

Revisions following introduction of part p (electrical safety) on 1 January 2005

Building Regulations Explanatory Booklet

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From 1 January 2005, Buildings Regulations apply to electrical work in dwellings. Question and answer (q) on page 26 of the Building Regulations Explanatory Booklet is replaced by the following text:

If I want to install or replace electric wiring, will the Building Regulations apply?

Yes - the Building Regulations apply to all electrical work in dwellings. Electrical work involving fixed wiring and appliances should be acceptably safe whoever undertakes the work. This can be achieved by following the recommendations for design, installation, inspection, testing and certification in 'Requirements for Electrical Installations - IEE Wiring Regulations' (BS 7671) (see Annex B: Sources of information).

Do I have to tell my Building Control Service about all electrical work that I intend to carry out?

No - you only need to tell your Building Control Service about certain riskier, 'notifiable' jobs, but if you employ a registered installer with the relevant competencies to carry out the work, you will not need to involve a Building Control Service. (See Annex B for a list of registration schemes for electrical work.) Notifiable works include new circuits back to the consumer unit and additions or alterations to existing circuits in kitchens, bathrooms and outdoors. Works that are not notifiable include repairs, replacements and maintenance; and additions or alterations to existing circuits outside kitchens and bathrooms. If you are not sure whether work is notifiable, you should check with your Building Control Service.

Can I find out if an installer is registered to do electrical work?

Yes - phone the registration scheme operators listed in Annex B or visit their websites.

Will I get a certificate that the electrical work meets the requirements of the Building Regulations?

Yes - a qualified installer should give you a signed BS 7671 electrical safety certificate for all types of electrical work. If you use a registered installer for notifiable work, the operator of the registration scheme will send you a Building Regulations compliance certificate. If you use an unregistered installer for notifiable work, the Building Control Service will inspect the work to check that it complies with the Building Regulations before issuing a completion certificate (see page 39).

Annex B - Sources of Information

Schemes of registered installers

Authorised competent person self-certification schemes for installers who can do all electrical installation work in dwellings

BRE Certification Ltd
Phone: 0870 609 6093
Website: www.partp.co.uk

British Standards Institution
Phone: 01442 230442
Website: www.bsi-global.com/kitemark

ELECSA Limited
Phone: 0870 749 0080
Website: www.elecsa.org.uk

NAPIT Certification Limited
Phone: 0870 444 1392
Website: www.napit.org.uk

NICEIC Certification Services Ltd
Phone: 0800 013 0900
Website: www.niceic.org.uk

Authorised competent person self-certification schemes for installers who can do electrical work in dwellings only if it is necessary when they are carrying out other work

CORGI Services Limited
Phone: 01256 372200
Website: www.corgi-gas-safety.com

ELECSA Limited
Phone: 0870 749 0080
Website: www.elecsa.org.uk

NAPIT Certification Limited
Phone: 0870 444 1392
Website: www.napit.org.uk

NICEIC Certification Services Ltd
Phone: 0800 013 0900
Website: www.niceic.org.uk

OFTEC (Oil Firing Technical Association for the Petroleum Industry Limited)
Phone: 0845 658 5080
Website: www.oftec.co.uk

Relevant Publications

Approved Documents

Approved Document P - Electrical safety: 2004 Edition. Published by ODPM, 2004. ISBN 0-11-753917-1

Other Priced Publications

BS 7671: 2001 (incorporating Amendments No1: 2002 and No 2: 2004). Requirements for Electrical Installations: IEE Wiring Regulations - 16th Edition. The Institution of Electrical Engineers. ISBN 0-86341-373-0, 2004

IEE On-Site Guide (BS 7671, 16th Edition Wiring Regulations). The Institution of Electrical Engineers. ISBN 0-85296-987-2, 2002.

Electrical Installers' Guide to the Building Regulations. NICEIC and ECA, October 2004. ISBN 0-95-487910-4.

The IEE Electricians' Guide to the Building Regulations. The IEE, January 2005. ISBN 0 86341 374 9.