

ICEL REPORT FOR THE LIF ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 2008

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to my report for 2008/9. Membership of ICEL has increased to 33 Members and we now have our first Member in Eire. We intend to continue to attract new Members through 2009 from our Marketing initiatives – more of this later.

With the downturn of the market, businesses will need to be more careful how they spread their finances. Improved maintenance of their existing emergency lighting installations will ensure that they do not fall foul of the Fire Safety Legislation and thereby avoid the possibility of hefty fines. However, this legislation is retrospective and installations must be brought up to present day standards. Installation of Automatic Testing Systems will also help to ease the burden on building owners and employers.

The introduction of the new Fire Safety Legislation in 2006 led ICEL members to join with BSI in producing a new guide BS 5266 Pt 10: Guide to the design and provision of emergency lighting to reduce the risks from hazards in the event of failure of the normal supply. This document is intended to give guidance in areas not covered by the other parts of the BS 5266 series and respond to this legislation.

ICEL continues to be The Authority on Emergency Lighting in the UK and is recognised internationally for its expertise. In the UK, ICEL experts represent the industry on BSI product and application standards committees, various Government consultative groups and works closely with the FIA. Internationally, experts from ICEL lead the development of amendments to existing standards and the drafting of new standards for emergency lighting products and applications. ICEL members are leading the major revisions of IEC 60598-2-22 and IEC 62034 (Automatic Test Systems). The streamlining of IEC 60598-2-22 with the control gear standards is intended to reduce testing at the luminaire stage together with rationalisation of the photometric testing

LEGISLATION

One of the most important issues for our industry this year has been the consultation on the implementation of the Battery Directive which came into force in September 2008. ICEL has succeeded in securing the interpretation that batteries placed on the market specifically for emergency lighting purposes are deemed to be Professional/Industrial. This has a number of benefits for ICEL Members which outweigh any deficits incumbent in the scheme of things.

ICEL REGISTRATION SCHEMES

ICEL 1001 continues to maintain its importance for those manufacturers wishing to demonstrate their excellence in the production of their emergency lighting luminaires and conversion modules. It will be updated during 2009 to take account of batteries registered to ICEL 1010.

ICEL 1004 continues to be the bible for companies who convert mains lighting fittings for emergency lighting use. There are currently sixteen companies registered with this scheme and we will continue to approach LIF members and others, for prospective new registrations during the coming year.

ICEL 1010 is the bench mark scheme we have developed for the registration of high temperature cells for emergency lighting applications. We are pleased to announce that GP Batteries are the first to apply for their cells to be registered to this scheme. The testing takes 12 months – yes, a full year. This is the only way we can have any assurance of the 4 years life of the NiCd cells at 55°C and NiMh cells at 50°C.

TRAINING

The LIF training courses are run by John Hugill. This year, we have rationalised the Emergency Lighting training to a one day “Competent Engineer Course” for engineers who have already passed the LIF Certificate Course or similar course/experience in the subject. Apply to john@lif.co.uk.

MARKETING

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Peter Cook from Cooper lighting and Safety has accepted the position of Chairman of the ICEL Marketing Group. Peter has some great ideas for marketing ICEL and informing the users and specifiers of emergency lighting equipment as to how to meet their liabilities under the legislation and how to make best use of ICEL Member's products. You will see a series of press articles appearing over the coming months which will lift the image of ICEL and support our customer base.

FUTURE

We will continue to watch for further opportunities to promote the interests of the Industry and to attract new members.

David Wright – Chairman ICEL Ltd
March 2009