

> safety first



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Almost 25% of home owners have
no idea how old their wiring is



making sure installat-
are safe an



We help UK consumers understand that
electrical safety should be a priority
in the home and the workplace

The Electrical Safety Council
Annual Report 2006-07

Registered Charity No. 257376





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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.

Approvals and Research Bodies

ASTA-BEAB
British Standards Institution
Building Services Research and Information Association
ERA Technology Limited

Consumer Interested Organisations

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

Energy Networks Association

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
Institution of Engineering and Technology
Institution of Fire Engineers
Society of Operations Engineers
Royal Institute of British Architects
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
National Union of Townswomen's Guilds

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 – Association and Federations

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

Trade Unions

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

Board Members

W J Howard†	Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (Chairman)
N Carter	Association for Consultancy and Engineering (from 29.06.2006)
M Clancy	Prospect
S J Currie†	Scottish Power plc
D P Dossett†	BEAMA Installation Limited (Now BEAMALIF)
D W M Latimer	Institution of Engineering and Technology (formerly Institution of Electrical Engineers)
P Lawson-Smith OBE	Association for Consultancy and Engineering (to 29.06.2006)
D N McGuinness	SELECT
D J Pollock	Electrical Contractors' Association
M Reed	Amicus-Unite (to 29.06.2006)
R Miguel	Amicus-Unite (from 29.06.2006)
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 and Technology
W H Wright	Institution of Engineering and Technology

Board Observers

M Leppard Health & Safety Executive

Officers

J Speirs	Director General
P Buckle	Director of Charitable Affairs (from 1.1.2007)
E McCarthy	Director of Charitable Affairs (to 31.12.2006)
J O'Connell	Company Secretary

†Officer Bearer

Registered Company No. 570175 Registered Charity No. 257376

Executive Management Team

*J Speirs	Director General
*P Buckle	Director of Charitable Affairs (from 01.01.2007)
M C Clark	Technical Director
P Lawrence	Head of Strategy (from 01.02.2007)
*E McCarthy	Group HR Director
A Moir	Head of Sales and Marketing (from 01.02.2007)
*T J Nash	MD Certification Services
J O'Connell	Group Finance Director & Company Secretary
T Pack	Head of External Affairs
*Executive Directors of NICEIC Group Limited	
*D T Bell	
*R J Empson	
*J S Frame	(from 01.04.2006)
*Non Executive Directors of NICEIC Group Limited	

The three office bearers are also non-executive directors of NICEIC Group Limited

S J Currie
D Dossett
W J Howard

Audit Panel

Is made up of three members comprising not less than two members of the board and one Executive Director

Finance Committee

W J Howard (Chairman)
S J Currie
D Dossett
J O'Connell
J Speirs

Technical Committee

C J Tanswell (Chairman)
J Bradley (Secretary)
M C Clark
G Cronshaw
G Digilio
J Hodge (from 18.10.2006)
D W M Latimer
P Lawson-Smith OBE (to 29.06.2006)
D Millar
J Speirs
D Start
B F Walker
A Wells
W H Wright

Standing Committee on Technical Matters

M C Clark (Chairman)
J Bradley (Secretary)
P Cook
G Cronshaw
J Cutting
A Daley
D W M Latimer
P Lawson-Smith OBE (to 29.06.2006)
J A McLean
M Onyett
P Sayer
D Start
C Tanswell
P Toothill (to 08.01.2007)
A Wells



> chairman's statement



In this my last statement as Chairman of The Electrical Safety Council (ESC), I am pleased to report another successful year for ESC and for its trading subsidiary, NICEIC Group Ltd.

In the last year we have celebrated 50 years of achievement in the field of electrical safety. With the development of ESC as an independent and impartial consumer safety body, we are extending our role to include the electrical safety of products as well as fixed electrical installations. This has provided new opportunities and, as a consequence, new links have been formed with many bodies, including RoSPA and the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT).

The charity has worked tirelessly over the last year to extend its links into both Whitehall and Westminster. Through these efforts it now enjoys the support of MPs from across all parties, in particular I would like to mention Andrew Selous, Shadow Works and Pensions Minister, and MP for South West Bedfordshire.

In order for ESC to be truly effective, it has to reach all sectors of the community – at home and in the workplace. To do this we use a number of mediums: “Switched On” magazine for the trade and specifiers was launched in the summer of 2006 and this has a circulation of 39,000. The website has been further enhanced to make it a richer experience for those visiting it and work is now underway to develop a website specifically for children. A range of leaflets and Best Practice Guides have also been produced which extend the electrical safety message.

To help ensure that these leaflets are written in a way that we can all understand, we have achieved corporate membership of the Plain English Campaign. We were awarded our first Crystal Mark in the early part of 2007, which is a truly significant achievement.

Following relocation to Houghton Regis, NICEIC Group has undertaken an extensive internal review and, as a consequence, their Corporate Plan has been revised to ensure that the business is capable of meeting the challenges the next five years will bring. This will help provide much of the funding needed by The Electrical Safety Council to allow it to develop new initiatives to support its Mission.

In the coming year, ESC plans to develop its new and existing initiatives. In doing so, we will continue to raise consumer awareness, which will be the cornerstone of our future success.

William Howard
Chairman
The Electrical Safety Council



> director general's review



Jim Speirs
Director General,
The Electrical Safety Council

This has been a busy year for The Electrical Safety Council. Since its formal re-launch at the House of Commons in April 2006, the Charity has gone from strength to strength. We have become an organisation of real influence with our stakeholder groups and taken great strides towards raising awareness on electrical safety matters.

Our links with industry remain as strong as ever. By demonstrating our independence, it has been possible to forge important new relationships.

Of particular note is the development of our website and the important work undertaken with The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) on the collection of accident statistics. This information, which central Government unfortunately ceased to fund in 2004, is essential to organisations like ourselves when measuring the impact of their campaigns. We have also developed a series of Best Practice Guides with the support of the Health and Safety Executive, trade associations and other key industry bodies.

Our technical excellence continues to support electrical contractors in their daily endeavours throughout the UK.

I am pleased to report that we now have over 20,000 registered installers, including over 14,000 Approved Contractors on our Roll. Likewise, the Domestic Installer Scheme has seen sustained growth, with over 1.8 million Building Control Certificates having been issued to date.



Damage to a consumer unit due to a faulty installation



Our technical excellence continues to support electrical contractors and related trades in their daily endeavours

Over the last 50 years as the NICEIC (National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contractors) and now, as The Electrical Safety Council, we have built and justifiably maintained a great reputation for the provision of technical advice to the industry. This tradition continues; I was pleased to see the launch of the first in a series of DVDs on inspection and testing. These are supported by books on the same subject and NICEIC has produced excellent training materials to help develop skills in this important area.

Funding for the Charity's hard work is provided by the trading activities of NICEIC Group Ltd. This year these activities have been very successful and to ensure sufficient funds continue to be available, a review of the Group's strategy has been undertaken, which included the introduction of a Leadership Standard and Performance Development Reviews for our personnel.

Our people have done a magnificent job and I would like to thank them for their efforts. Together we will create the energy and commitment that will drive the organisation forward into a bright future.

Jim Speirs


Director General, The Electrical Safety Council



> our mission

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

- Operating a watching brief for consumers
- Campaigning in specific areas of electrical safety
- Monitoring the electrical industry for safety issues that affect consumers



In 2005, 771 out of 7,909 fires of electrical origin were caused by cooking appliances

The Electrical Safety Council

As a consumer safety body, The Electrical Safety Council is supported by all sectors of the electrical industry as well as local and central government. Registered as a Charity, we are an independent, non-profit making organisation.

The Electrical Safety Council deals with all safety matters associated with electrical installations and products on behalf of householders and consumers, with the exception of disputes between contractors and consumers.

To achieve our goals, we work closely with the electrical industry to promote safe working practices for installers and we communicate the importance of ensuring that any electrical installation work carried out complies with the relevant industry standards.

Until 2006 The Electrical Safety Council was known as the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC) which was set up in 1956 to protect users of electricity against the hazards of unsafe and unsound electrical installations.



Faulty installations can mean damage to crucial safety products such as circuit breakers



> campaigns

This year The Electrical Safety Council launched a series of consumer campaigns to support its Mission.

Reducing accidents and fires from electrical related faults

Working in partnership with other organisations, this campaign seeks to reduce the number of electrically related fires and accidents caused by electrical faults. With the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), for example, we have issued a number of joint electrical-related safety messages.

One of the key issues with this campaign, as in others, is having the required accident data relating to fires and accidents, on which to plan and assess the effectiveness of any campaigns undertaken.

Whilst the statistics for fires in domestic premises are well documented, that is not the case for other electrically related accidents, which are no longer recorded, following the demise of the government's HASS and LASS data. In order to help find a suitable replacement for this data, we have entered into a partnership with RoSPA to carry out research into this particular area.

Residual Current Devices (RCDs)

Although it is generally accepted that RCDs reduce the risk of death and injury in particular circumstances, there were lingering doubts as to their long term in-service reliability.

We are therefore investigating this issue and employed the services of specialist consultant, ERA Technology, to assist with the research and their provisional findings would appear to confirm that RCDs in general may be considered to be inherently reliable in operation. ERA Technology's report on their findings is due to be made available in the latter part of 2007.

Increasing consumer awareness of electrical safety issues

To support this wide reaching campaign we have produced a number of consumer safety leaflets which have been distributed to the public.

To help ensure that all our publications hit the mark, The Electrical Safety Council has become a member of the Plain English Campaign and has been awarded the Crystal Mark for our 'So you think your home is safe' leaflet.

Part of the on-going campaign examines the major aspects of current and future legislation regarding electrical safety, and communicates its main requirements clearly and simply to consumers.

During the year we responded to three Government consultation documents having electrical safety implications, two being related to the Government's proposed introduction of the Home Information Pack and the third for the changes to Part P of the Building Regulations, which covers domestic electrical work in England and Wales.

Our new website went live in April 2006 and its main focus concentrates on raising consumer awareness of electrical safety within the home. Throughout the year the site has been developed and grown, expanding the information it provides to consumers and others.

Our
www.ele

Grants for Electrical Installation Safety Improvements

To help fulfil its charitable purpose, The Electrical Safety Council has developed a Scheme for awarding improvement grants to a limited number of people who cannot afford to restore the electrical installation in their home to a safe standard.

This initiative enables us to demonstrate our commitment to consumer safety not just through words, but by direct action. It also raises The Electrical Safety Council's profile by working in partnership with other bodies that support those in need of help.

Achievements in 2006/2007

- Consumer-focused website designed and launched
- Quarterly magazine, 'Switched On', launched, published and distributed
- Over 400,000 consumer safety leaflets distributed
- Over 50,000 trade leaflets distributed
- Increased our profile and work within Westminster and Whitehall
- Generated significant media coverage in the consumer and trade press
- Exhibited at a number of consumer exhibitions
- Developed a significant number of working relationships with like-minded organisations including the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI), The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), Local Authorities Coordinators Of Regulatory Services (LACORS), Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and our industry charity, the EEIBA.
- Produced technical publications
- Provided staff to represent consumers' interests on national and international standards committees
- Updated The Electrical Safety Council Technical Manual
- Gained Corporate Membership of the Plain English Campaign

A range of publications distributed can be found on pages 14-15.





switched on

Magazine for the Electrical Industry and the Public

April - Spring 2007



Home safe home? the new Scottish Building Standards

Electricity in the home
Guide to fire safety



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Landlords

Finding a Competent Electrical Installer

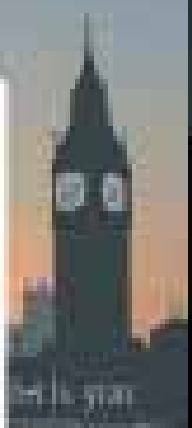


Electrical safety in the home

Health and Safety Executive
The Government's Health and Safety Agency



Using electrical equipment outdoors





> watching brief

Consumer awareness

To help increase consumer awareness of electrical safety issues in and around the home, we produced a 15 minute DVD entitled 'How safe is your home?'

The DVD draws attention to the electrical safety hazards that can exist in a typical family home, ranging from fire, electric shock and overloading of circuits, to the use of electrical equipment in bathrooms and outdoors.

Over 5,000 copies were distributed to members of the public at events such as the Ideal Home Show. It can also be viewed on our website, www.electricalsafetycouncil.org.uk.

Consumer research

During the year we commissioned an external organisation to carry out extensive consumer research on a wide range of subjects relating to our work. The research surveyed a cross-section of society in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Two of the main issues of concern highlighted by the research were firstly the lack of awareness of how electrical legislation affects householders, and secondly the lack of understanding of the risks associated with not using competent installers for electrical work in the home.

The research showed that 90% of people in England and Wales are still unaware of Part P, more than two years after the requirements came into effect. We continue to work hard to raise awareness of Part P; for example, we have published a leaflet devoted to the subject - *Part P and how it affects you*. More than 15,000 copies of the leaflet have been supplied to consumers (either in hard copy form or as a downloadable copy from our website) since it was published last March.

Well over half of the 1,000 people surveyed were unaware that there was any kind of regulation relating to common electrical jobs around the home, such as fitting a new power shower (59% unaware), adding new sockets (64% unaware) or installing garden lights (78% unaware).

54% of consumers would definitely like to see a compulsory periodic inspection report on the electrical installation of a house as part of the home moving process, and another 30% said they would probably like to see its inclusion.



To help increase consumer awareness of electrical safety issues, we produced a DVD; "How safe is your home?"

Research of MPs

We commissioned research of Members of Parliament to establish a benchmark measure of their familiarity with The Electrical Safety Council and its issues of concern, as well as to measure MPs favourability towards us in comparison with other organisations competing for parliamentarians' attention.

The research company surveyed 172 MPs in all, using a self-completion questionnaire and the data was subsequently 'weighted' to be representative of the exact composition of the House of Commons in terms of party and constituency region. As expected, MPs' knowledge of the charity and its work was not extensive due to our recent re-launch.

Activities to raise our profile in Westminster are already underway and will be ongoing for the foreseeable future.

Our liaison with UK industry bodies

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

International liaison

In addition to contact with like-minded organisations in Australia and New Zealand, our staff presented papers on the UK experience of the change of cable colours to a Government conference in Hong Kong, and on the UK requirements for inspection and testing at an IET conference in Malaysia.

We continue to be actively engaged with FISUEL, the International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users, whose objective is to help less developed countries to improve their electrical safety standards.



> monitoring industry

In addition to focusing directly on the electrical safety needs of consumers, the charity monitors the electrical industry to help ensure that issues in that sector do not have a negative impact on users. Areas of concern are worked on in partnership with other bodies such as trade associations to help ensure that all users' needs are recognised. This involves:

- Researching into areas of concern for consumers
- Sponsoring research scholarships
- Providing authoritative technical information and guidance for the electrical installation industry and others
- Working in partnership with the electrical and building services industries, accident prevention groups and Government, to develop strategies to help those using electrical products and installation services to understand the associated risks.

Approved Contractor Scheme

There were no changes to the Rules Relating to Enrolment for the Approved Contractor scheme, which is now operated by NICEIC Group Limited under licence from The Electrical Safety Council.

We continued to be represented on the NICEIC Enrolment Committee, which monitors the performance of the Approved Contractor scheme.

As the regularly updated and searchable online version of the Roll of Approved Contractors had become the primary source of reference for those seeking the services of competent electrical contractors, the annual printed version of the Roll was discontinued at the beginning of the year.

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee, which reports to The Electrical Safety Board, continued to meet at quarterly intervals. The Committee's 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
- 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 on a quarterly basis to consider and advise on the technical content of articles drafted for NICEIC's '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.

Shaping Future Technical Standards

We continued to be represented on the Joint IEE/BSI Technical Committee (JPEL/64) responsible for BS 7671 – *Requirements for Electrical Installations*. The British Standard (also known as the IEE Wiring Regulations 16th Edition) forms the basis of The Electrical Safety Council's technical standard.

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

During the year, Joint IEE/BSI Technical Committee JPEL/64 continued to work on a new edition of BS 7671, which is being further harmonised with the equivalent international and European standards. The work culminated in the issue of a Draft for Public Comment in December 2006, which resulted in over 2,500 comments that needed to be addressed by the JPEL/64 committee and its Panels.

The new edition, which is expected to be published in January 2008, is to be known as BS 7671: 2008 and also as the 17th Edition of the IEE Wiring Regulations.

We provided UK members for a number of International Electrotechnical Commission 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, MT9 which deals with protection against electric shock, and MT12 which deals with the inspection and testing of electrical installations.

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, including the Panels of JPEL/64.

We continued as 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.



> publications and technical

Technical Manual

The 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 in the form of a CD, to all NICEIC registrants. 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 310.

A new CD-ROM was distributed every quarter, containing all the topics published to date as well as new topics, and any that had been updated. Support for the original printed version ceased at the end of the year.

Work has started to make the Manual accessible via the internet. This online version is expected to replace the CD version in due course.

Best Practice Guides

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

Contributing parties included the Health and Safety Executive, the electrical trade associations, the Institution of Engineering and Technology, NICEIC and BEAMA Installation.

Two guides were published during the year, the first on the subject of replacing a consumer unit where lighting circuits have no protective conductor, and the second on safe isolation procedures for low voltage installations.

By the end of the year, the development of a third guide on the subject of connecting microgeneration systems to domestic or similar electrical installations was well advanced.

In electronic format, the Best Practice Guides are intended to be made available free of charge to all interested parties. Copies can be downloaded from the Council's website, and from those of the contributing bodies.

Switched On

In the summer of 2006, we launched our own quarterly magazine, 'Switched On', containing news and information aimed at electrical contractors, specifiers, local authorities, housing associations, landlords and others sharing an interest in electrical safety.

About 40,000 copies of each issue were distributed during the year, a large proportion of which were received by NICEIC-registered contractors. Copies of 'Switched On' can be viewed on our website.

NICEIC 'Connections'

We continued to provide the technical articles for NICEIC's 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 the magazine 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 with an interest in electrical safety matters.

NICEIC Pocket Guides

We are producing a series of 'pocket guides' for NICEIC-registered contractors and other interested parties. Distributed quarterly with the Technical Manual CDs, 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 technical support to the NICEIC Group through the production and maintenance of a wide range of commercial publications, including reference books and forms of certification and reporting.

New Publications Included:

- Guide to electrical equipment maintenance
- Electrical installers' guide to the Scottish Building Regulations
- Log book for emergency lighting systems
- Log book for fire detection and alarm systems
- From the helpline
- Guide to completing specialized certificates and reports

Work also commenced on a new guide to the periodic inspection and testing of domestic installations.





> trading activities

NICEIC Group Limited is The Electrical Safety Council's trading division. Its commercial focus helps to fund our charitable activities.

The Group's brands have had a successful year, maintaining an excellent growth rate and setting new standards for the years ahead.

Last year saw NICEIC's 50th Anniversary celebrations, including a Gala Dinner at Grosvenor House Hotel in London's Park Lane.

NICEIC

NICEIC, under licence from The Electrical Safety Council, continues to act as the electrical contracting industry's independent voluntary regulatory body for electrical installation matters throughout the UK and maintains and publishes registers of electrical contractors that it has assessed against particular scheme requirements, including the technical standard of electrical work.

Approved Contractor Scheme

After last year's unprecedented growth in the Approved Contractor Scheme, this year has seen the Scheme grow still further, but at a steadier rate. Last year's growth was due to contractors initially interested in registering as Domestic Installers realising the benefits of the Approved Contractor Scheme and making an application to join it.

This year, the total number of contractors on the role rose to 14,174, an increase of 775 over the year. Approximately 48,500 electrical installations were visited by our Area Engineers, up by around 5,000 on last year. Applications (1,506) and enrolments (925) to the Scheme levelled off to a good number.

256 official complaints relating to contractors' work were received and resolved. This resulted in 106 special inspections being undertaken by our Area Engineers.

The Approved Contractor Scheme and the Hazardous Area extension to scope completed UKAS audits.

Building Regulations Schemes

The number of Contractors registered with Domestic Installer Scheme grew to 8,760. Together with 12,462 Approved Contractors who have registered for Part P with NICEIC, this gave a figure of 21,222 which according to Government figures suggest 67% of all Part P registered installers are registered with NICEIC.

849,000 Building Control Certificates have been issued by NICEIC during the year, on behalf of domestic installers, which equates to 79% of all certificates issued. 849,000 Insurance Backed Warranty certificates have also been issued. In total, since the Scheme started, 1.8 million Building Control Certificates have been issued.

NICEIC gained approval from Ministers to operate Competent Persons Schemes for Parts F, G, J and L of the Building Regulations for England and Wales.

Trustmark

NICEIC is 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 tradespeople to make improvements and repairs to domestic properties.



> trading activities

Other Schemes

NICEIC has introduced a PAT testing scheme, a national registration scheme for enterprises conducting Portable Appliance Testing (PAT).

The NICEIC DPIR Scheme was introduced to provide 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.

SBSA

NICEIC continues to be approved following an external audit conducted by SBSA appointed auditors as a scheme provider of the Certification of Construction (Electrical Installations to BS 7671) Scheme which was approved by Scottish Ministers in support of the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

NICEIC Direct

NICEIC Direct is the latest addition to NICEIC Group's brand portfolio. It allows registered contractors, specifiers and landlords to purchase products, DVDs and publications quickly and easily. The Group's redesigned website, www.niceicgroup.com includes NICEIC Direct's secure e-commerce area, as well as an online catalogue showcasing products and publications.

NICEIC Training

NICEIC Training has shown a strong growth by providing courses and qualifications on all aspects of Commercial, Industrial and Domestic Installations. Its Part P courses especially Domestic Installer Scheme Qualification (DISQ) has played a significant role in registering applicants on the Domestic Installer Scheme.

PAT Testing and Domestic Periodic Inspection, Testing and Reporting courses have been popular with contractors and are playing a critical part in extending their scope to join the Schemes by ensuring that applicants are qualified and trained to pass their on-site assessments.

Since last year huge interest has been shown regarding in-client training courses. Several bespoke courses have been developed and delivered to clients on-site who also include Local Authorities and Housing Associations. Over the year more than 2,800 people have attended our training courses thus contributing to NICEIC Groups' profit.

NQA with JPD Training

NQA with JPD Training continues to deliver a wide range of training courses to industry and government, private and public organisations. New partnerships have been formed in the past year with the organisations, such as the Chartered Quality Institute and the Institute of Credit Management and JPD now offers training in association with them.

New courses are constantly being added to the NQA and JPD portfolio of services and a section covering this has been added to the InTouch weblog, there is a link to this page directly from JPD's redesigned website www.jpdc.co.uk.

NIC Certification

NIC Certification maintained its position as the UK's leading UKAS accredited personnel certification body, issuing over 18,000 certificates in the year via a network of more than 90 Approved Centres throughout the UK, covering various technical disciplines including the recently introduced Competent Persons Schemes.

This represents a 20% growth in certification activity over the past year. The largest area of work continues to be Certificates of Competence for gas installers (ACS). This year, NIC Certification issued its 86,000th certificate, having accredited more than 50,000 individuals in this discipline alone since 1998.

NIC Training

NIC Training, the training arm of NIC Certification, focused its activities on the training and assessment of operatives involved in the gas, oil heating, plumbing and H&V industry sectors within its centres in Luton and Chesterfield. Training activity grew by 12% on the previous year.

NQA

NQA continues to hold its ground in competitive market conditions with some increasingly notable areas of growth, particularly in the automotive industry in China and Korea. Of the 55 certification bodies recognised by the International Automotive Task Force to provide certification to the automotive standard ISO/TS 16949, NQA was fourteenth in terms of growth for the 2006 calendar year.

A review of the management of the international business resulted in the establishment of three global regions: Europe, Middle East and Africa, managed by NQA UK, The Americas, managed by joint venture NQA Inc and Asia Pacific, managed by joint venture Shanghai NQA.

NQA continues to maintain its relationship with its principal accreditor UKAS and holds UKAS accreditation for most of its certification activities. The application for UKAS accreditation for the health and safety management systems standard OHSAS 18001, continues with accreditation expected in the summer of 2007. Applications for UKAS accreditation for the food safety management standard, ISO 22000, and the British Retail Consortium Consumer Products Standards are also being progressed.

NQA's joint venture company in the USA, NQA Inc enjoyed a particularly good year with record trading levels and is recognised as the leading North American certification body for the aerospace industry.

Shanghai NQA, also a joint venture, enjoyed a good year seeing an increase in management systems certification, in what has become a very competitive market, and has also been successful in launching product certification services.



> managing

We have focused strongly on the coaching and development of our employees, in order to deliver an outstanding service to our stakeholders and customers. This has included the development of a talent management programme.

To recognise and reward those individuals who perform well we began discussions with trade union, Prospect, to introduce a performance related pay scheme. Considerable training, information and support have been provided to ensure that the Scheme becomes embedded in the Group's culture when it is launched. To underpin the new scheme we have introduced a Competency Standard, and along with our Leadership Standard this will ensure that all employees have clear guidance on the levels of performance expected of them.

Our headcount has remained stable throughout the year. Our robust Absence Management Practices ensured that our absence levels were below the national average of 8 days per employee (Source: CIPD Survey 2006).

Key roles recruited during the year included the appointment of a new Director of Charitable Affairs, a Group Head of Marketing and Sales, a Group Head of Strategy and Development and a Group Public Relations Manager. Recruiting into these senior high profile roles will allow us to meet the objectives set by the Trustees.



**Total Employees – Electrical Safety Council and NICEIC Group
End of Financial year 2006 / 2007**

Total employees at year end	344
Starters	53
Leavers	40

Electrical Safety Council

ESC Management	3
Campaigns Management	3
Technical Standards	11
Total	17

NICEIC Group Limited

Trading Divisions

Certification Services (incorporating NQA, NICEIC Operations, NIC Certification, Business Support, Complaints & Removals)	237
Finance (incorporating Accounts, Facilities, IT, Fleet)	28
Sales & Marketing (incorporating Marketing, Business Development, PR, Customer Services, Sales, Training, JPD)	55
Human Resources (incorporating Health & Safety)	5
Corporate Trading Division	2
Total	327

Total employees by gender

Male	245
Female	107

Absence

Average days absent (sickness) per employee

End of financial year	2005/2006	2006/2007
No of days absent	5.5 days	6.10 days

National average 2005 = < 50 employees = 6.15 days
> 100 employees = 8.00 days (source EEF)





> financing

These summarised accounts are extracted from the Annual Accounts approved by the Directors on 24th July 2007, and have been submitted to the Charity Commissioners. They may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Charity and the accounting adopted in their preparation. The full accounts comply with '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 31 and 32.

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 2007.

PKF (UK) LLP Registered Auditors
Farringdon Place
20 Farringdon Road
London EC1M 3AP
24 July 2007



> financing

Finance Report for the year ended 31 March 2007

In summary total incoming resources increased by 7% to £31.3M, whilst total resources expended remained broadly in line with the previous year at £29.2M resulting in a surplus for the year of £2.2M an increase of £2.1M.

Income from charitable activities has increased by 7% reflecting the growth in the rolls of both Approved Contractors and Part P scheme registrants allied with significant new income from insurance products and Building Control notifications. The majority of the charitable income was earned in the Charity's subsidiary NICEIC Group Limited.

Total charitable expenditure of £16.8M has fallen slightly compared with the previous year when expenditure levels were high as a result of relocation of the London Head Office to Houghton Regis.

The Charity's income increased due to the increase in average investment balances as well as increasing returns and the introduction of a licensing charge to the Commercial Group to operate The Roll of Approved Contractors.

Charitable expenditure incurred in the Charity amounted to £1.7M broadly in line with the previous year.

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 £12.3M to £12.8M, a 4% increase.

The Group's overall surplus (before investment gains) grew considerably this year to £2.1M, (2006- £25K) due to increased profits from the Group's trading activities.

The sale of Vintage House in London (the former Head Office) resulted in a gain of £1.9M further bolstering the Group's reserves.

Charity Cash and investment balances have increased to £11.7M resulting from the sale of Vintage House and increased profitability from trading activities.

Capital invested in fixed assets reduced during the year due to the sale of Vintage House and because expenditure on fixed assets was less than the depreciation charge.

The financial position of the Group remains sound with total reserves, which are wholly unrestricted, standing at £13.9M.

Summary Group Financial Statements 2006/2007

Summary Income and Expenditure Account For the year ended 31 March 2007

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Fees and operating income	30,868	29,041
Cost of generating funds	(12,077)	(12,179)
Charitable expenditure	(16,785)	(16,868)
Governance Costs	(347)	(323)
Operating surplus (deficit)	1,659	(329)
Share of operating surplus in joint ventures	-	100
Interest receivable	502	254
Group surplus	2,161	25

Summary Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses For the year ended 31 March 2007

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Surplus for the financial year	2,161	25
Pension adjustment	900	1,700
Gain on sale of freehold property	1,995	-
Net movement of funds	5,056	1,725
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2006	8,862	13,562
Prior Year adjustment	-	(6,425)
Total opening funds as restated	8,862	7,137
Fund balances carried forward	13,918	8,862



> financing

Summary Group Financial Statements 2006/2007 For the year ended 31 March 2007

	2007 £ 000	2006 £ 000
Fixed assets	10,115	11,974
Investment in joint ventures: Share of net assets	381	414
Current assets	14,810	7,482
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(6,688)	(5,808)
Net current assets	8,122	1,674
Pension liability	(4,700)	(5,200)
Reserves	13,918	8,862

Summary Cash Flow Statement For year ended 31 March 2007

Net cash flow from operations	3,980	3,379
Returns on investments	686	349
Sale/(Purchase) of tangible fixed assets	2,684	(2,675)
Acquisitions and disposals net of cash acquired	-	(630)
Decrease in short-term deposits	(4)	3,297
Net increase in cash in the year	7,346	3,720





> 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

Principal Office

18 Buckingham Gate

London SW1 6LP

Telephone: +44 (0)870 040 0561

Facsimile: +44 (0)870 040 0560

NICEIC Group Limited

Warwick House

Houghton Hall Park

Houghton Regis

Dunstable LU5 5ZX

Telephone: +44 (0)1582 531000

Facsimile: +44 (0)1582 531010

NIC Certification

Unit 3, The Gas Laboratory

Whitting Valley Road

Old Whittington

Chesterfield S41 9EY

Telephone: +44 (0)1246 261126

Facsimile: +44 (0)1246 261127

JPD Group

Station House

Plumley, Knutsford

Cheshire WA16 9RX

Telephone: +44 (0)1565 724200

Facsimile: +44 (0)1565 723800

NQA Head Office

Warwick House

Houghton Hall Park

Houghton Regis

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Telephone: +44 (0)1582 539000

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Edinburgh EH12 8XF

Telephone: +44 (0)131 317 8444

Facsimile: +44 (0)131 317 1250

Regional Office – Northern Ireland

Office 2

Ballymena Business Development Centre,

Galgorm Industrial Estate

62 Fenaghy Road, Galgorm

Ballymena BT42 1FL

Telephone: +44 (0)28 2564 4699

Facsimile: +44 (0)28 2564 4977

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• Pension Scheme Advisers and Actuary

• Watson Wyatt Limited

• Watson House

• London Road

• Reigate

• Surrey

• RH2 9PQ

• Solicitors

• Bristows

• 3 Lincoln's Inn Fields

• London

• WC2 3BP

• Auditors

• PKF (UK) LLP

• 20 Farringdon Road

• London

• EC1M 3AP

• Bankers

• HSBC

• 20 Albert Embankment

• London

• SE1 7SY

