

Guidance for Electrical Contractors

Effective from 1st January 2005



Approved Document P : Electrical Safety

Government statistics indicate that each year on average 10 people die and about 750 are seriously injured in accidents involving unsafe electrical installations in the home.

Because of this the government has decided that electrical safety requirements should be included in the Building Regulations to help reduce these statistics.

This means that

- From 1st January 2005 all electrical work in dwellings will need to comply with the new requirements (defined in regulations and the new Part P Building Regulation Approved Document) and be carried out by persons who are competent to do the work
- Small jobs such as replacing a socket-outlet or a light switch on an existing circuit will not need to be notified to a building control body, although there will be some exceptions for high risk areas such as kitchens and bathrooms and the technical requirement of Part P will still apply
- All work that involves adding a new circuit to a dwelling will need to be either notified to building control, or carried out by a Competent Person who is registered with a Part P Competent Person Self-Certification Scheme
- Persons registered with Part P Competent Person Self-Certification Schemes will be fully qualified electrical contractors with the ability to thoroughly check a circuit for safety. They will be able to issue Building Regulations certificates of compliance

Many jobs, carried out as DIY projects, will be small jobs that do not need to be notified to a Building Control body, but they should still be checked by a competent electrician and comply with the technical requirements of Part P.

In all cases, regardless of whether electrical works are formally notifiable to a Building Control body or not, the new altered or extended works should be properly documented to a standard comparable with that set out in BS 7671.

Comprehensive information about BS 7671:2001 (the IEE Wiring Regulations, 16th Edition), which forms the basis for the Part P Approved Document, can be found on the IEE web site at www.iee.org/Publish/WireRegs/

A number of leaflets are available.

The Governments leaflet 'New rules for electrical safety in the home', summarises the options and explains how to go about finding a 'Competent Person'. You can view the leaflet online now at the ODPM Website on www.odpm.gov.uk and hard copies will be available from local authorities, competent person scheme operators and other outlets such as DIY stores from the New Year.



Broadland Office

Tel 01603 430496

Norwich Office

Tel 01603 212258

South Norfolk Office

Tel 01508 533825

E: enquiries@cncbuildingcontrol.gov.uk

W: www.cnc.buildingcontrol.gov.uk



A partnership of professionals

There are other leaflets available please contact CNC on any of the three numbers overleaf or visit our website on www.cncbuildingcontrol.gov.uk.

Contractors who have not yet registered with an authorised 'Competent Persons' scheme and individuals contemplating DIY electrical works should obtain a copy of these leaflets and read them carefully.

.Person under the Competent Person Self-Certification Scheme.

Option 1

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

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	Phone: 0800 013 0900	Website: www.niceic.org.uk

Option 2

Authorised competent person self-certification schemes for installers who can do electrical work 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	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

It is understood that further schemes assist businesses and individuals who carry out installation work only as an adjunct to or in connection with the primary activity of their business are under development. This would include kitchen fitters, bathroom fitters, plumbers etc. Persons in this category should approach scheme operators for information about the availability of schemes that meet their specific needs.

What should competent practising electricians be doing NOW?

The answer is simple - join a Part P Competent Person Self-Certification Schemes so that you can self-certify your own work!