



The Electrical Safety Council
Review of the Year - Annual Report 2007/08

www.esc.org.uk



Vision & Mission

For any organisation to be effective it is important for it to map out its key priorities. The Electrical Safety Council is no exception and if it is to live its Vision and succeed in delivering the Mission then it must set out its key objectives.

THE VISION

To be the most influential and respected body in the UK on electrical safety issues for both the consumer and industry.

THE MISSION

Our role is to work in partnership with others to help reduce the number of electrical related accidents, injuries and deaths in the UK by:

- raising awareness of electrical safety issues;
- supporting the development, implementation and dissemination of electrical standards and information; and
- operating as an ethical, impartial and independent organisation with best practice governance and management.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Helping consumers to use electricity safely

We are committed to increase consumer awareness of the dangers associated with the use of electrical installations and electrical products.

Working in partnership with other like minded organisations to facilitate the efficient and effective co-ordination of activities to support the safe use of electricity

To achieve the Vision we need to be able to draw on the support of other bodies and stakeholders as new initiatives are developed.

Ensuring that electrical technical standards reflect consumer interests and are disseminated effectively

It is important that we demonstrate our independence and impartiality so that we gain the trust of stakeholders and are able to demonstrate that we are the centre of excellence on all matters relating to the safety of low voltage electrical installations and electrical equipment on behalf of users of electricity.

Raising the profile and influence of The Electrical Safety Council amongst key stakeholders

We will do this by developing appropriate initiatives that will raise awareness of our activities and values.

To secure sufficient funding to support our strategy

To enable us to be able to fulfil our current and future obligations set down within our five year plan it is essential that appropriate funding is generated.

Reviewing our governance to ensure that it is appropriate to our role, priorities and charitable status

It is important for us to be well governed and demonstrate that The Electrical Safety Council meets the seven principles contained in the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) guide to good governance.



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Introduction

The Electrical Safety Council is an independent Charity committed to reducing deaths and injuries through electrical accidents and injuries.

We are supported by all sectors of the electrical industry as well as local and central government and work to promote safety and good practice.

PHILOSOPHY

Our on-going research points to a lack of awareness of electrical safety issues among the public. A third (33%) of householders have never had their electrics checked and almost a quarter (24%) do not know how old their wiring is.

The UK has a fairly good record of electrical safety. However, there are over 30 deaths and nearly 4,000 injuries from accidents in the home caused by electricity each year. There are also nearly 8,000 electrical fires in homes across the UK each year.

Although many incidents are caused by faulty appliances rather than the electrical installation itself, a properly-installed and well-maintained installation could save lives.

So, it is important that electrical installation work is carried out only by people who are competent. This means people who have the knowledge, skill and experience needed to avoid danger to themselves and others that electricity can create. It's easy to make an electrical circuit work - it's far harder to make the circuit work safely – an essential requirement in case there is a fault.

Safety in the home is extremely important and we strongly recommend that consumers have their electrical installation checked regularly, at least every 10 years, and to always use an electrician registered with one of the government-approved schemes to carry out any electrical installation work that needs doing.



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APPROACHES TO OUR WORK

Through our activities and partnerships, we aim to ensure that consumers' needs are recognised and issues of electrical safety are given the right priority.

This is achieved by:

- raising consumer awareness of the issues and risks to promote changes in behaviour;
- influencing other stakeholders to consider consumer needs;
- campaigning in areas of risk; and
- promoting best practice across industry.



33%

of householders have never had their electrics checked

24%

of householders do not know how old their wiring is.

Chairman's Welcome

I am delighted to report in my first year as Chairman on the continuing success of The Electrical Safety Council.

This year The Electrical Safety Council has increased its efforts to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of electrical safety to all users of electricity. Our work has been helped by the performance of our trading subsidiary, NICEIC Group Ltd, which achieved excellent financial results for 2007/08. The surplus from NICEIC's activities is Gift Aided to the Charity and this has enabled us to expand our work within both the domestic and electrical contracting markets.

During the year, we have extended our influence by demonstrating that we are an open, honest and independent organisation that is easy to deal with. We pride ourselves on our work with all of our stakeholders and in particular our support of the electrical installation industry, which has resulted in initiatives such as the Open Forum that has directly benefited electricians.



We have increased our public profile in the media, and this has in turn led to a significant increase in the number of visits to our 'Switched on Kids' website and to our main website.



We have continued to reinforce our established links within Whitehall and Westminster, working closely with officials and politicians from across all parties. I would particularly like to thank Andrew Selous, the Conservative spokesman on health and safety and the constituency MP in which our registered office is located, for his continued support.

Our efforts to raise awareness of the importance of electrical safety in the home and at work have been enhanced through the creativity and commitment of the people that we employ in the Charity. Through their work we have increased our public profile in the media, and this has in turn led to a significant increase in the number of visits to our 'Switched on Kids' website and to our main website. During the year a plan was approved to launch a national advertising campaign to help reinforce our safety message and this will be appearing on TV and in newspapers and magazines over the coming months.





During the past year we entered into discussions with The CORGI Trust on the possibility of combining these two safety bodies. The Trustees' aim is to ensure that the outcome of any combination with any other organisation is that the combined organisation will be greater than the sum of its parts.

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A milestone in the development of the people we employ was the achievement of the Investors in People Award. This was awarded after six months of hard work by all of those involved with the Charity, which was a fantastic achievement and reflects the dedication and commitment of those who ensure that our Vision and Mission is achieved.

The NICEIC Group has seen some changes, including the appointment of a Chief Operating Officer, which have been implemented to ensure that it continues to provide excellent service to its customers and, of course, the financial support that will allow The Electrical Safety Council to develop new and existing campaigns.

With the momentum that is being generated by the work of The Electrical Safety Council, I am confident that it will be firmly established as the centre of excellence on all matters concerning the electrical safety of installations, products and equipment and that crucially we shall see a resultant reduction in the number of electrical accidents and fatalities.

David Dossett
Chairman
The Electrical Safety Council



Director General's Review

I am pleased to say that this has been a tremendous year of success for The Electrical Safety Council with the work that it has undertaken to further enhance its reputation as an independent third sector organisation of note.


The development of our five year plan, which was approved by the Trustees in October 2007, informs and conditions the development and delivery of our campaigns to consumers on the safety of electrical installations, equipment and products.

A significant milestone for The Electrical Safety Council was the launch of our children's website 'Switched On Kids'. The site, in a fun and interactive way, gives children the opportunity to learn about electricity, its benefits and its dangers if misused.

Packed with useful information, the 'Switched On Kids' website has been developed to help teachers deliver those parts of the National Curriculum for primary age school children that cover electricity. In addition an educational fun pack has been developed and 60,000 of these have been distributed to primary schools across the UK.

Another of our campaigns was to support people who depend on electric blankets as a vital source of warmth during the cold winter months. It is often the elderly who use these, but, whilst they can be invaluable in providing a low cost means of heating, one in ten deaths from fires in homes have been attributed to faulty blankets. Working in partnership with Age Concern we provided funding for the testing of electric blankets at 16 sites across the UK during October. Of the blankets tested, a worrying 70% failed and we replaced all 1,300 of these free of charge.

The Electrical Safety Council has increased its influence in the field of product safety and the latter part of the year saw the start of a new collaboration with stakeholders through the forming of the Electrical Safety of Products Committee. Its membership includes institutions and trade associations, its purpose being to support and guide us in the work we do to ensure our activities in this field remain appropriate and relevant.

 A significant milestone for the Charity was the launch of our children's website 'Switched On Kids'.



60,000 +

School Packs

Distributed to primary schools across the UK as part of the 'Switched On Kids' campaign.



We also presented during the year the results of an important piece of work on the in-service reliability of RCDs. The research showed that this additional means of protection for users of electricity is over 96% reliable. An interesting finding was that RCDs are often installed without due regard to the environment in which they operate, follow up research will now be undertaken to enable guidance on installation to be provided to electricians.

ON ON
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The 17th Edition of the Wiring Regulations (BS 7671) was published in January 2008, which resulted in a significant amount of work, over quite a short period, to ensure our Technical Manual and other publications were brought up to date.

As with all things, the new 17th Edition has prompted questions from electricians, so, as an independent and impartial organisation, we have formed an industry forum, which comes together from time to time, to agree on answers to frequently asked questions, which are then published on our website.

Our magazine, Switched On, now has a circulation of 120,000 and we see this as a vital instrument in communicating with the electrical industry and other stakeholders.

Jim Speirs
Director General
 The Electrical Safety Council

Whilst we have had great success with our campaigns, we continue to strive to further raise the awareness of all users of electricity on electrical safety issues. We do this in a number of ways, including PR, advertising and involvement in events and exhibitions. Through our PR activities alone, we have reached over 17.5 million people and our efforts will continue to make sure we keep electrical safety on everyone's agenda.

Our support to the electrical industry has been coordinated by our Technical Division, which, amongst other things, has been working with other key bodies in the industry on the development of a series of Best Practice Guides. These Guides are freely available from our website and over 10,000 were downloaded during the course of the year.

17.5 million
 people reached
 in 2007/08

keeping electrical safety on
 everyone's agenda.

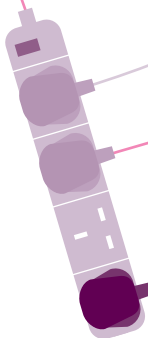
Review of the Year

Over the past year we have continued to develop and expand our activities to support our Mission, which is to work in partnership with others to help reduce the number of electrical accidents and injuries in the UK. We have undertaken a number of new initiatives in support of our work and also set up a dedicated helpline where consumers can email or telephone us regarding their concerns about electrical safety issues.

CAMPAIGN TEAM

The work of the Campaign Team can generally be attributed to one of the following strategic priorities:

- » helping consumers to use electricity safely;
- » working in partnership with other organisations to effectively co-ordinate activities in support of the safe use of electricity; and
- » raising the profile and influence of The Electricity Safety Council amongst key stakeholders.





The campaigns and their main achievements in 2007/8 were:

Fire & Accident Prevention

Aim:
To reduce the number of fires/accidents in domestic premises having an electrical origin.

Achievements:
In conjunction with the Chief Fire Officers' Association, produced and distributed 50,000 leaflets advising consumers on steps to take with their electrical installation following damage by a flood.

In conjunction with Age Concern, supported a campaign to test the safety of around 1,800 electric blankets and replace any that were found to be below the standard required.

Schools Awareness

Aim:
To reduce the risk to children of hazards associated with electricity, and to raise the profile and awareness in schools of electrical safety.

Achievements:
Developed a new website specifically for children to educate them on the dangers of electricity in the home.

Working in collaboration with the Child Accident Prevention Trust, supported the national Child Safety Week.

Developed and distributed an Educational Fun Pack to every primary school and education authority in the UK.

RCD Awareness and Promotion

Aim:
To conduct research into the in-service reliability of fixed RCDs used for supplementary protection against electric shock in domestic premises, and making appropriate recommendations. Promotion of the safety provided by RCDs in domestic premises.

Achievements:
Completed research into the in-service reliability of fixed RCDs.

Distributed around 2,000 plug-in RCDs to members of the public at exhibitions and events.



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Product Safety

Aim:
To develop product safety strategies, carry out investigations and run consumer awareness campaigns specifically designed to make those using electrical products more aware of the possible risks.

Achievements:
Tested a number of different electrical products, including travel adaptors and festive lights.

Produced a consumer leaflet on using electricity safely whilst abroad.

1 million  leaflets distributed

We have distributed 50,000 leaflets advising consumers on steps to take with their electrical installation following damage by a flood.



Awarded nearly £40,000 worth of grant work to help improve the safety of electrical installation in people's homes.



Consumer Awareness & Communications

Aim:

To raise consumer awareness of electrical safety issues, including the related legal requirements

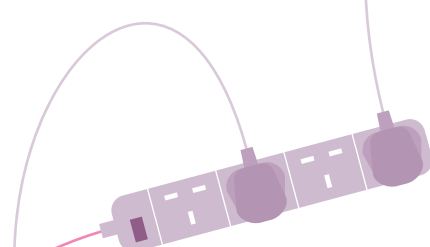
Achievements:

Produced, in collaboration with the Institution of Engineering and Technology, a guide for use by consumers ordering domestic electrical installation work.

Extended and developed The Electrical Safety Council's website resulting in year on year increase of visitors in the order of 500%.

Achieved the Crystal Mark from the Plain English Campaign for seven consumer safety leaflets.

Distributed over 1 million consumer leaflets.



Grants

Aim:

To award improvement grants to homeowners who for one reason or another cannot afford to restore the electrical installation in their home to a safe condition.

Achievements:

Working with the Department of Work and Pensions and the Electrical and Electronics Industries Benevolent Association, completed a pilot scheme and awarded nearly £40,000 worth of grant work to help improve the safety of electrical installations in people's homes.



Events and Sponsorship

Our participation in a number of events and exhibitions this year has enabled us to raise awareness of electrical safety and answer questions and discuss issues of concern with both consumers and industry representatives. These occasions provided the opportunity to make new contacts with stakeholder organisations including government departments and industry leaders. This enabled us to share our aims and objectives and seek ways that we can work in partnership with others.

In addition, we also provided sponsorship and literature to a wide variety of exhibitions and conferences throughout the year. In doing so we were able to give support to other organisations with whom we share a common goal, and raise awareness and knowledge of electrical safety issues.

All of our events are designed to support the objective of raising awareness across the UK with a view to reducing deaths and injuries through electrically related causes.

Research of MPs

This year we repeated our research of Members of Parliament. The results show that there has been a sizeable improvement in their knowledge of The Electrical Safety Council. Over 4 out of every 10 MPs correctly believe that we are an independent charity, up from 1 in 10 last year. The survey also shows a greater proportion of MPs (73%) are aware that our remit is to improve consumers' electrical safety compared with last year (28%). With regard to electrical safety in the home, MPs also ranked electrical risks higher than last year putting it on a par with carbon monoxide

poisoning. And over 40% agreed that they would ask an electrical contractor whether they were registered with a government-approved scheme before using them to carry out electrical work on their homes.

In conclusion, the research showed that efforts to raise our profile and the importance of electrical safety in Westminster has been successful and will be continued in 2008/9.



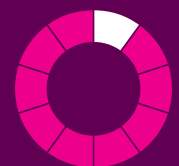
Number of MPs

recognising The Electrical Safety Council as an independent charity

4 in 10
in 2008



1 in 10
in 2007





Their progress and achievements for 2007/8 were:

TECHNICAL DIVISION

The work of the Technical Division can generally be attributed to one of the following strategic priorities:

» working in partnership with other like minded organisations to facilitate the efficient and effective co-ordination of activities to support the safe use of electricity;

» ensuring that electrical technical standards reflect consumer interests and are disseminated effectively; and

» raising the profile and influence of The Electrical Safety Council amongst key stakeholders.

Approved Contractor Scheme

There were no changes to the Rules Relating to Enrolment for the Approved Contractor Scheme, which continues to be operated by NICEIC Group Ltd under licence from The Electrical Safety Council.

We have continued to be represented on the NICEIC Electrical Contracting Certification Council and its sub-committee, the NICEIC Enrolment Committee, which monitor the performance of the Approved Contractor Scheme.

The regularly updated and searchable online version of the Roll of Approved Contractors, available on the NICEIC website www.niceic.com, is now the primary source of reference for those seeking the services of competent electrical contractors.



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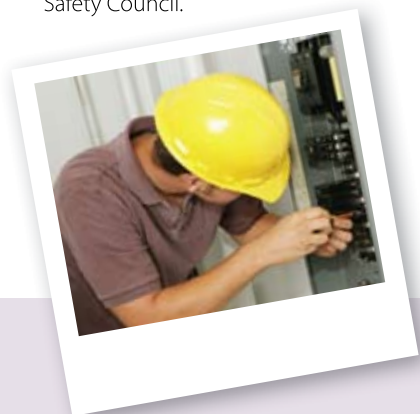


Technical Committee

The Technical Committee, which reports to the Electrical Safety Board, continued to meet at quarterly intervals. Its purpose is to be an impartial centre of technical excellence on all matters relating to the safety of low voltage electrical installations and electrical equipment on behalf of users of electricity.

The committee's primary responsibilities include:

- identifying and promoting best practice in the industry on behalf of users;
- representing the interests of users on relevant national and international committees, and seeking to maintain or, as appropriate, enhance, relevant technical standards;
- acting as a 'unifying body' in the industry and to seek strategic alliances with other professional and trade bodies in the UK and elsewhere to support the achievement of its aims;
- publishing impartial technical information and guidance for the general benefit of the electrical industry, users and others; and
- liaising with other bodies in furthering the aims and objectives of The Electrical Safety Council.



Standing Committee on Technical Matters

The Standing Committee on Technical Matters, a sub-committee of the Technical Committee, continued to meet quarterly to consider and advise on the technical content of articles drafted for the NICEIC 'Connections' magazine, and on other technical issues of significance.

Members of the committee were also invited to comment on draft topics destined for publication in the Technical Manual, and on other draft technical material prior to publication.



Electrical Safety of Products Committee

At the beginning of 2008 we established an 'Electrical Safety of Products Committee' as a sub-committee of the Technical Committee. Its purpose is to assist us in our efforts to improve the electrical safety of consumer products.

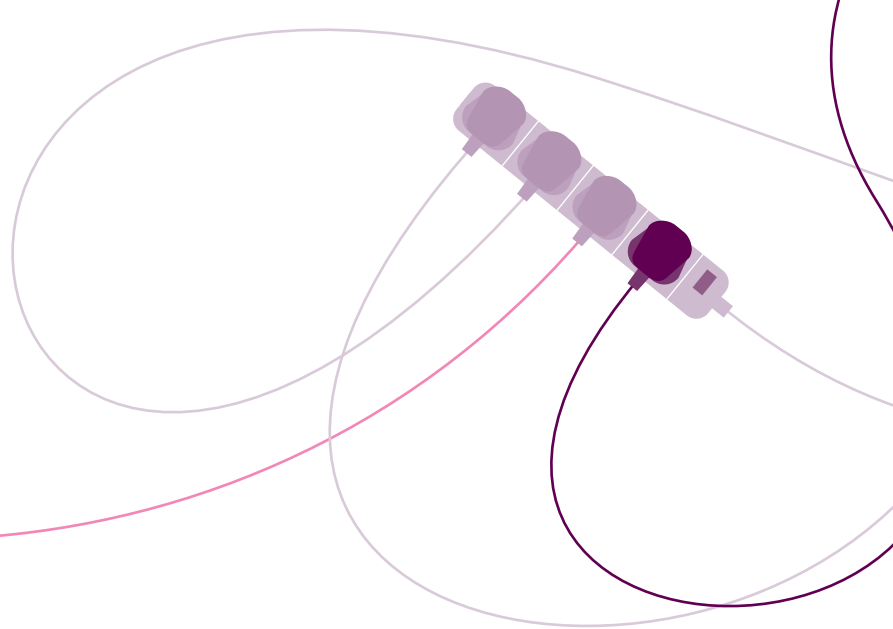
The committee consists of The Electrical Safety Council staff and co-opted members from industry representing a wide range of organisations, associations, institutions and regulatory bodies, all with an interest or involvement in product safety matters.

The committee will meet on a quarterly basis, mainly to:

- advise on electrical safety issues of significance to The Electrical Safety Council relating to consumer products that are intended to be connected to extra-low voltage or low voltage supplies; and
- consider and advise on draft material proposed for publication in our magazine, on our website and elsewhere.

Electrical Installation Forum

An Electrical Installation Forum, chaired by us, was established at the beginning of 2008 at the request of the ECA, SELECT and several of the Part P Competent Person Scheme operators. The forum discusses a wide range of technical questions relating to the application of the requirements of BS 7671, the agreed answers being published on The Electrical Safety Council's website for the benefit of all.



Shaping future technical standards

We continued to be represented on the Joint BSI/IEE Technical Committee (JPEL/64) responsible for the technical content of BS 7671 – Requirements for Electrical Installations, and its four permanent Panels. The British Standard (also known as the IEE Wiring Regulations) forms the basis of The Electrical Safety Council's technical standard.

During the year, the committee completed work on a new edition of BS 7671, which has been further harmonized with the equivalent international and European standards. The work culminated in the publication of BS 7671: 2008 (IEE Wiring Regulations 17th Edition) in January 2008.

JPEL/64 also participates in national, European and international standards work relating to electrical installations, and advises the British Electrotechnical Committee on such work.

We provided UK experts for a number of IEC Maintenance Teams (MT) which have responsibility for reviewing and, as necessary, updating, the requirements embodied in the international standard for the safety of electrical installations, IEC 60364.

These included MT1, which is responsible for the fundamental principles of electrical safety, MT2, which deals with current-carrying capacity and related overcurrent protection, and MT9, which deals with protection against electric shock.

We also provided UK experts for two CENELEC Working Groups (WG). These were WG205, which deals with current-carrying capacity and related overcurrent protection, and WG217,



40 new or updated topics were published during the year, bringing the total number of published topics to about 330



dealing with a technical report on the determination of the cross-sectional area required for conductors and the selection of protective devices.

We also continued to be represented on a number of other technical committees of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, the British Standards Institution and industry bodies.

We continued to be a member of the Management Committee for the Electrotechnical Assessment Scheme, an industry scheme for the assessment of the technical competence of electrical contractors. The technical criteria for the scheme formed the basis of the Competent Person Self-certification schemes established in support of the new Part P of the Building Regulations for England and Wales. Towards the end of the year, the committee commenced work on updating the main scheme documents, which might have an impact on the Rules Relating to Enrolment for the Approved Contractor Scheme.

Publication of technical information

Technical Manual

The Electrical Safety Council's Technical Manual is intended to provide an authoritative source of detailed advice and guidance on the application of the requirements of BS 7671 and related Codes of Practice.

It is distributed free of charge to all NICEIC registrants in the form of a compact disk. It is also made available to specifiers and others on a subscription basis, to help offset the cost of production.

40 new or updated topics were published during the year, bringing the total number of published topics to about 330.

During the year, an online version of the Manual was made accessible to NICEIC registrants via the secure area of the NICEIC website. The online version is expected to replace the compact disk version in due course.



Best Practice Guides

We continued to develop a series of 'Best Practice Guides' in association with leading industry bodies for the benefit of electrical contractors and installers, and their customers.

Contributing parties included the Health and Safety Executive, the electrical trade associations, the Institution of Engineering and Technology, NICEIC, CORGI, other Part P Competent Person Scheme operators and BEAMA.

Two new guides were published during the year, one on the subject of connecting microgeneration systems to domestic or similar electrical installations, and the other on the subject of recommendation codes for domestic and similar periodic inspection reports.

By the end of the year, the development of a fifth guide, concerning the impact of electrical installations on the fire integrity of domestic premises, was well advanced.

In electronic format, the Best Practice Guides are available free of charge to all interested parties. Copies can be downloaded from The Electrical Safety Council's website at www.esc.org.uk, and from those of the contributing bodies.



Switched On magazine

During the year, we continued to publish our own quarterly magazine, 'Switched On', containing news and information aimed at electrical contractors, specifiers, local authorities, housing associations, landlords and others having an interest in electrical safety.

Initially, the magazine was mainly distributed as an insert in NICEIC's 'Connections' magazine. However, with effect from the winter 2007/8 issue, the quarterly distribution of Switched On increased from 40,000 to 120,000 copies, the additional copies being distributed through electrical wholesalers as an insert in Professional Electrician magazine.

All the issues of Switched On can also be viewed on our website.

NICEIC Connections magazine

We continued to provide the technical articles for the NICEIC magazine, 'Connections', which is an effective means of providing technical information and guidance to contractors, designers and specifiers throughout the electrical installation industry.

About 30,000 copies of Connections are distributed free of charge to all NICEIC registrants every quarter, with another 6,000 copies going to local authorities, housing associations, colleges and other bodies having an interest in electrical safety matters.

NICEIC Pocket Guides

A series of 'pocket guides' continues to be produced by us for NICEIC-registered contractors and other interested parties.

Distributed quarterly with the Connections magazine, the guides are intended to be a convenient source of reference to some of the key electrical installation requirements of BS 7671 and associated documents. Four guides were issued during the year.

NICEIC Technical publications

We continued to provide support to NICEIC Group through the production and maintenance of a wide range of priced publications, including technical reference books and forms of certification and reporting.

New publications included a guide to domestic periodic inspection reporting, but most of the support during the year was focused on updating all the existing NICEIC publications to take account of the revision of BS 7671.

Switched On

National distribution has increased to:

120,000 ↑
in 2008, from

40,000
in 2007

Liaison with UK bodies

During the year, we continued to exchange observers with the ECA Electrotechnical Committee and the SELECT Technical Committee. Quarterly liaison meetings were also held with the Institution of Engineering and Technology and with NICEIC.

Towards the end of the year, we assisted the Health and Safety Executive with its asbestos awareness campaign by featuring the subject in Switched On magazine, and distributing 115,000 information packs as an insert.

The Electrical Safety Council accepted an invitation to provide an independent member to the NAPIT Technical Sub-committee, in order to help them satisfy UKAS stakeholder requirements. We also remained a member of the BASEC Certification Committee and continued to liaise with the Energy Networks Association concerning arrangements for effecting the temporary isolation of domestic installations by means of the distributors' service fuses.

International liaison

During the year, our staff met with representatives of like-minded bodies from Japan and China.

We continued to be an active member of FISUEL, the International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users, whose objective is to help less developed countries to improve their electrical safety standards.



An application has been made to become a registered Charity in Scotland.

Subject to a small change in the Articles and Memorandum, which will require members' consent we are hopeful that registration as a charity in Scotland will be achieved in the near future.

Looking Ahead

A decorative graphic in the top right corner of the page. It features a stylized power plug with three prongs, connected to a network of thin, overlapping lines in shades of purple and pink that swirl and loop across the upper portion of the page.

IN 2008/2009 WE PLAN TO:

» Host an International Product Safety Conference to raise the profile of our product safety activities in the UK, Europe and internationally.

» Focus on electrical safety issues in Scotland and Northern Ireland by having additional resources located in these areas of the UK.

» Develop and launch a website targeted at youths aged 12 and above.

» Develop and improve our website to make the information accessible to all and to be more interactive with visitors.

» Launch a campaign aimed at improving the general standard of domestic periodic inspection reporting in the UK.

» Continue to increase our profile within the main political arena to ensure electrical safety is given the right priority.

» Plan a nationwide programme of best practice seminars on 'Electrical installations and their impact on fire precautions in buildings'.

Trading Activities

NICEIC Group Limited is The Electrical Safety Council's main trading division. Its activities fund much of our charitable works. The Group's brands have had another successful year and have maintained a healthy rate of growth.

NICEIC, under licence from The Electrical Safety Council maintains and publishes a register of electrical contractors that it has assessed against the Approved Contractor Scheme requirements, including the technical standard of electrical work. It also operates other schemes to support Part P of the Building Regulations and TrustMark. NICEIC Area Engineers have visited in excess of 50,000 electrical installations in the past year.

ELECTROTECHNICAL DIVISION

Approved Contractor Scheme

The Approved Contractor Scheme has continued to grow over the last year. The total number of contractors on the roll rose to 14,809, an increase of 635 (5%) over the year. Applications (1,444) and enrolments (858) to the scheme continued at a steady rate.

The electrical contractors registered under the Approved Contractor Scheme continue to maintain high standards of work and of the 14,809 registered less than 1% of their customers felt need to complain.

NICEIC Approved Contractor Scheme and Hazardous Area extension continue to hold UKAS accreditation.

 NICEIC Area Engineers have visited in excess of 50,000 electrical installations in the past year. 

Domestic Installer Scheme (Part P Government-approved scheme)

The Domestic Installer Scheme has also seen further growth this year with the number of contractors registered rising to 9,670, an increase of 910 (10.4%) over the year. When the 12,955 Approved Contractors who have registered for Part P compliance with the NICEIC is added, this brings the total number registered to 22,625, up 1,403 (6.6%) on last year. During the year the NICEIC issued over 931,000 Building Control Certificates and Insurance Backed Warranty Certificates, on behalf of Domestic Installers.

The NICEIC Domestic Installer Scheme has this year been incorporated into the same accredited methodology previously adopted by the Approved Contractor Scheme.

TrustMark

NICEIC continues to be one of a limited number of scheme providers authorised to award TrustMark to electrical contractors. TrustMark is a scheme supported by the Government, the building industry and consumer groups to help consumers and specifiers find reliable and trustworthy trades people to make improvements and repairs to domestic properties. If a firm displays the TrustMark logo you can be assured that it has been checked against a set of standards set by the Government by a TrustMark approved body. Currently NICEIC has registered 1,772 contractors onto the scheme.

 5%

Growth in 2007/08

635 new contractors added to The Approved Contractor Scheme.

 10.4%

Growth in 2007/08

910 new contractors registered with The Domestic Installer Scheme



NICEIC Training had another successful year with over 2,300 individuals having participated on electrical training courses.



Extension to scope

NICEIC operates a national registration scheme for enterprises conducting Portable Appliance Testing (PAT). Currently there are 16 registered enterprises.

The NICEIC DPIP Scheme provides contractors that perform periodic inspection reporting in dwellings with independent recognition of their skills and to provide a definitive register of inspectors to householders, landlords and other specifiers. Currently there are 106 enterprises registered with this scheme.

Scottish Building Standards

NICEIC continues to be approved as a scheme provider of the Certification of Construction (Electrical Installations to BS 7671) Scheme. Currently there are 113 Approved Bodies and 115 Approved Certifiers of Construction registered with NICEIC.

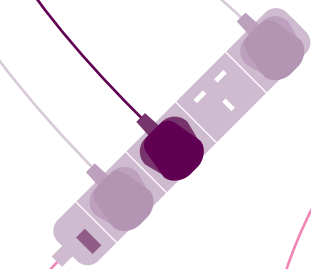
NICEIC Direct

NICEIC Direct allows registered contractors, specifiers and landlords to purchase certificates, DVDs, publications, labels and vehicle stickers and test equipment quickly and easily. They have recently launched a secure e-commerce shop www.niceicdirect.com where the full product range can be purchased and had an ongoing programme of new product launches throughout the year.

NICEIC Training

NICEIC Training had another successful year with over 2,300 individuals having participated on electrical training courses. Since the beginning of the year they have been working in partnership with City & Guilds to create new qualifications including for the 17th Edition of the Wiring Regulations.

An accurate, high quality and cost effective training and learning package has been developed for colleges to deliver 17th edition training. This was a great success with 170 colleges purchasing the training pack. Demand has also been extremely high for 17th edition public and in-house training courses.



NICEIC CERTIFICATION DIVISION

NICEIC Certification maintained its position as one of the UK's leading UKAS accredited personnel certification bodies. Over 19,000 certificates were issued in the year via its network of Approved Centres throughout the UK, covering various technical disciplines including Gas, Electrical, Water, Energy Efficiency & Oil Heating. This represents a 6% growth in certification activity over the previous year. The largest area of work continues to be Certificates of Competence for gas installers (ACS).

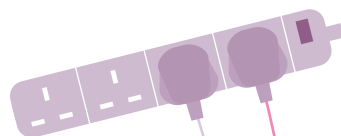
NICEIC Certification has in the past year been concentrating on developing a range of training and assessment packages relating to Environmental Technologies. The first of which, the installation of Solar Thermal technology, is now available in the approved centre network, with more technologies to be released in the coming year.

NICEIC Certification Training

NICEIC Certification Training, the training arm of NICEIC Certification, continued to focus on its traditional areas of training and assessment for operatives involved in the gas, oil heating, plumbing and H&V industry sectors within its centres in Luton and Chesterfield. In addition, to support the introduction of the 17th Edition, it started offering a range of City & Guilds electrotechnical qualifications.



Over 19,000 certificates were issued in the year via its network of Approved Centres throughout the UK.



NQA DIVISION

NQA continues to offer assessment verification and certification services to a wide range of products to diverse sectors. It continues to seek opportunities for expanding into new products, markets and sectors. NQA has had a successful year and is operating in a very competitive market place. With mature markets in some territories for quality management systems.

A very successful campaign was launched in the UK which reaped benefits and contracts in the area of environmental management systems. Healthy growth in Eastern Europe in management systems standards in environment and quality has also been recorded in the year. And the first food safety management systems audits were also conducted.

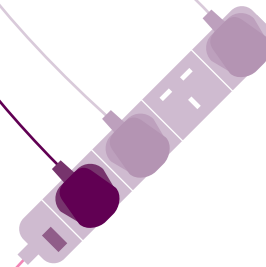
The joint venture in the USA, NQA Inc. enjoyed further success as a leading certification body in the aerospace sector in North America. SNQA, our joint venture in China, doubled its revenues year on year.

JPD Group Limited

JPD Group Limited delivered a wide variety of training courses to an extensive audience from a range of industries and sectors. The client base ranged from micro-organisations to multinationals, all of whom benefited from the range of courses on offer. JPD's core activity of delivery of training in management systems, supporting tools and managing people effectively progressed over the year with additional courses being developed in health and safety, carbon foot printing and sustainable development.



NQA has had a successful year and is operating in a very competitive market place. With mature markets in some territories for quality management systems.



Our People

Our people, stakeholders, and customers are at the heart of everything we do and that is why our focus has continued strongly on the coaching and development of our employees to deliver an outstanding service, across the whole Group.

Our Talent Development Programme was launched during 2007. Key employees with potential for growth were identified and assigned projects in order to help them gain skills and experience needed to succeed in future leadership roles.

We continue to recognise and reward those who perform well and add value to our organisation. The detail of our Performance Related Pay Scheme has been agreed and implemented for the 2007-8 Performance Development Review Cycle. Our pay structure has also been simplified so it is clear and understood by all.

Our headcount has increased gradually throughout the year and our time to fill vacancies has been greatly reduced. This is due to our improved recruitment policy and procedure, increased HR support, and new external recruitment literature style.

Many of our employment policies have been re-written to ensure they are fair, robust and easy to use. New policies have been added including Dignity at Work, which provides a mechanism for employees to handle and resolve situations where they may feel victimised.

Our improved absence management and capability policies together with a new Occupational Health Service (provided by AXA PPP) ensured that our absence levels were below the previous year and below the national average of 8.4 days per employee (Source: CIPD Survey 2007).

At the beginning of 2008 a major restructure occurred and several key roles were created including Chief Operating Officer, Change Director and Group Finance Director.

Recruiting internally into these senior high profile roles will strengthen and expand the Group's trading activities. This is essential for securing the on-going funding for The Electrical Safety Council.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

In January 2008, The Electrical Safety Council received recognition as an Investor in People which was a great achievement for the Charity.

The IiP Assessor commented 'Staff at all levels are very professional, highly motivated and committed to the work of the Council. Everyone interviewed spoke of their pride in the organisation and its achievements to date. The Charity's values have been well embedded into the day to day running of the organisation. As a result of this, staff were able to describe how honesty and transparency were key in their dealings with colleagues and stakeholders.'

The Electrical Safety Council and its subsidiaries are committed to the principle and practice of equal opportunity in employment for all employees and applicants for employment.



Our Talent Development Programme was launched during 2007. Key employees with potential for growth were identified and assigned projects in order to help them gain skills and experience needed to succeed in future leadership roles.



TOTAL EMPLOYEES

The Electrical Safety Council and NICEIC Group End of Financial year 2007/2008

Starters	65
Leavers	51

Total Employees at Year End **350**

The Electrical Safety Council

ESC Management	5
Campaigns Management	6
Technical Standards	11

Total **22**

NICEIC Group Limited Trading Divisions

Certification Services (incorporating NQA, NICEIC Operations, NICEIC Certification, Business Support, IT, Complaints & Removals)	234
Finance (incorporating Accounts, Facilities, Fleet)	19
Sales & Marketing (incorporating Marketing, Business Development, PR, Customer Services, Sales, Training, JPD)	65
Human Resources (incorporating Health & Safety)	5
Corporate Trading Division	5

Total **328**

Total employees by gender

Male	232
Female	118

Total **350**

Absence

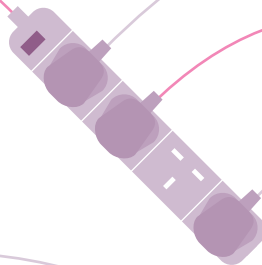
Average days absent (sickness) per employee

End of Financial Year	2006/2007	2007/2008
No of days absent	6.10 days	5.3 days

National average 2007/2008 = 8.4 days (Source: CIPD survey)



The Charity consists of members representing a wide range of organisations, associations, institutions and regulatory bodies, all with an interest or involvement in matters relating to electrical safety.



Trustees & Council Members

The Electrical Safety Council (the Charity) is a company limited by guarantee, and is governed by the Council. The Charity consists of members representing a wide range of organisations, associations, institutions and regulatory bodies, all with an interest or involvement in matters relating to electrical safety.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Approvals and Research Bodies

British Standards Institution
Building Services Research and Information Association
ERA Technology Limited
Intertek Testing and Certification Limited

Consumer Interested Organisations

Which?
National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux
National Federation of Consumer Groups
Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

Energy Network Associations

CE Electric UK
Central Networks
EDF Energy
National Grid Transco
Northern Ireland Electricity
Scottish and Southern Energy
Scottish Power
United Utilities
Western Power Distribution
Guernsey Electricity Limited
Jersey Electricity Co Limited
Manx Electricity Authority

Institutes and Institutions

Chartered Institute of Building
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers
Institute of Housing
Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering
Institution of Engineering and Technology
Institution of Fire Engineers
National Union of Townswomen's Guilds
Society of Operations Engineers
Royal Institute of British Architects
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Other Professional Bodies

Association of British Insurers
Association of Building Engineers
Association for Consultancy and Engineering
LABC Services
Independent Engineering Insurers' Committee
Local Government Association
Fire Protection Association
Society of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Serving Local Government

Regulatory Bodies

Council for Registered Gas Installers
National Security Inspectorate
National House-Building Council

Trade and Industry (Associations and Federations)

British Cable Association
Construction Confederation
Electrical Contractors' Association
Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland (SELECT)
Electrical Distributors' Association
BEAMA Installation Limited
Federation of Master Builders
Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association
House Builders Federation
Lighting Association
Lighting Industry Federation
Safety Assessment Federation
Water UK

Trade Unions

Unite
Prospect
National Farmers' Union
Self Employed and Employed Electricians' Association

TRUSTEES

Board Members

D P Dossett †

BEAMA Installation Limited (Chairman)

N Carter

Association for Consultancy and Engineering

M Clancy

Prospect

S J Currie (Resigned October 2007)

Scottish Power plc

W J Howard †

Chartered Institution of Building Services
Engineers

D W M Latimer

Institution of Engineering & Technology

N McGuinness

SELECT

R Miguel

UNITE

D J Pollock

Electrical Contractors' Association

L Stratton

Royal Institute of British Architects

C J Tanswell

Society of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Serving Local Government

B F Walker

Institution of Engineering & Technology

W H Wright †

Institution of Engineering & Technology

S Duncan (From October 2007)

Scottish Power plc

Board Observer

M Leppard

Health & Safety Executive

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

J Speirs

Director General

P Buckle

Director Charitable Affairs

M C Clark

Technical Director

E McCarthy

Change / Human Resource Director

A D T Moir

Chief Operating Officer NICEIC Group

J O'Connell

Group Finance Director & Company Secretary

COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

D Dossett (Chairman)

J O'Connell

S J Currie

J Speirs

W J Howard

W H Wright

Technical Committee

C J Tanswell (Chairman)

J Bradley (Secretary)

M C Clark

D W M Latimer

J Speirs

B F Walker

W H Wright

D Start

G Digilio

D Millar

J Hodge

G Cronshaw

A Wells

P Buckle (from January 2008)

K Clayton (from November 2007)

K Morton (from December 2007)

J M R Hagger (from January 2008)



Standing Committee on Technical Matters

M C Clark (Chairman)
J Bradley (Secretary)
P Cook
P Cutting
A Daley
D W M Latimer
G Cronshaw
M Onyett
P Sayer
J A McLean
C J Tanswell
D Start
A Wells

Electrical Safety of Products Committee

Age Concern
Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances
Intertek Testing and Certification Limited
BEAMA Installation Ltd
Institution of Engineering and Technology
Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
Trading Standards Institute
UNITE

† Office Bearer

Registered Company No 570175
Registered Charity No 257376



Electrical Installation Forum

Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors
BSI Product Services
CORGI
Electrical Contractors' Association
ELECSA
The Electrical Safety Council
Institution of Engineering and Technology
NAPIT
OFTEC Ltd
SELECT



Financials

These summarised accounts are extracted from the Annual Accounts approved by the Directors on 7 August 2008 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission and Companies House. They may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of The Electrical Safety Council and the accounting adopted in their preparation. The full accounts comply with the 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2005'. For further information the full accounts, the auditors' report on those accounts and the Directors' annual report should be consulted; copies can be obtained from the Company Secretary, The Electrical Safety Council, Warwick House, Houghton Hall Park, Houghton Regis, Dunstable LU5 5ZX.

Independent Auditors' Statement to the Members of The Electrical Safety Council

We have examined the summary financial statements set out on pages 32 and 33.

Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

The Directors are responsible for preparing the summary financial statements; our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on their consistency with the full financial statements and the Directors report. We also read other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statements.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 'The Auditor's Statement on the Summary Financial Statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Directors' report for the year ended 31 March 2008.

PFK (UK) LLP
Registered Auditors
Farringdon Place
20 Farringdon Road
London EC1M 3AP

7th August 2008



FINANCE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2008

The financial position of both The Electrical Safety Council and its trading subsidiaries continues to be robust with an increase in surplus of £312k to £2,473k arising from an 8% increase in incoming resources and a similar increase in total resources expended.

Income from charitable activities has increased by 11% reflecting growth in the Rolls of both Approved Contractors and Domestic Installer Scheme (Part P Scheme). The Electrical Safety Council's subsidiary, NICEIC Group Limited, generated most of the Group's charitable income.

Total charitable expenditure of £17,622k has increased compared with the previous year due to the growth of the Schemes, as well as preparing Contractors for the 17th Edition of the Wiring Regulations.

The Electrical Safety Council's income grew due to the increase in average investment balances as well as increasing returns on these balances.

Charitable expenditure incurred in the Charity amounted to £1,994k, an increase of 10% on the previous year, much of this increased expenditure has been incurred on the rollout of a number of charitable campaign initiatives including, electric blanket testing and education of children on electrical safety.

Almost all of the Group's trading activities are now conducted in NICEIC Group Limited with the exception of the activities of JPD Group Ltd & SNQA (which is currently owned by National Quality Assurance Ltd).

Revenue from subsidiary funded activities grew from £12.8m to £13.0m, a 1.6% increase.

NICEIC Group Limited has enjoyed good financial growth during the year driven by the implementation of the Commercial 5 Year Strategic Plan, initiated the previous financial year, and meeting its customers' requirements for 17th edition training and publication materials. This solid financial success has resulted in a big increase in gift aid to £4,421k (2007 - £3,374k).

Charity cash and investment balances have increased to £15.9m resulting from increased profitability from trading activities.

Turmoil in financial markets has impacted the group's final pension salary scheme leading to a material increase in the FRS 17 deficit which has resulted in a £1m reduction in the group's reserves.

The financial position of the Group remains sound with total reserves, which are wholly unrestricted, standing at £15.3m.

Summary Group Financial Statements 2007/8

Summary Income and Expenditure Account For year ended 31 March 2008	2008 £ '000	2007 £ '000
Fees and operating income	33,086	30,868
Cost of generating funds	(13,436)	(12,077)
Charitable expenditure	(17,622)	(16,785)
Governance Costs	(466)	(347)
Operating surplus	1,562	1,659
Interest receivable	911	502
Group surplus	2,473	2,161

Summary Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses For year ended 31 March 2008	2008 £ '000	2007 £ '000
Surplus for the financial year	2,473	2,161
Pension adjustment	(1,100)	900
Gain on sale of freehold property	-	1,995
Net movement of funds	1,373	5,056
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2007	13,918	8,862
Fund balances carried forward	15,291	13,918

Summary Consolidated Balance Sheet For year ended 31 March 2008

	2008 £ '000	2007 £ '000
Fixed assets	9,277	10,115
Investments in joint ventures: Share of net assets	475	381
Current assets	19,140	14,810
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(7,901)	(6,688)
Net current assets	11,239	8,122
Pension liability	(5,700)	(4,700)
Reserves	15,291	13,918

Summary Cash Flow Statement For year ended 31 March 2008

	2008 £ '000	2007 £ '000
Net cash flow from operations	3,252	3,980
Returns on investments	1,026	686
Sale/(purchase) of tangible fixed assets	(170)	2,684
Decrease in short-term deposits	-	(4)
Net increase in cash in the year	4,108	7,346

Places of Business

PRINCIPAL PLACES OF BUSINESS

The Electrical Safety Council Registered Office

Warwick House
Houghton Hall Park
Houghton Regis
Dunstable LU5 5ZX
Telephone: +44(0)1582 556556
Facsimile: +44(0)1582 556565

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London SW1E 6LB
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Facsimile: +44 (0)870 040 0560

Scottish Office

The Walled Garden
Bush Estate
Midlothian
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Facsimile: +44 (0)870 040 0560

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NICEIC Certification

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Facsimile: +44(0)1246 261127

JPD Group Limited

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NQA Head Office

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Houghton Regis
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Facsimile: +44(0)1582 539090

NQA Regional Office Scotland

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Facsimile: +44 (0)131 317 1250

NQA Regional Office Northern Ireland

Office 2
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62 Fenaghy Road, Glagorm
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Facsimile: +44 (0)28 2564 4977



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EC4Y 0DH

Auditors

PKF (UK) LLP
20 Farringdon Road
London
EC1M 3AP

Bankers

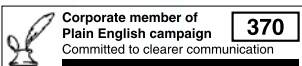
HSBC
20 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7SY

The Electrical Safety Council

18 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6LB Phone: 0870 040 0561 Fax: 0870 040 0560
Email: enquiries@esc.org.uk Web: www.esc.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 257376

The Electrical Safety Council is an independent charity committed to reducing deaths and injuries through electrical accidents at home and at work.



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