues are addressed promptly. The IoT technology facilitates data-driven decision-making. By analysing usage patterns and performance data, facilities managers can optimise maintenance schedules, extend the lifespan of equipment and improve overall safety standards.

A NEW ERA FOR COMPLIANCE

The revolution in emergency light testing is not just about efficiency gains; it's also about ensuring the safety of building occupants and maintaining rigorous compliance with industry standards. Automated and IoT-enabled systems provide a robust framework for compliance, giving facility managers confidence their emergency lighting will function as required in the event of an emergency and meet the stringent demands of BS 5266, BS 50172 and other relevant British Standards.

The traditional manual approach to testing often results in infrequent or incomplete tests, leaving organisations vulnerable to non-compliance with these critical standards and legislation. In contrast, automated systems ensure tests are performed as scheduled, with detailed records available for auditing purposes. This proactive approach not only safeguards building occupants but also protects organisations from the legal and reputational risks of non-compliance.

THE FUTURE OF EMERGENCY LIGHT TESTING

As AI and IoT technology continue to advance,

FIND OUT MORE

SELECT Associate Member Vericon Systems is a leading provider of automated emergency light testing solutions. Its EmeRed device is revolutionising compliance and transforming the way facilities approach emergency light testing. Find out more at www.vericonsystems.com



we can expect even more sophisticated solutions for emergency light testing. Imagine a scenario where AI proactively predicts potential failures based on usage patterns and environmental factors, allowing for truly preventative maintenance.

The integration of emerging technologies such as Vericon's Community Learning will further enhance these systems, providing more intuitive interfaces and deeper insights. The possibilities are vast and the benefits for facility managers and building occupants are undeniable.

The days of manual emergency light testing are numbered. The advance of AI and IoT technology is transforming this critical aspect of facility management, bringing greater efficiency, accuracy and compliance. By making the most of the opportunities offered by these innovations, facility managers can ensure the safety of their buildings while freeing up resources for more strategic tasks.

The emergency lighting industry is embracing these advances and adapting to the changing landscape. At Vericon Systems, we are committed to leading this change. Through our cutting-edge solutions, such as EmeRed, and our dedication to education and collaboration, we are helping facilities unlock the full potential of AI and IoT in emergency light testing.

For facility managers ready to leave the inefficiencies of manual testing behind, the future of emergency light testing is undoubtedly bright. Join the revolution today and discover a safer, more efficient way to ensure the safety of your building. ■

Training

MORE INFORMATION

To enquire about SELECT's range of training courses, please call 0131 445 5577 or email training@select.org.uk

Setting your sites on safety

WORDS
JENNY CRYANS
Training Manager



To help keep Members and their staff free from harm, we offer a wide range of CITB site management and supervision courses in partnership with Tala Training

SITE MANAGEMENT COURSE

5 DAYS / £510 + VAT

This site management safety training scheme (SMSTS) course is designed for existing or aspiring site managers with responsibility for managing, monitoring, implementing and reporting in a construction environment. The course aims to help you:

- Manage and implement health, safety and environmental aspects on site, in accordance with current legal provisions and in the context of their management role
- Implement new guidance and industry best practice
- Develop an understanding of responsibility and accountability for site health, safety, welfare and the environment

- Recognise that a safe site is efficient, economical, productive and environmentally friendly.

There are no formal entry requirements but delegates should hold, or be about to hold, the role of a site manager. Previous health and safety knowledge is recommended and those without previous health and safety management experience are recommended to sit the two-day site supervision safety training scheme (SSSTS) course.

To successfully finish the course, delegates must complete all four core exercises and pass the trainer review and end-of-course exam, which consists of 18 multiple choice questions and seven questions in multi-response or short written answer format.

On successful completion, delegates will receive a certificate valid for five years.

SITE MANAGEMENT REFRESHER COURSE

2 DAYS / £310 + VAT

Aimed at those who've previously passed the full SMSTS course or subsequent refresher, this course aims to bring health and safety knowledge up to date and give a thorough overview of legislative changes and their impact.

The course aims to help you:

- Improve awareness of recent developments

↓ The courses will help your people to achieve the highest standards in health and safety





in construction, legislation and health, safety, welfare and environmental issues

- Identify measures that will assist the practical implementation of responsibilities established by new legislation and working practices
- Implement new guidance and industry best practice
- Consolidate your understanding of responsibility and accountability for site health, safety, welfare and the environment.

To successfully complete the course, delegates must pass the end-of-course exam, which consists of 18 multiple choice questions and seven questions in multi-response or short written answer format.

On successful completion, delegates will receive a certificate valid for five years.

NOTE: The course is **ONLY** for those who hold a valid SMSTS certificate, evidence of which must be provided at the time of booking.

SITE SUPERVISION COURSE

2 DAYS / £285 + VAT

This SSSTS course is designed for those who have, or are about to acquire, supervisory responsibilities and covers all relevant legislation and other aspects which affect safe working in the building, construction and civil engineering industries.

↑ It's important to keep up to date with the latest safety rules and regulations

FIND OUT MORE

For further information and dates for any of these courses, please call SELECT Training on 0131 445 5577 or e-mail training@select.org.uk. Find out more about the Construction Industry Training Board at www.citb.co.uk



It also highlights the need for risk assessment in the workplace, the implementation of the necessary control measures and adequate communication to sustain a health and safety culture among the workforce.

The course aims to help site supervisors:

- Supervise health and safety on site in accordance with current legal provisions and within the context of their role
- Develop an understanding of responsibility and accountability for site health, safety and welfare of workers on site
- Recognise that a safe site is efficient, economical, productive and environmentally friendly.

There are no formal entry requirements, but delegates should hold, or be about to hold, the role of a supervisor.

Delegates are required to complete the full course to be eligible for certification, with assessment made by an end-of-course exam and trainer review. The paper consists of 22 multiple choice questions and three short written questions and answers.

On successful completion of the course, delegates will receive a certificate that is valid for five years. A natural progression would then be to attend the SMSTS course.

SITE SUPERVISION REFRESHER COURSE

1 DAY / £190 + VAT

Aimed at those who've passed the SSSTS course, this sessions aims to bring health and safety knowledge up to date and give a thorough overview of the legislative changes and their impact in the workplace.

The course includes a wide range of topics which have been affected by changes to procedures and builds upon the material in the original course. It's designed to help site supervisors:

- Supervise health and safety on site in accordance with current legal provisions and within the context of their role
- Develop an understanding of responsibility and accountability for site health, safety and welfare of workers on site
- Recognise that a safe site is efficient, economical, productive and environmentally friendly.

As a refresher course, this is **ONLY** for delegates who have passed the two-day SSSTS course and can provide proof of successful attendance.

Delegates are required to complete the full course, with an assessment consisting of 25 questions covering all aspects of the course and with a pass mark of 80%.

A natural progression from this module would be to attend the SMSTS course. ■

Industry insight

The top tips on how to tackle tax

Navigating VAT successfully is key for financial efficiency for all businesses, but with the longer supply chains that are common for electrical businesses, it can be crucial as VAT applies at each stage and varies for different goods and services. Here's our advice for getting it right...

WORDS
PAULINE DAVIDSON
VAT Director, BDO



ARE YOU REGISTERED?

VAT registration is mandatory if your taxable turnover exceeds the new threshold of £90,000 from 1 April 2024. However, you can also register voluntarily if your turnover is below this threshold, which can be beneficial for reclaiming VAT on business expenses. This can be particularly useful for electrical businesses purchasing significant amounts of equipment and materials.

NOT ALWAYS 20%

The electrical industry uses a myriad of products and services so you must stay vigilant in determining the correct VAT liability of your supplies.

Most electrical work is subject to the standard rate of 20%, however, certain energy-saving products and installations may qualify for a reduced rate of 5%.

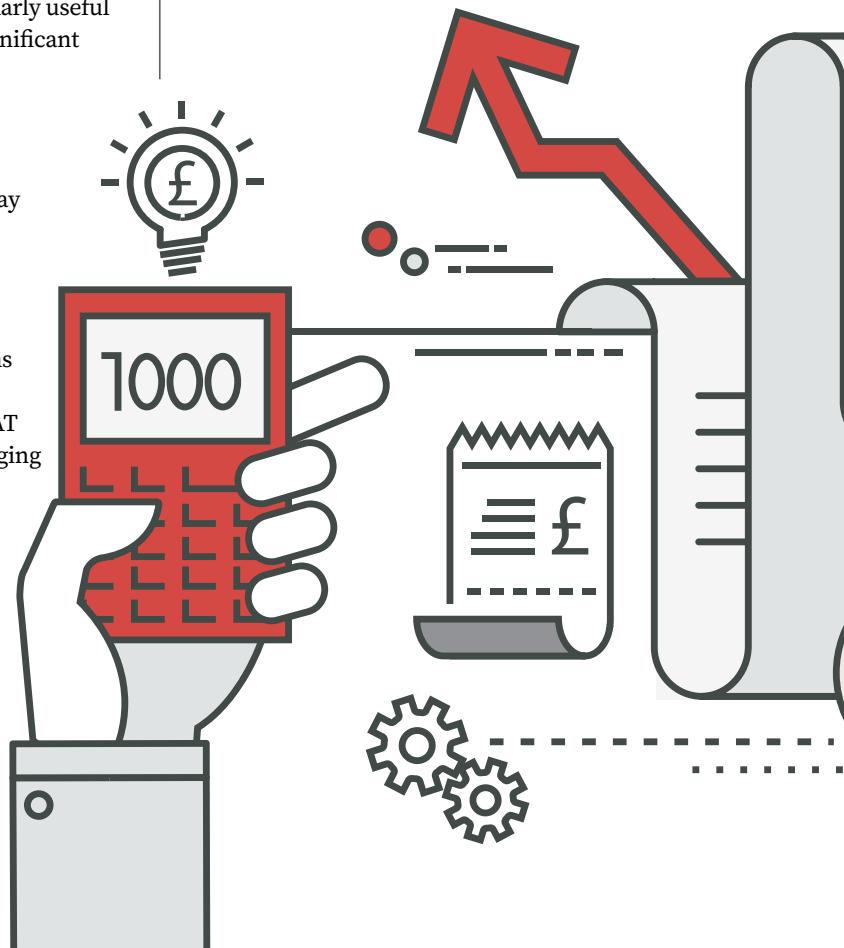
It's essential to identify the correct VAT rate for your services to avoid overcharging customers or underpaying HMRC. If you get it wrong, HMRC can raise assessments going back up to four years.

TRACK EVERYTHING

No matter how many transactions you carry out, keeping accurate records of sales and purchases is essential. Once registered, you must submit VAT returns, usually quarterly, detailing your output VAT, i.e. charged on sales,

and input VAT, i.e. paid on purchases. The difference between these amounts is what you will either pay to or reclaim from HMRC.

Small businesses that have a taxable turnover below £1.35 million can take advantage of various VAT schemes offered by HMRC, such as the Flat



Rate Scheme, which simplifies the calculation process, or the Cash Accounting Scheme, which can aid cashflow by only accounting for VAT on payments made and received rather than on an invoice basis. Remember, VAT must be accounted for on deposits or progress payments received, not just upon invoicing. Issues like this can lead to non-compliance penalties.

For continuous supplies of services made to customers, businesses may use a 'request for payment' rather than issue a tax invoice. This request will not create a tax point, and the procedure therefore delays the requirement to account for VAT until the payment is received.

DIGITAL FROM END-TO-END

Since April 2022, all VAT-registered businesses must comply with Making Tax Digital (MTD) for VAT, which is a key part of the UK Government's plan to make it easier for businesses to stay on top of their tax affairs.

MTD mandates the use of digital record-keeping, the submission of VAT returns using compatible software, using digital links and the use of checking functions, which all aim to reduce errors and increase efficiency.

"IT'S ESSENTIAL TO IDENTIFY THE CORRECT VAT RATE FOR YOUR SERVICES TO AVOID OVERCHARGING CUSTOMERS OR UNDERPAYING HMRC. IF YOU GET IT WRONG, HMRC CAN RAISE ASSESSMENTS GOING BACK FOUR YEARS"

DOMESTIC REVERSE CHARGE (DRC) FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

The DRC is a VAT procedure that shifts the responsibility for accounting for VAT on certain construction services from the seller to the buyer.

It is designed to combat VAT fraud, particularly in industries like construction, where the supply chain can

be complex and susceptible to fraudulent activities.

Under the DRC, when qualifying services falling within the construction industry scheme (CIS) are supplied both from and to a VAT and CIS-registered business, the supplier does not charge VAT unless the recipient declares that they are an 'end user'. Instead, the recipient of the services accounts for the VAT on their VAT return. It's crucial to understand when the DRC applies and ensure your systems and staff can handle it correctly.

TRADING INTERNATIONALLY

Businesses providing services to customers outside the UK need to determine where the place of supply is and whether UK VAT should be charged, or if the supply creates other registration obligations in the other country.

This is not just a matter of following UK regulations; it's about understanding the global VAT landscape. Getting it right can prevent double taxation or non-taxation, ensuring the correct treatment is followed and penalties are avoided.

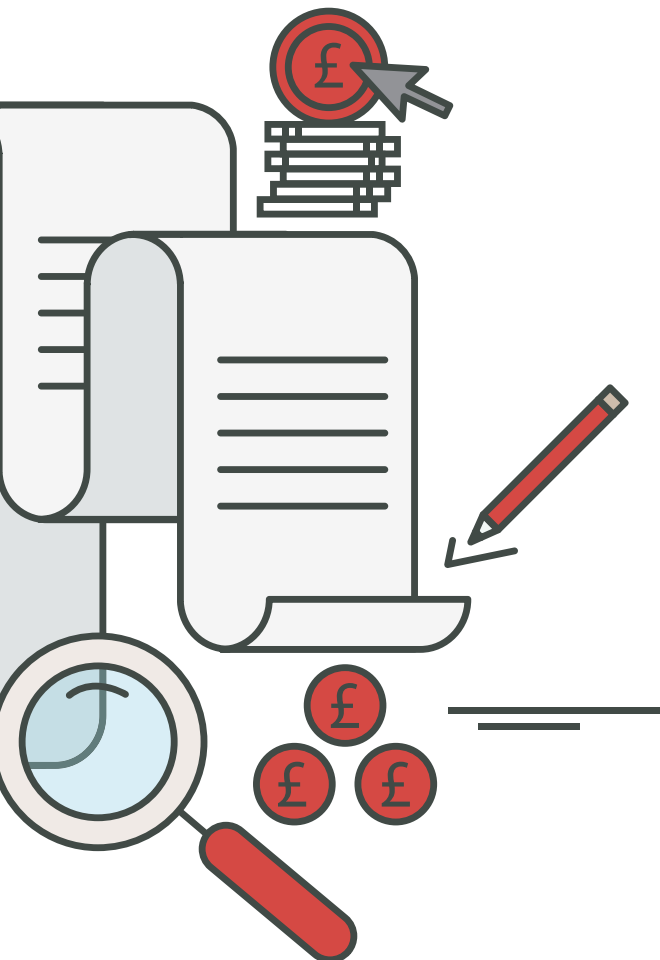
Importing goods into the UK requires businesses to account for VAT. This involves paying VAT at the point of import and then potentially reclaiming it on your VAT return, subject to normal rules.

It's crucial to keep accurate records and understand the specific VAT rates that apply to imported goods. There are also simplifications such as Postponed Import VAT Accounting (PIVA) which can improve cashflow. Businesses moving goods to and from Northern Ireland should consider the Northern Ireland Protocol for VAT, particularly if the goods are en route to the Republic of Ireland.

DEALING WITH HMRC

Dealing with VAT inspections can be daunting, but they are a standard part of business operations. To prepare, ensure your VAT records are accurate and up to date, including keeping detailed invoices for all transactions, both sales and purchases.

If discrepancies are found during an inspection, it's important to address them promptly and to co-operate fully with HMRC to minimise the risk of penalties arising. ■



GETTING EXPERT HELP

BDO offers a comprehensive range of VAT services to support your business, from VAT compliance, health checks and training to advising on automating your VAT systems, helping with international VAT issues and resolving disputes with HMRC. The team is committed to providing clear, practical advice that adds real value to your business. Find out more at www.bdo.co.uk

Healthy habits can keep your team on top form

With the summer's sporting events inspiring everyone, discover how promoting physical health in your business can boost productivity and help you create a winning team

WITH a summer of sport in full swing and the excitement of the Euros, Wimbledon and the Olympics in the air, now is the perfect time to encourage your employees to focus on their own physical health and wellbeing.

You can never predict what the Scottish weather will be like, but one thing that **IS** clear is the advantage of a healthy and active workforce, and the importance of making physical health a priority to increase productivity, morale and performance.

WORDS ROB LOW

Business Development
Executive, EC Insurance
Services Limited



IT'S TOUGH OUT THERE

Electrical contracting is hard, physical work. Your team spends long hours on their feet, they have to crawl through tight roof spaces and navigate confined areas. They lift and carry heavy materials and tools, such as reels of cable and conduit. This constant strain can lead to sore muscles and joints.

Additionally, your employees often work at heights, climbing ladders or scaffolding to install or repair wiring. This job requires not only physical strength but also good balance and stability. Moreover, repetitive motions like pulling cables and using hand tools can lead to strain injuries.

At the end of a day it's understandable that your workers feel worn out. Ensuring their wellbeing is essential for maintaining productivity within your business.

CONNECTING PHYSICAL FITNESS WITH BUSINESS SUCCESS

Why should you care about your team's fitness? It's simple – healthy employees are more efficient and productive. Regular physical activity keeps them alert, focused and energetic throughout the day, leading to better job performance.



"HEALTHY EMPLOYEES ARE MORE EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE. REGULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY KEEPS THEM ALERT, FOCUSED AND ENERGETIC THROUGHOUT THE DAY, LEADING TO BETTER JOB PERFORMANCE"

The summer's sporting events can inspire your team to get active and adopt healthier lifestyles. Encouraging physical fitness also boosts teamwork and morale. Group fitness activities and wellness programmes create a supportive and collaborative work environment. This can lead to higher job satisfaction and retention, further benefiting your business.

Here are some ways in which physical activity can boost workforce performance:

- **Enhanced energy levels:** Regular exercise boosts energy, helping employees stay alert and focused. Better energy levels mean better performance.
- **Improved mental health:** Exercise reduces stress and anxiety, contributing to better mental health. A mentally healthy team is more resilient and adaptable.
- **Reduced absenteeism:** Physically active employees have stronger immune systems and lower illness rates. Fewer sick days mean more consistent attendance. A *Harvard Business Review* study found daily physical activity improved employees' productivity by enhancing sleep quality and task focus. These benefits led to significant productivity increases the next day.
- **Stronger teamwork:** Group fitness activities enhance team bonding, fostering a more cohesive and cooperative work environment.



- **Increased productivity:** Healthy employees are more productive. Regular exercise improves cognitive function, concentration and problem-solving abilities, leading to higher efficiency and output.

PRACTICAL STEPS TO SUPPORT EMPLOYEE HEALTH

To ensure your team remains healthy and productive, consider implementing these practical steps:

- **Promote regular exercise:** Organise fitness challenges or group workout sessions. Utilise health and wellbeing rewards from Bupa for discounts on gym memberships and sports bookings.
- **Ensure proper hydration and nutrition:** Install hydration stations or provide bottled water. Offer healthy snacks such as fruits, nuts and energy bars in break rooms.
- **Support mental health:** Introduce mindfulness and stress management programmes. Create a supportive work environment where employees feel comfortable discussing their mental health.
- **Regular health screenings:** Arrange for regular check-ups and screenings for common issues such as hypertension and diabetes. Provide access to medical specialists for personalised advice.

WHY A HEALTHY WORKFORCE MATTERS

A physically healthy workforce is more energetic and productive, which leads to improved efficiency and performance.

Fit employees are less likely to fall ill, resulting in fewer sick days. And supporting physical health initiatives also fosters a positive work environment, boosting overall team morale and job satisfaction.

MAINTAINING A HEALTHY WORKFORCE

Ready to boost your team's health and productivity? The private medical insurance (PMI) scheme offered by SELECT and ECIS can help your business to thrive and is designed to cover the cost of private treatment for acute health conditions.

Having a PMI scheme for your business offers numerous benefits, including:

- **Reduced hospital waiting times:** Private cover ensures quicker access to medical treatment, reducing the time your employees spend waiting for necessary care.
- **Increased medical resources:** With private insurance, your team can access a wider range of medical resources and treatments, helping them recover more effectively.
- **Access to specialist treatments:** Private medical insurance provides access to specialist treatments that may not be readily available through public healthcare. ■

HOW ECIS CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS

As a leading chartered insurance broker, ECIS has been organising and managing SELECT's exclusive PMI scheme through Bupa for decades. If you're thinking about introducing a PMI policy for your team or want an expert review of your current healthcare setup, ECIS is here to assist.

Contact the ECIS team today at **0330 221 0241** or email ecis@ecins.co.uk to discover how you can maintain your team's physical health and boost your business productivity.

We're making progress on conflict avoidance

WORDS
DAVID WILSON
Partner



MFL
MORTON
FRASER
MACROBERTS
LLP

David Wilson regularly advises on arbitration and adjudication matters, often providing legal advice to adjudicators. As a litigator, he has extensive experience of acting for pursuers and defenders in commercial disputes in the Court of Session.

Our legal eagle catches up with industry consultant, fellow *cabletalk* columnist and SELECT Lifetime Achievement Award winner Len Bunton for an update on the Conflict Avoidance Process and the CICV's Best Practice Guide

HI LEN, THE BEST PRACTICE GUIDE (BPG) HAS BEEN A BIG SUCCESS SINCE ITS LAUNCH. WHAT WAS THE THINKING BEHIND IT?

I had discussions with senior industry figures and we formed a view that many commercial and contractual problems are self-induced by contractors and their supply chain. The resulting BPG was put together by the Construction Industry Collective Voice (CICV) and provides a series of detailed recommendations on how to manage the commercial aspects of projects more effectively.

WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE?

Webinars and articles for technical journals to promote the BPG have been effective. We have also talked to a number of construction

organisations about embedding the BPG's recommendations within their organisation. Many are keen to improve the way in which they manage contracts.

FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT NOT ALREADY KNOW, WHAT IS THE CONFLICT AVOIDANCE PROCESS (CAP)?

This process is aimed at eliminating construction disputes and allows those involved in construction projects to have an early intervention to see if disputes can be resolved by discussion. If parties are unable to reach an agreement, an experienced construction industry professional can assist in finding resolution.

SO WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THAT?

More than 440 organisations have signed the Conflict Avoidance Pledge, including several SELECT Member companies. I have recently been appointed Chair of the Conflict Avoidance Coalition Steering Group, which now represents nearly 60 organisations covering all sectors within the construction industry. The purpose of the steering group is to disseminate information about conflict avoidance throughout the industry and monitor progress.

PODCAST IS PACKED FULL OF EXPERT OPINIONS

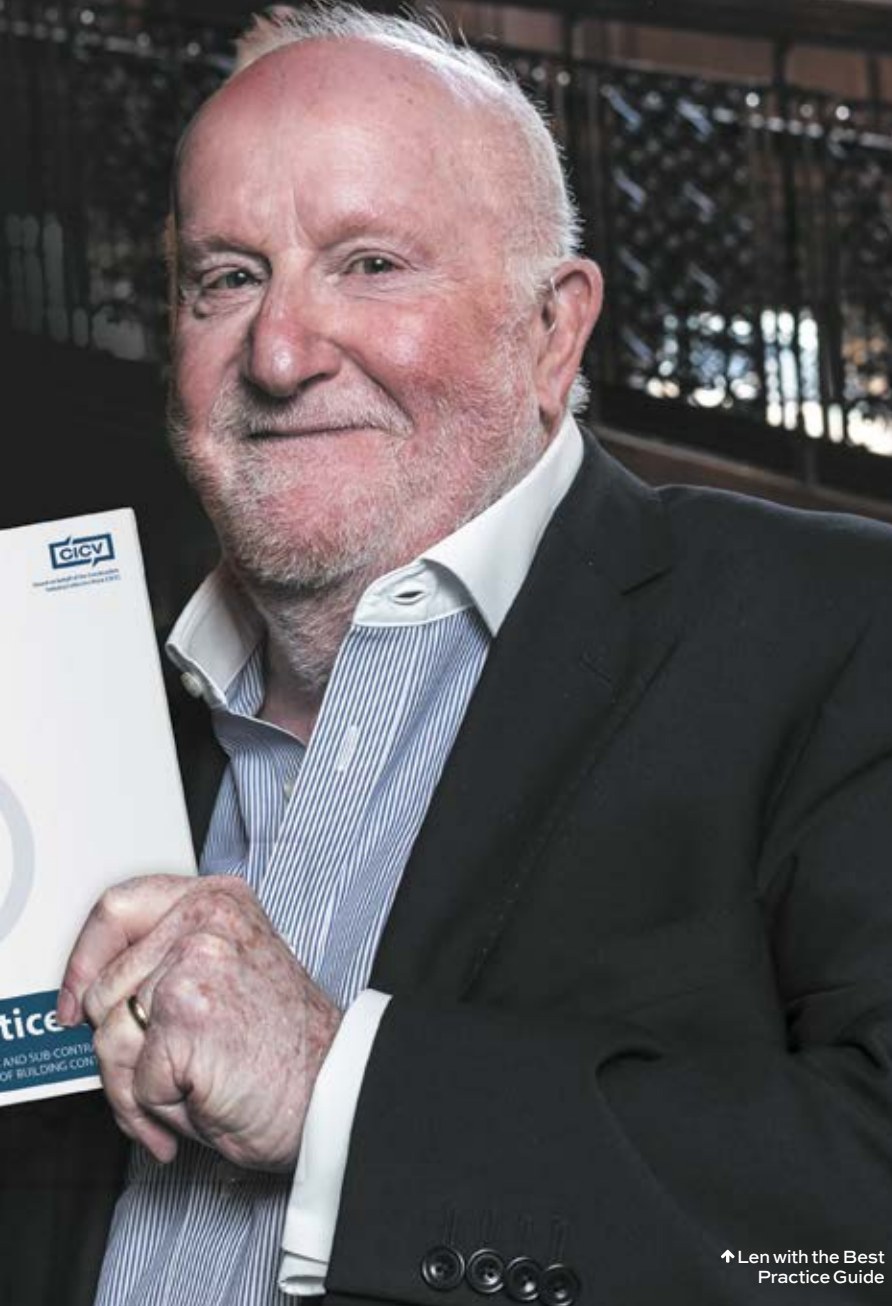
Len recently took part in a podcast which examined how the Conflict Avoidance Process could have helped solve a thorny construction issue.

The *cabletalk* columnist joined Paul Heming in the hot seat for an episode of *Own The Build* to discuss a £500,000 variation which caused conflict from day one and drove a real wedge between contractor and client.

Len outlines how CAP could have changed the fortunes of the project and also discusses early intervention, low value adjudication and the CICV's Best Practice Guide.

Listen to the full episode by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/len-pod





↑ Len with the Best Practice Guide

"MORE THAN 440 ORGANISATIONS HAVE SIGNED THE CONFLICT AVOIDANCE PLEDGE, INCLUDING SEVERAL SELECT MEMBER COMPANIES"

CAN YOU GIVE US ANY EXAMPLES?

CAP has been well-supported by NHS Scotland, and the Scottish Futures Trust Hubs have signed the Pledge. I think with the passage of time, having this process embedded into contracts will become the norm.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON ADJUDICATION?

It has become too time-consuming and expensive. Often, a decision is issued and parties do not pay the other side, leading to costly enforcement



SELECT Members can find out more about the Conflict Avoidance Pledge and sign up by scanning the QR code or going to www.rics.org/capledge. You can also discover more details about the Pledge and Conflict Avoidance Process by emailing Len Bunton at len@buntonconsulting.co.uk



ADVICE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Created with input from SELECT, the CICV's Best Practice Guide is an excellent document that can help you improve your commercial management. Download it for free by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/CICV-BPG



actions in the courts where it can take months before a decision is issued. Progress has been made with the low value adjudication schemes which give cost certainty to parties on adjudicators' fees, allowing parties to gauge whether adjudicating is worthwhile.

AND FINALLY, DO YOU THINK THAT THERE WILL BE RADICAL CHANGES TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN THE UK?

The industry is fragmented – there are too many vested interests and too many people producing reports and recommendations on change without any real action. What is needed is for two or three major changes to be identified and implemented. We are making progress with the BPG and CAP. I believe that both will have a significant impact on payment and cashflow problems in the industry. ■

LEGAL HELPLINE 0141 303 1111



As a Member of SELECT, you have access to the Legal Helpline operated by Morton Fraser MacRoberts. This helpline covers advice and assistance on commercial, contractual and employment matters under Scots law which concern your business.

The best ways to train and retain

With an ageing workforce, downturn in overseas workers and rise in technology, effective recruitment and retention strategies are more important than ever. Our expert runs through the dos and don'ts for keeping your talent pool topped up...

THERE is no doubt that the UK construction industry faces significant challenges in recruitment and retention of skilled workers, with 20% of tradespeople currently aged over 50 and a further 15% in their 60s.

As well as an ageing workforce, many of the 17% of the workforce who were born outside the UK have left post-Brexit. And ongoing technological advancements such as building information modelling (BIM) and artificial intelligence (AI) will likely have an impact on job roles and numbers.

Coupled with changing working patterns, this means companies must adopt innovative strategies to attract and then retain talent, so here are some ways to stop the rot.

PROMOTING THE INDUSTRY AS A POSITIVE CAREER

The industry must focus on enhancing its image to attract new talent. According to a recent YouGov poll, only 3% of 18-24-year-olds searched for a job in construction, so the old image of a dirty, cold and dangerous job obviously still rings true with parents and teachers.

Despite this negativity, much has changed for the better, with women now making up 15% of the workforce and 37% of all new workers coming into the industry. Great strides have been made in improving safety, technology and conditions, but clearly more needs to be done to promote the industry as a positive career destination, such as:

- Partnering with schools, colleges and universities to provide information about career opportunities and offering site visits, career talks and work placements.
- Using traditional and social media to highlight the diverse roles in the industry, successful projects and career success stories. I'm amazed the industry doesn't enjoy a higher profile – after all, without construction, we'd still be living in caves!

APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Providing comprehensive training programmes is essential to develop skilled workers, e.g.:

- Offering apprenticeships like the SJIB Modern Apprenticeship in Electrical Installation allows individuals to earn while they learn, gaining valuable on-the-job experience. These programmes need to be well-structured and lead to recognised qualifications.
- Encouraging and facilitating continuous professional development (CPD) helps workers upskill and can enhance job satisfaction and career progression. In my experience, if you're not investing in your workforce's personal development, they'll go somewhere else that will. No business can afford to lose its best talent.

COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Attracting and retaining workers requires competitive compensation packages – and the key word here is 'competitive', so consider:

- Regularly reviewing and adjusting salaries to ensure they remain competitive within the market.
- Offering comprehensive benefits, including health insurance, retirement plans, and bonuses. Non-monetary benefits such as flexible working hours and additional leave are also now more desirable.

WORDS
PAUL McDEVITT
Managing Director,
McDevitt & Co



McDevitt & Co

Paul McDevitt is Managing Director of McDevitt & Co, an experienced business consultancy that helps to inspire people, improve productivity and increase profits in the construction industry. Find out more and contact him at www.mcdevitt.co

VACANT



"IN MY EXPERIENCE, IF YOU'RE NOT INVESTING IN YOUR WORKFORCE'S PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, THEY'LL GO SOMEWHERE ELSE THAT WILL"

CAREER PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Clear career progression pathways can motivate employees, with things like:

- Prioritising internal candidates for new roles and providing clear guidelines on how to advance within the company.
- Establishing mentorship programmes where experienced workers guide newer employees, providing career advice and support. Recruiting external mentors can also help your staff get access to the expertise they need to progress their career.

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Modernising the industry can make it more attractive to younger workers. Children now are born into a digital world; it is the language they speak and construction needs to ensure it reflects this. So think about:

- Adopting new technologies, e.g. implementing BIM, drones and other construction technologies to streamline processes and appeal to tech-savvy individuals.
- Emphasising sustainable construction practices and green building techniques to attract workers passionate about environmental issues.

DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

Promoting diversity and inclusion can widen the talent pool, for example:

- Ensuring recruitment processes are free from bias and promoting a culture of inclusion.
- Providing targeted support and development opportunities for women, ethnic minorities and other under-represented groups in the industry.

HEALTH AND SAFETY FOCUS

A strong commitment to health and safety can improve worker satisfaction and retention, through things such as:

- Implementing and enforcing stringent health and safety measures to ensure a safe working environment.
- Offering mental health support and recognising the importance of mental wellbeing in the workplace. Government, businesses and industry bodies need to do more to address mental health in the construction industry.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING

Engaged and satisfied employees are more likely to stay, so consider:

- Conducting regular employee surveys and feedback sessions to understand and address concerns.
- Implementing wellness programmes that focus on physical and mental health, including fitness programmes, counselling services and stress management workshops.

COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY BODIES

Working with industry organisations can enhance recruitment and retention efforts, e.g.:

- Collaborating with bodies like SELECT and the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) to access funding, training resources and best practices.
- Participating in industry conferences, seminars and job fairs to connect with potential recruits and stay updated on industry trends.

FLEXIBLE WORK ARRANGEMENTS

Adapting to modern work preferences can make the industry more attractive, such as:

- Allowing flexible schedules where feasible, such as staggered start times or compressed work weeks.
- For roles that can be performed remotely, offering remote work options to attract talent from a broader geographic area.

BUILDING A STRONG EMPLOYER BRAND

A positive employer brand is a great way to attract top talent, for example:

- Showcasing the company's culture, values and benefits through marketing campaigns.
- Sharing stories and testimonials from current employees to highlight the positive aspects of working for the company.
- Introducing a funded referral scheme for current employees to recommend the business to friends and family.

The UK construction industry must adopt a multifaceted approach to effectively recruit and retain skilled workers and the current recruitment and retention challenges need to be addressed **NOW**.

By adopting the above recommendations, companies can create a more attractive and supportive environment for existing and potential employees.

These strategies not only help in meeting the immediate staffing needs but also contribute to the long-term sustainability and growth of this vital industry. ■

SECTT Update

Heat's on for top talent

The regional winners of the 2024 Apprentice of the Year contest have been revealed after showing off their hard work and technical skills to take the titles

↑ East 1st Stage:
Barry Ross,
Edinburgh College
– Sighthill Campus,
Dovend Electrical

NORTH

COMPETITION was once again fierce as SECTT held its Apprentice of the Year competition, with youngsters in the spotlight for their technical prowess.

Supported by employers and parents, 21 1st and 2nd Stage apprentices competed in regional heats at three colleges across Scotland.

The East heat was held at West Lothian College on 29 May, with Barry Ross and Jordan Bathgate

making it a double for Edinburgh College as they won the 1st and 2nd Stage titles respectively.

Next up was the North of Scotland heat on 4 June, with Kyle Morrison taking the 1st Stage prize at NesCol Aberdeen and Jamie Green of SELECT Member firm Campbell & McHardy clinching the 2nd Stage trophy.

The third heat saw Thomas Wright of Member firm D&L Macleod collect his 1st Stage prize for the West at Dumfries & Galloway College on 11 June,



↑ 1st Stage: Kyle Morrison, North East Scotland College – Fraserburgh Campus, Dennis Gordon Electrical Contractor



↑ 2nd Stage: Jamie Green, Moray College UHI, Campbell & McHardy

TRIO SET FOR SKILLELECTRIC CHALLENGE

Three SECTT apprentices have made the final of this year's SkilleLECTRIC competition after triumphing in the recent national qualifying heats.

John-Ross Campbell of SELECT Member firm

A Campbell Electrical Services Ltd, Milly Smith of Member firm CS McKerlie Electrical Services and Kalum Low of MS Electrical and Renewables will fly the flag for Scotland later this year.

Barrie McKay said: "SECTT is delighted to have three competitors at this year's final. It is a great achievement for all involved and we wish them

the very best of luck." The trio will now battle it out with five other talented young sparkies in the UK Final at Oldham College across the week of 18 November.

To be crowned champion, competitors will have to excel in a complicated three-day practical installation task set to a strict timescale and against a rigorous marking

criteria. Following the success of the solar PV task in last year's final, the event this year will also include an electric vehicle charging-related task for competitors to tackle.

SkilleLECTRIC Project Manager Jennie Phung said: "After witnessing some great skills on display across our national qualifying heats, it's great to welcome a real cross



EAST

↑ East 2nd Stage: Jordan Bathgate, Edinburgh College – Sighthill Campus, Parker Technical Services

"THE APPRENTICES ALWAYS IMPRESS AND THIS YEAR WAS NO DIFFERENT"

with Reece Irving crowned the 2nd Stage winner.

Barrie McKay, SECTT Training & Development Manager, said: "This competition is a great way of acknowledging the hard work from the top achieving apprentices from each college.

"Ultimately there will be one winner for each stage from each region who will go forward to the final in October.

"The apprentices always impress and this year was no different – we saw some great work." ■



↑ 1st Stage: Thomas Wright, West College Scotland – Clydebank Campus, D&L Macleod (Contractors)

WEST



↑ 2nd Stage: Reece Irving, Dumfries & Galloway College, Derek Mitchell Group

↑ ABOUT SECTT

SECTT manages high-quality training on behalf of the SJIB. To find out more about SECTT and its work, call 0131 445 5659, email admin@sectt.org.uk or visit www.sectt.org.uk

section of industry learners in this year's final.

"We're looking forward to November's event and working with our competitors between now and then to help them prepare for their performance in the UK final."

The three talented SECTT apprentices will follow in the footsteps of Danny McBean, who is employed by SELECT

Member firm Grants of Dufftown Ltd and won gold in the 2023 SkilleLECTRIC contest last November.

Craig Fairweather of Member firm McDonald & Munro in Moray was also crowned champion in 2022, with Scots Rhys Boni and Paul Anderson claiming gold and silver in 2018.

↓ John-Ross Campbell



↓ Milly Smith



↓ Kalum Low



SJIB Bulletin

Renewal reminder is on the cards

FOR this issue of *cabletalk* we have one very simple but important message: **Don't let your card lapse!**

We are always urging Members not to leave it too late and ensure they renew their SJIB ECS

Card well ahead of it expiring.

For this reason, the SJIB sends out reminders via email six months ahead of a cardholder's current card going out of date.

The purpose of this is to remind you and also to give you a heads-up well ahead of time to allow you to complete any training that may be required in order to renew your ECS Card.

The notification email will go to the email address that we have on our system for you and will most likely be the one you used for your prior application. Please contact the SJIB if you wish to check and/or amend the email address we hold for you on the system.

If you think that we may hold an old email address and wish to inform us of a new one, please email generalenquiries@sjib.org.uk with your name, National Insurance number and current email address.

Please be aware that the maximum turnaround time for ECS Card applications is 21 days upon receipt of application and payment. If applications are completed online and you meet all the criteria before applying for the card, turnaround times are usually much quicker than this.

Before booking an ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Assessment (HSE) for yourself or on behalf of any employees, please ensure to check the criteria of your chosen ECS Card.

In 2021, certain ECS Cards were discontinued and new ones introduced. However, the criteria for each of the new cards has changed, most significantly the health and safety requirement.



The maximum turnaround time for ECS Card applications is 21 days upon receipt of application and payment.



↑ Keep an eye on the calendar and make sure that your card doesn't expire

The criteria for all cards available through the SJIB can be found on our dedicated ECS Card portal, which is available by scanning the QR code on the page opposite or going to www.select.org.uk/SJIB.

If you have any questions or require any help, please contact us and we'll be happy to assist. ■

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE RENEWING A CARD

If you hold any of the following cards and have let them lapse for over a year, in order to renew you'll need to supply the SJIB with proof of completion of a recognised BS 7671 course in the last five years:

- Electrician
- Approved Electrician

- Technician Electrician
- Maintenance Electrician
- Electrical Fitter
- Approved Electrical Fitter
- Electrical Fitter (ECITB)
- Approved Electrical Fitter (ECITB)
- Wireman
- Panel Builder.



↑ The questions about fire safety in buildings have been refreshed

Update to fire safety questions

THE ECS Steering Committee recently reviewed the fire and emergency questions in the ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Assessment.

The decision was made to make amendments to existing questions and introduce new ones, which focus on fire safety in buildings.

The purpose of these changes is for alignment with wider industry competence requirements

for fire safety in buildings and to increase the awareness of broader fire safety topics and interaction between occupations.

To access the updated ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Question and Answer Booklet, scan the QR code (right) or visit www.sjib.org.uk/ecs-hse-assessment/ecs-question-and-answer-booklet

SHORT CUTS

01



↑ ECS Card portal

02



↑ ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Q&A booklet

REMEMBER!

Our small team is still extremely busy and receiving a high volume of calls. The best way to get in touch with us is the 'Contact Us' form at www.sjib.org.uk which ensures your query goes directly to the team member responsible.

Welcoming our winner

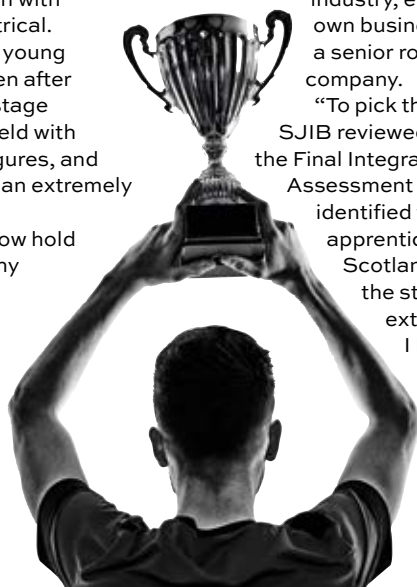
Following our update in the previous edition of *cabletalk*, we can now reveal that a winner has been selected in the 2024 SJIB Apprentice of the Year competition, held in conjunction with Edmundson Electrical.

The successful young learner was chosen after first and second stage interviews were held with senior industry figures, and once again it was an extremely close decision.

The SJIB will now hold an award ceremony for the finalists on 9 October at the Edinburgh Marriott Hotel Holyrood, where the winner will be announced.

The Secretary of the SJIB, Catherine Gillon, said: "This award identifies the year's leading apprentice and the candidate we feel is most likely to succeed in the industry, either leading their own business undertaking a senior role in another company."

"To pick the winner, the SJIB reviewed the results of the Final Integrated Competence Assessment (FICA) and identified the top scoring apprentices throughout Scotland. Once again the standard was extremely high and I look forward to congratulating our winner and all the finalists in Edinburgh in October."



NEW ROLE FOR CATHERINE

As you'll have read elsewhere in *cabletalk*, we are delighted to welcome Catherine Gillon as the new Secretary of the SJIB, in addition to her role as Director of Employment Affairs for SELECT.

The SJIB looks forward to Catherine's leadership as we continue to further the progress of the industry and regulate and control employment, skill and proficiency, health and safety competence, wages and welfare benefits.

→ Five minutes with Catherine: **Page 66**

WE'VE GOT THE X FACTOR

Get the latest SJIB news and updates on X – formerly Twitter – by following [@The_SJIB](https://twitter.com/The_SJIB)

ABOUT THE SJIB

SJIB regulates relations between employers and employees engaged in the Scottish electrotechnical industry. To find out more about SJIB and its work, visit www.sjib.org.uk

ProZone

TWENTY YEARS OF SLIMLINE SUCCESS

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Deta's flagship Slimline wiring accessory product range.

This cost-effective solution has remained a product of choice for housing developers and electrical contractors. Its features include:

- Colour-coded terminal entries to simplify wiring, even in low-light conditions
- Durable and anti-microbial urea material to increase product longevity
- Captive backed-out terminal screws to reduce installation time.

The range has also grown to accommodate multiple environments, with different designs.

Andrew Pegrum, Deta Senior Technical Manager, said: "We had two main objectives when designing the Slimline product range – creating a product that could grow our ranges and offerings and ensuring the design was innovative enough to set us apart from competitors. Twenty years later, it's clear we achieved both."

➔ To find out more, visit www.deta.co.uk/products/wiring-accessories/slimline

↓ Slimline has been a hit for 20 years



↑ The torch uses the latest technology

Luceco shines the spotlight on inspection work lights

DESIGNED to last the task, Luceco's wide range of inspection work lights provide reliable, high-quality, innovative lighting tools for all trade and recreational uses.

The new Flexible Head Torch from Luceco uses the latest LED filament technology to create a lightweight, long-lasting wide-angle head torch.

Featuring two inbuilt LED torches on the band for focused spotlight and full wide-beam illumination, the torch also has motion sensor capabilities so it can be safely turned on and off without needing to down tools or repeatedly find and touch the switch.

It is lightweight and non-slip to keep it in place on safety headwear or directly on your head, making it perfect for every person from trade to recreational use, including electricians, painters, plumbers,

mechanics and even night-time runners or dog walkers.

The inspection work light range utilises additional features including power banks and battery control to give torches a long extended life, built in UV light options, magnets and clamps so lights can be placed anywhere they are needed, and open area lighting for illumination across an entire space.

Shyel Stark, Head of Product Sourcing LED at Luceco, said: "When designing our contractor lighting range, we wanted to create the perfect reliable tool for all tradespeople. Luceco lights are trusted, high-quality, long-lasting products that provide innovative solutions and technology at an affordable price."

➔ Find out more at www.luceco.com/uk

CLOTHING RANGE IS DESIGNED TO WORK FOR YOU

Snickers Workwear's new lightweight mid-layers are a fusion of style and performance – built for active work in the autumn.

Crafted for full flexibility on site and optimal comfort, they're fully flexible and can be worn as an outer layer when it's warmer or a mid-layer when it's slightly cooler.

They're full of handy technical features and innovative fabrics to tame the wind, plus brand new energising colours to brighten your work day. Choose from

new street-smart styles such as the Windblocker half-zip hoodie or the lightweight FlexiWork mid-layer jacket – creative workwear solutions designed to make your job easier.

Whatever Snickers Workwear mid-layer you choose, you can be sure that they all have body-mapping designs for a great fit, outstanding functionality and long-lasting comfort – all day, every day.

➔ To find out more, call 01484 854788, visit www.snickersworkwear.co.uk or email sales@hultaforsgroup.co.uk



↑ Snickers Workwear offers comfort and warmth

**CONTACT OUR TEAM TO
SHOWCASE YOUR GREAT
NEW PRODUCTS HERE**
David Hughes: 07767 407 402
davidh@connectcommunications.co.uk

**BECOME AN
ASSOCIATE MEMBER**
To inquire about becoming an
Associate Member, email
memberservices@select.org.uk

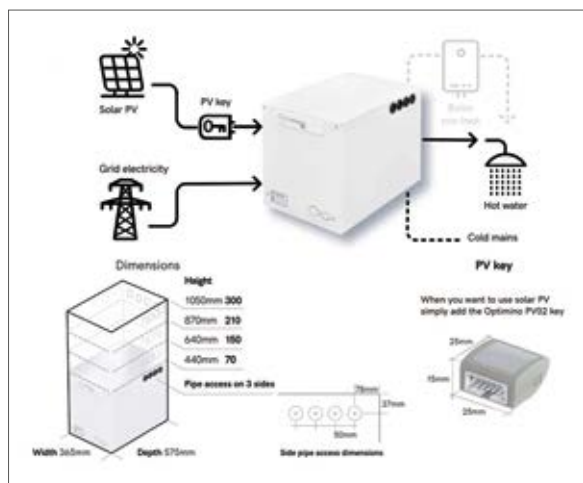
Flexel agrees new deal on electric hot water heat battery distribution

GLENROTHES-BASED far infrared heating solution manufacturer Flexel has teamed up with water heat battery manufacturers SunAmp to add their space-saving, energy-efficient alternative to direct hot water cylinders for domestic, retail and industrial premises.

In line with its current EcoFloor, EcoFoil, EcoFlex, EcoFilm and EcoSun brand names, Flexel will now refer to these units as EcoWater.

Thanks to the highly energy dense Plentigrade phase change material, EcoWater units are up to four times smaller than the hot water cylinder they replace.

Having EcoWater units in its range of products allows Flexel to offer a complete heating solution for customers that are looking to move away from heating with fossil fuels. In addition, the units are



↑ The solution is energy efficient and easy to install

future-proofed for solar PV with an optional PV key.

EcoWater units are available in four different sizes – the EcoWater 70, EcoWater 150, EcoWater 210 and EcoWater 300.

They are in litre-equivalent sizes for easy comparison with traditional hot water cylinders, i.e. 74L, 140L, 212L and 306L, and like its other products, they are available to order through Flexel's electrical wholesale distribution network.

Installation is simple and a guidance video and technical sheets are also available.

☛ To find out more and discuss your next heating project, email craig@flexel.co.uk or call 01592 760 928.

METAL CLAD RANGE IS BUILT TO LAST

Scolmore's Metal Clad range is offered as part of Click Essentials wiring accessories and features electrophoretically coated plates and back boxes that provide a durable and long-lasting heavy-duty finish.

The growing Metal Clad range includes a number of two-way switch plates, switched sockets,

↑ The range is durable and tested to the highest safety standards

safety shutter switched sockets and fused connection units, as well as 1-gang and 2-gang switched sockets with outboard neon rockers.

Some recent additions to the comprehensive range also feature a 13A 2-gang DP three-pin

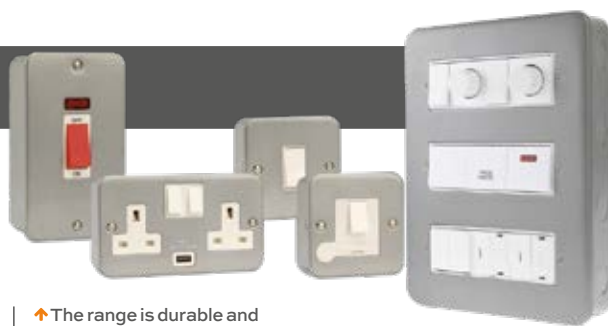
safety shutter switched socket outlet with outboard rockers (twin earth).

All switch products are of modular construction, allowing the installer total freedom in designing customised switching solutions

according to on-site needs. Unfurnished plates and mounting boxes are available for use in conjunction with Click's extensive range of minigrid and new media modules.

All Metal Clad socket outlets and spurs are tested and approved to BS 1363.

☛ The full Metal Clad range can be viewed on the Scolmore Group website – visit www.scolmore.com – as well as on the Scolmore Group app.





↑ The new thermostat is energy efficient

THERMOSTAT PUTS YOU IN CONTROL

With energy efficiency top of the agenda for homeowners and businesses, Sangamo is pleased to announce the launch of its new three-channel programmable thermostat with RF and Wi-Fi.

It provides the means to operate and control separate heating zones in a residential property and, in doing so, increase efficiency and reduce energy use and utility costs.

The new Sangamo Thermostat Kit is suitable for properties with two-zoned heating systems and is designed to help installers comply with the requirements of Part L Building Regulations, where two-zone heating is stipulated. The kit comprises two RF programmable room thermostats to control heating over two zones and hot water programming, and one receiver with three independent channels – two for heating and one for hot water. The system can be controlled via the ClickSmart+ app.

Thermostats can be wall mounted and are supplied with a wall-fixing mount.

→ Find out more at www.sangamo.co.uk and www.espuk.com

Fergus is the name your business can trust

FERGUS helps electricians streamline their business operations by managing jobs, scheduling appointments and handling invoicing the easy way.

The software is tailored to meet the unique needs of tradespeople, providing features such as job tracking, real-time notifications and detailed reporting.

By using Fergus, you can save time on administrative tasks and focus more on delivering quality service to your clients. The platform also includes a mobile app, allowing users to manage their business on the go.

Fergus is committed to supporting the trades industry by offering tools that enhance productivity and efficiency. Their user-friendly interface

and robust features make it an essential tool for any tradesperson looking to grow their business.

Here's what their customers had to say:

"The beauty of Fergus is that before a job even starts, we know how much money we're going to make on it - it puts us in a position where we always win." – **Allied Plumbing and Heating.**

"For us, it's cut admin time by half – that's worth it just on its own!" – **John Marchant Electrical.**

"I've gone from spending 16 hours a week on admin to just an hour a night. The time it's saved me is just brilliant." – **Paul Rymer, Cosy Home Services.**

→ For more information about Fergus and how it can benefit your business, visit www.fergus.com/partners/select



→ The software will help your business to run smoothly

LIGHTING IS A BRIGHT IDEA FOR THE OUTDOORS

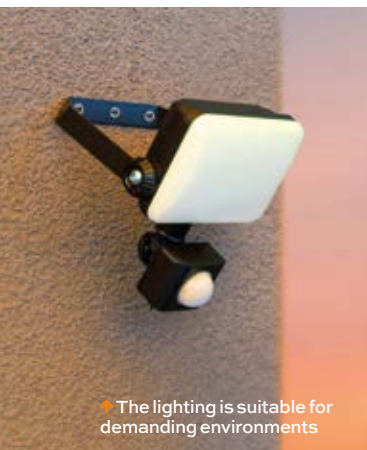
A new addition to Ovia's extensive lighting portfolio is the Sentro – a range of IP65-rated Frameless LED Floodlights designed to thrive in the most demanding environments. With its frameless design allowing edge to edge lighting, the Sentro offers a stylish and contemporary lighting choice.

An ideal solution for lighting large outdoor areas, these versatile luminaires are supplied in a black finish as standard and they are available in a variety of wattages – 10W, 20W, 30W and 50W – in standard or PIR variants. A choice of warm white or cool white colour temperature options is also available with all wattages.

Sentro is the first frameless IP65 rated floodlight that offers a PIR version. The PIR version has a 120-degree PIR detection

angle and an 8m detection range and features an override function. The luminaires are supplied pre-fitted with one metre of cable and come with an adjustable and angled bracket for installer convenience. A three-year warranty is offered.

→ A brochure featuring the new Sentro Floodlight Range can be viewed on the Ovia website – www.oviauk.com – and on the Scolmore Group app. It is also featured in the new Issue 5 Ovia Catalogue.



→ The lighting is suitable for demanding environments

CLAMP METER IS A QUALITY BUY

The Sonel range of test equipment available from Power Quality Expert now includes the new Sonel CMP-100 current clamp.

This new clamp meter is able to measure very low currents, making it suitable for earth leakage

measurements and for assessments of neutral current diversion.

The measurement resolution of 1µA means the meter has a very high sensitivity and accuracy.

A low-pass filter minimises signals with higher frequencies that may impact on the

measurement result to achieve a higher accuracy measurement.

The clamp meter has a compact design suitable for the toughest conditions with a rubber housing to protect the meter against accidental damage. When working

in low light areas or dark workplaces, the Sonel CMP-100 has a built in flashlight. Combined with a clamp designed to aid easier access in hard to reach and tight places, it makes this an ideal clamp meter for the electrical contractor's toolkit.

➔ Find out more at www.powerqualityexpert.com

➔ The clamp meter is made for the toughest conditions



➔ Hispec is extending its reach across the country



Fire safety upgrade in social housing sector

HISPEC has stood as a figure of reliability in the UK wholesale market since 2002, offering fire safety, emergency lighting, air quality and lighting products.

It is now extending its reach into the UK social housing sector, with a vision of ensuring that every resident experiences the highest standards of safety, comfort and wellbeing.

A recent collaboration with LIVV Housing resulted in the upgrade of fire safety equipment across its portfolio of 13,500 homes, saving more than £1 million.

LIVV's installers said they found the products easier to programme and link together, with its Electrical Contract Manager saying: "Without hesitation, I would fully recommend

any business to move across to Hispec and reap the rewards.

"Along with the confidence that all detection is accredited by the British Standards Institution, Hispec is also a member of the Fire Industry Association. This gives us confidence that Hispec cares about the products it provides and isn't just about supplying cheap products for quick wins."

Hispec believes in the transformative power of safer, more energy-efficient and aesthetically pleasing homes and is committed to making this vision a reality.

Together with its esteemed housing association partners, it's poised to revolutionise social housing, one project at a time.

➔ Find out more at www.hispec.co.uk

SLEEVING KEEPS YOUR WIRING SAFE

Unicrimp is extending its comprehensive range of Q-Crimp electrical sleeving solutions to include new black and grey PVC sleeving. Used to insulate and protect wiring, cable sleeving keeps the wire safe from abrasion and temperature damage and comes colour coded to make wiring identification easier.

The new additions to the range include:

- 100m x 2mm PVC sleeving – black
- 100m x 2mm PVC sleeving – grey
- 100m x 3mm PVC sleeving – black
- 100m x 3mm PVC sleeving – grey
- 100m x 4mm PVC sleeving – black
- 100m x 4mm PVC sleeving – grey

The Q-Crimp electrical sleeving range can be cut to size to suit the task at hand.

➔ More information can be found on the Unicrimp website – www.unicrimp.com

➔ The sleeving range is easy to adapt to the work you are doing



VISIT BUILDS CLOSE LINKS IN ORKNEY

Aico Relationship Manager Ryan Conway recently visited the Orkney Islands to deliver training to local electrical contractors and distributors, as well as a data review on Aico's Connected Home Solution with the Orkney Housing Association.

Working closely with the whole supply chain through face-to-face meetings in remote, rural areas is crucial for building stronger business relationships. These interactions foster trust and credibility, allowing for a deeper understanding of the local context and culture.

In-person visits also help to gain insights into Orkney's unique needs, values and challenges, leading to more a tailored and effective approach that will better resonate with local stakeholders.

Ryan said: "Travelling to remote locations helps to enhance collaboration and problem-solving, and shows Aico's commitment, dedication and respect for those communities. It conveys that the relationship is valued, which is impactful in building long-term partnerships."

"These meetings can open new opportunities for networking and community engagement, allowing the supply chain to attend training sessions and have further discussion on Aico's new technology and products."

"Visiting remote and rural areas is vital for building stronger professional relationships as they foster trust, offer cultural insights, enhance collaboration, demonstrate commitment and open networking opportunities. These benefits contribute to more robust and sustainable relationships with these communities."

➔ Read the full story at bit.ly/CT_AicoOrkney



↑ Ryan, left, meets the locals in Orkney



↑ The Q-Rad radiator is designed to deliver comfort

Radiator is sure to receive a warm welcome

THE attractive Q-Rad electric radiator from Dimplex is designed for the highest level of comfort and convenience, delivering natural heat efficiently to homes and businesses in an instant.

Q-Rad's dual element technology combines a convective element with a far infrared element, delivering a perfect blend of convective and radiant heat with a natural feel.

The slim design of Q-Rad complements the Quantum range of HHR storage heaters by Dimplex, making it ideal for refurbishment or social housing specification, ensuring a cohesive look with the benefits of improved energy performance. Flexible installation

options and lighter weight also make fitting of Q-Rad faster and more efficient.

Dubbed 'the electric radiator with a brain', Q-Rad is Lot 20 compliant and has a host of intelligent, energy-saving functions accessed via an intuitive backlit LCD display.

Q-Rad also has an integrated RF module and can be remotely controlled using the Dimplex Control smartphone app when purchased together with the Dimplex Control Hub, giving users command of all supported Dimplex products any time, anywhere.

Unlike most electric radiators, Q-Rad is BEAB-approved, which is the UK's highest safety standard, and is designed to be robust, reliable and maintenance-free.

➔ Find out more at bit.ly/CT_dimplex

Firm delivers charity cash gift

Thorn and Zumtobel, part of the Zumtobel Group, have raised £9,824 for the Electrical Industries Charity (EIC) during the financial year 2023/24.

The funds were raised through various internal initiatives, reflecting the company's commitment to supporting its wider community.

Paul Kilburn, Managing Director

UK and Ireland at the Zumtobel Group, said: "The EIC often stands as an unsung hero behind the scenes in the electrical industry, offering invaluable support and assistance to those in need."

"Our team has come together to contribute to this noble cause, recognising the crucial role EIC plays in the lives of many. The compassion

and dedication of the EIC team are truly inspiring, and we are honoured to support their mission."

Kate Adamczyk, EIC Director of Marketing and Business Development, added: "We are incredibly grateful to the Zumtobel Group for their remarkable fundraising efforts and unwavering support. The £9,824 raised will make a significant difference in

Four ways to better manage material ordering on electrical projects

MANAGING material ordering efficiently is crucial for the success of electrical projects. Here, LiveCosts outlines four strategies to improve the process.

By adopting these strategies, electrical contractors can

improve their material ordering process, leading to more efficient project execution, reduced costs and higher profitability.

➔ For more detailed insights, read the full blog at bit.ly/CT_livecosts



PLAN AND FORECAST ACCURATELY

Begin with precise planning and forecasting of material requirements. Use historical data and project specifications to anticipate the materials needed. This proactive approach helps avoid last-minute purchases and ensures that all necessary materials are available when required, reducing project delays and cost overruns.

STREAMLINE SUPPLIER RELATIONSHIPS

Cultivate strong relationships with reliable suppliers. Establishing trust and good communication channels with suppliers can lead to better terms, timely deliveries and priority during shortages.



USE TECHNOLOGY FOR MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Implement technology solutions such as a digital construction price catalogue that stores your most frequently ordered materials and their various prices over time and keeps a real-time live record of your suppliers and their materials prices. Using technology allows you to have pricing catalogues, auto-updates on supplier prices, project-specific pricing ensuring efficiency and accuracy on your material ordering.

IMPLEMENT A CENTRALISED ORDERING SYSTEM

Use a centralised system for ordering materials to enhance coordination among project teams. This system can help standardise the ordering process, reduce errors, and ensure that all orders are approved and tracked efficiently. It also provides a clear audit trail for all transactions, aiding in better financial management and accountability.



the lives of many individuals within the electrical industry who rely on our assistance.

“The creativity and enthusiasm shown by the Zumtobel Group team through their various initiatives are truly praiseworthy. Their commitment to giving back to the community exemplifies the very best of corporate social responsibility.”

➔ To find out more, go to bit.ly/CT_thornzumtobel





↑ The KT5 has a host of handy features

TOOL IS PACKED FULL OF POSSIBILITIES

With a two-pole tester, clamp meter and voltage pen all in one, the KT5 from Kewtech is your go-to tool for all things voltage, continuity, current and resistance.

The KT5 boasts all modes of voltage detection including single-pole indication, two-pole indication for safe isolation, and non-contact voltage (NCV) indication.

The NCV feature even has three sensitivity levels giving you the ability to trace cables in some environments.

The open jaw clamp feature allows you to measure current up to 200A AC, crucially enabling you to detect potential voltage due to open PEN situations.

The KT5 hosts a range of other features including continuity and resistance with buzzer, phase rotation, diode and frequency and a bright pen torch for working in dark spaces, as well as a backlit display.

There is also a probe tip cover with nose to depress the earth pin in traditional UK BS1363 socket outlets.

➔ Find out more at www.kewtechcorp.com/products/kt5



Heating panels are efficient and effective



↓ The panels are easy to use and maintain

THE Electric Heating Company (EHC) has launched its new Aurora-IR range of highly efficient infrared heating panels.

Offering a comfortable environment at a lower temperature than traditional heating systems, these slimline heaters are designed to complement any environment and can be used in domestic and commercial settings.

Maintenance-free and manufactured from galvanised steel with a semi-smooth powder finish, they can be used as a spot heater for individual areas or as a complete heating system.

Aurora-IR is available in three sizes and outputs from 300-850W

and is suitable for wall or ceiling mounting, with the insulated rear panel maximising infrared emissions from the front.

It also offers thermal overload-protection, a 1m power cable and mounting heights for ceilings between 2.3m and 4m.

Aurora-IR is available through national and regional wholesalers, builders' merchants, resellers, online dealers and installers. EHC also offers a free heating design service for all its products.

➔ Find out more at www.electric-heatingcompany.co.uk

DAIKIN DELIVERS HEAT PUMP WIRING COURSE FOR SELECT MEMBERS

Working in partnership with SELECT and Aberdeen Training Centre, Daikin has launched the first Altherma 3 Product Wiring (DUK-H31) course in Scotland.

This one-day course was run over three dates exclusively for SELECT Members, and each of the sessions was fully booked.

A key element of the installation of a Daikin Altherma 3 Heat Pump

is the electrical connection, which means that a qualified electrician will need to attend the site.

For some time now, Daikin has been welcoming electricians to its standard installation courses. However, as only a small part of these courses is relevant to their important role, Daikin has now created a specific course just for them.

The new DUK-H31 focuses only on the electrical wiring aspects of Daikin Altherma 3 systems, specifically detailing the required electrical supplies and controller connections. It is aimed at qualified electricians who only need to work



Super Rod safe isolation survey needs YOU

Super Rod is running a new safe isolation survey to try to gauge whether safety has improved among electricians in the workplace.

Open to apprentices, installers, electricians and maintenance workers, the survey will only take a few minutes and is open until 31 August.

Everyone who completes it will be in with a chance to win a Klein Tools Tradesman Pro Tool Bag kit including tools and a Super Rod Mega Set worth over £500.

The new survey follows a previous poll in 2022 in which 2,044 professionals responded about safety procedures. The results will be published in September.

A Super Rod spokesperson said: "This is such an important issue so please take part to help raise awareness and prevent any potentially fatal incidents."

To take part in the survey, scan the QR code right or go to bit.ly/rod-survey



➔ For more information about Super Rod and its products, go to www.super-rod.co.uk

on the electrical aspect, not the hydraulic side.

The free course is offered at locations across the UK and Daikin plans to continue the partnership with SELECT and offer further dates at various locations across.

This course does not replace the electrical qualifications recognised by the industry regulatory bodies in the UK for electrical installation, testing and inspection.

➔ The DUK-H31 course is available to book now via the Daikin training portal at www.daikintraining.co.uk

➔ The free course can be taken at sites across the country



UPDATED BS 7671 COURSES AVAILABLE



All training modules now revised in line with Amendment 2 of the IET Wiring Regulations

- REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS (218)
- INSPECTION AND TESTING, INCLUDING PERIODIC INSPECTION (214)
- INITIAL VERIFICATION (209)

TO BOOK, CALL
➤ **0131 445 5577**
www.select.org.uk



Excellence in Skills



FIVE MINUTES WITH... CATHERINE GILLON

SELECT DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT
AFFAIRS AND SECRETARY OF THE SJIB

HELLO CATHERINE. CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR CAREER TO DATE AND YOUR JOURNEY TO THE WALLED GARDEN?

With almost 30 years of experience in human resources (HR), I've honed my expertise across multiple industries, including house building, healthcare, finance and the nuclear power sector. This extensive background has provided me with a robust understanding of industry-specific challenges and the ability to implement effective HR strategies tailored to each unique environment. I'm passionate about driving positive organisational change and supporting workforce development to achieve both employee satisfaction and business success.

WHAT WILL YOUR NEW ROLE ENTAIL?

It will encompass delivering expert employment guidance to Members and shaping industry policies as well as managing SJIB's tasks and liaising with trade unions. I will also provide HR support to the management team as well as contributing to strategic planning and upholding SELECT's values and customer service principles.

HOW DO YOU SEE TODAY'S EMPLOYMENT LANDSCAPE AND CHALLENGES?

Technological advancements, such as automation and artificial intelligence, are transforming industries and requiring workers to adapt. Demographic shifts, including the retirement of the baby boomer generation, are creating opportunities for younger generations. And environmental concerns and the demand for sustainable practises are generating new job opportunities in the renewable energy and green sectors.

HOW CAN SELECT HELP CONTRACTORS OVERCOME THESE CHALLENGES?

We can help our Members

by providing up-to-date training and certification, facilitating networking opportunities and advocating for favourable industry policies. Also by offering essential resources and tools, professional development programs and conflict resolution services. Additionally, SELECT can provide market insights and promote high ethical standards, all of which support our Members in navigating industry changes and enhancing their success.

ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING SELECT MEMBERS?

Absolutely and it will be a key focus for me in my first few months to meet as many as possible.

AND FINALLY...WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE ROLE?

Meeting everyone and making a difference! It may be a cliché but it's still true. ■

Quickfire questions:

Cheese or chocolate?

Chocolate – Cadbury's Caramel specifically

Dog or cat person? Dog.

I have a French bulldog and two new Chihuahua puppies

First car owned?

Vauxhall Nova

Favourite film? *The Shawshank Redemption*

and *Escape to Victory*

Favourite TV show? *Prison Break*

Favourite holiday spot? New York

Dream date? Night in, fire and good film – the simple things

Favourite colour? Green

One thing people might not know about you? Before getting into HR I wanted to work in forensics



Your Branch Officers:

ABERDEEN & NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND

STEWART
ANDERSON, Chair
ERIC RAE, Vice-Chair
ALICK J SMITH,
3rd Representative

AYRSHIRE

CHIC DOBBIE, Chair
JIM COOPER,
Vice-Chair

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

GORDON
PATERSON, Chair
JOHN WILSON,
Vice-Chair

EDINBURGH & SOUTH EAST OF SCOTLAND

GRAEME
ANDERSON, Chair
PAUL ERASMUSON,
Vice-Chair
ALASDAIR NOBLE,
3rd Representative

GLASGOW & WEST OF SCOTLAND

DAVID HARRIS, Chair
SEAN HARKIN,
Vice-Chair
ALAN WATT,
3rd Representative

INVERNESS & NORTH OF SCOTLAND

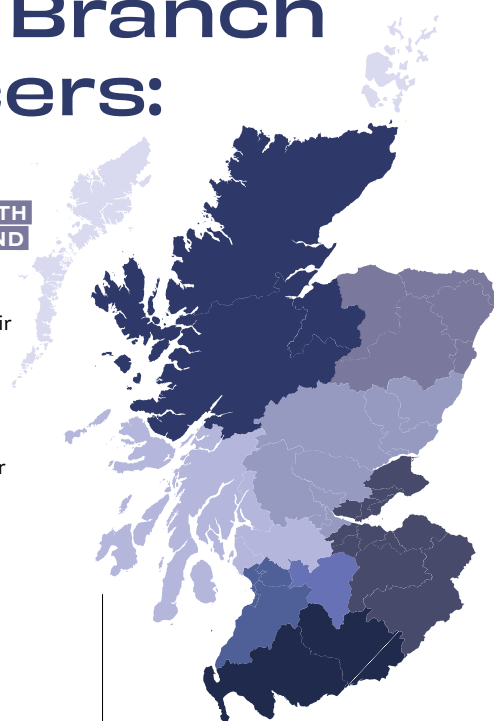
MIKE CAMPBELL, Chair
ALISTAIR GRANT,
Vice-Chair

LANARKSHIRE

CRAIG MCGOWAN, Chair
CHRIS LIDDELL,
Vice-Chair

TAYSIDE

TONY HARVEY, Chair
KEITH SMITH, Vice-Chair
GRAHAM LYALL,
3rd Representative



**SELECT
Events
2024:**

Catch up with
colleagues at
Branch Updates,
Toolbox Talks and
our other events.

CENTRAL BOARD

Thu 5 September – online

Thu 5 December – venue TBC



Updates start at 6pm.
All venues to be confirmed.
Check SELECT website for
further details.

Tue 1 October –
Dumfries & Galloway

Competition

Authors wordsearch

WIN
£50 OF
amazon
VOUCHERS

Keep up
to date
with **SELECT**

Follow SELECT online at:



@Updates_SELECT
@Training_SELECT
@Regulate_SELECT



Facebook
SELECT.TheECAofS



Instagram
@SELECT_Trade_Association



Visit our websites at:

select.org.uk
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selectawards.co.uk

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| X | F | D | A | N | I | E | L | L | E | S | T | E | E | L | Y | B | Z | P | L |
| C | J | N | J | K | R | O | W | L | I | N | G | O | N | C | E | P | A | R | P |
| B | E | A | N | F | Z | I | W | N | B | P | C | Y | O | A | X | T | J | I | M |
| J | F | S | O | D | D | H | F | E | O | Q | Q | N | T | J | R | A | G | C | A |
| R | F | K | T | Y | M | W | X | Y | Z | B | E | R | H | I | C | L | T | C | R |
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Agatha Christie
Beatrix Potter
C S Lewis
Dan Brown
Danielle Steel
David Baldacci
Dean Koontz
E L James
Enid Blyton
J K Rowling
J R R Tolkien
Jackie Collins
James
Patterson
Jeffrey Archer
John Grisham
Lewis Carroll
Linwood
Barclay
Margaret
Atwood
Michael
Crichton
Patricia
Cornwell
Stephen King

Here's your chance to win £50 of Amazon vouchers by completing our prize wordsearch with an authors theme.

Find the hidden words then take a photo of your completed puzzle and email it to **memberservices@select.org.uk** by 6 September. The winner will be drawn at random. Ts&Cs are online. Congratulations to June/July 2024 winner **Linda Sykes** from **D Sykes Electrical Contractors Limited**.

JUNE/JULY 2024 ANSWERS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | N | A | B | H | Y | X | K | Q | X | M | X | M | Z | E | X | Y | B | L |
| B | M | D | S | E | S | S | A | L | G | N | U | S | T | R | O | H | S | L |
| S | L | T | R | V | R | Z | F | H | S | H | Z | P | K | W | F | O | P | O |
| L | K | L | K | L | I | U | U | C | K | M | I | Z | J | A | T | O | R | O |
| A | M | G | R | Z | X | H | H | A | M | O | R | Z | O | X | L | C | E | P |
| D | O | U | L | I | G | R | I | E | H | L | K | Y | Y | N | H | D | T | B |
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| A | I | A | Z | F | L | R | F | E | S | T | I | V | A | L | S | R | R | M |
| S | D | R | J | G | G | T | D | J | X | J | J | C | E | C | L | C | S | V |
| P | A | M | A | E | R | C | E | C | I | C | O | Z | Y | W | S | H | A | Y |
| O | Y | N | C | I | N | C | I | P | H | L | H | K | N | F | X | E | N | Y |
| S | G | H | Z | Z | K | H | C | D | S | O | S | H | Q | L | N | A | D | D |
| U | M | H | J | P | W | X | A | G | E | S | U | W | W | I | L | T | C | Z |
| N | L | I | N | I | K | I | B | M | R | A | N | X | C | P | N | D | A | W |
| S | F | B | D | O | T | L | P | D | K | R | C | T | U | F | M | V | S | E |
| H | T | O | P | V | V | E | B | P | O | A | R | Y | K | L | Z | G | T | S |
| I | S | L | R | O | A | D | T | R | I | P | E | Y | D | D | O | U | Y | L |
| N | P | L | G | G | D | U | L | G | R | M | A | S | N | P | X | F | E | P |
| E | T | W | Q | L | J | V | N | I | R | M | X | K | S | Y | T | S | E | |

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Tue 15 October – Ayrshire
Thu 17 October – Aberdeen & North East of Scotland
Tue 22 October – Tayside
Thu 24 October – Glasgow & West of Scotland
Wed 30 October – Inverness & North of Scotland



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