

Building Regulations Guidance Note Electrical Safety

March 2007



BUILDING REGULATIONS PART P – ELECTRICAL SAFETY

From 1st January 2005 the design, installation, inspection and testing of electrical installations will be controlled under the Building Regulations. The new Part P will apply mainly to dwelling houses and flats including gardens and outbuildings such as sheds, detached garages and greenhouses.

- Small jobs such as provision of a socket-outlet or a light switch on an existing circuit will not need to be notified to Building Control (although there will be some exceptions for high risk areas such as kitchens and bathrooms).
- All work that involves adding a new circuit to a dwelling, or electrical work in kitchens and bathrooms or in 'special locations' (see table) will need to be either notified to Building Control with a Building Regulation application, or carried out by a competent person who is registered with a Part P Self-Certification Scheme.

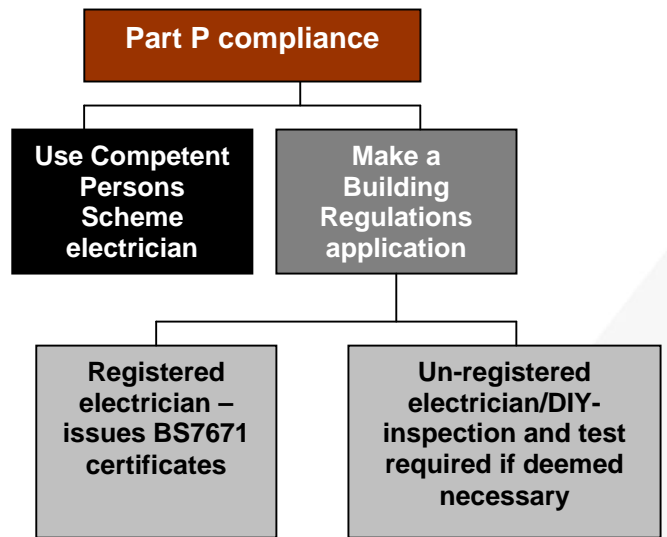
There are two routes available to applicants to ensure they comply with Part P:-

1. Use an electrician/installer who is registered with a Competent Person Scheme, in which case a Building Regulation application will not be required for the electrical work.

We would strongly encourage the use of electricians/installers who are registered with a Competent Person Scheme.

2. Submit a Building Regulation application to the Local Authority.
 - a) Where an electrician registered with a recognised trade body such as NICEIC, ECA & NAPIT (who need not be registered under a Competent Person Scheme) tests the work and issues a design, installation and test certificate under BS 7671, Building Control will accept the certificate as evidence that the work complies with Part P. Additional inspections by Building Control may also be carried out in conjunction with the acceptance of a certificate.
 - b) Where work is carried out by an unregistered electrician or is a DIY installation, the applicant is required to have the work inspected and, if deemed necessary, tested by Building Control. The cost of testing will be included in the Building Control Charge, which is based on the value of the electrical work undertaken.

The diagram below shows the various routes to ensure Part P compliance:



Do You Need to Notify Building Control?

Except as identified in the chart above, notification of proposals to carry out electrical installation will be given to Building Control before work begins, unless the work is undertaken by a person registered with a Part P self certification scheme.

Whether or not the work is notifiable is dependent on the nature of the installation work proposed and its location within the dwelling. The location is important because some 'special installations or locations,' such as kitchens and bathrooms, may pose a greater risk to people.

Examples of Work

Notifiable?

areas outside of bath/shower and kitchens within a bath/shower room or kitchen

	areas outside of bath/shower and kitchens	within a bath/shower room or kitchen
Complete new/rewire of installation	Yes	Yes
Consumer unit change	Yes	Yes
Installing a new shower unit	Yes	Yes
Installing an additional socket	No	Yes
Installing an additional light	No	Yes
Addition of fused connection unit to ring final circuit	No	Yes
Installing a new cooker circuit	Yes	Yes
Connecting a cooker to an existing connection unit	No	No
Installing or upgrading main or supplementary equipotential bonding	No	Yes
Replacing a damaged cable for a single circuit	No	No
Replacing a damaged socket outlet	No	No
Replacing a light fitting	No	No
Installation and fit of storage heater, including final circuit	Yes	Yes
Fit and final connection of storage heater	No	No
Installing extra low voltage lighting (no CE marked sets)	Yes	Yes
Taking a new supply out of a garden shed	Yes	N/A
Installing a socket in garden shed	Yes	N/A

Examples of Work

Notifiable?

	areas outside of bath/shower and kitchens	within a bath/shower room or kitchen
<u>Installing a light fitting in a greenhouse</u>	Yes	N/A
<u>Installing a pond pump, including supply</u>	Yes	N/A
<u>Installing a hot air sauna</u>	Yes	Yes
<u>Installing a photovoltaic power supply</u>	Yes	Yes
<u>Installing ceiling or floor heating</u>	Yes	Yes
<u>Installing a small scale generator</u>	Yes	Yes
<u>Installing an additional socket in a motor caravan</u>	N/A	N/A

COMPETENT PERSONS SCHEMES

The five competent persons schemes currently in operation are:-

BRE Certification Ltd.
Phone: 0800 609 6093
Website: www.partp.co.uk

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

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

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

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

Useful guidance to the new Part P can be found on the following websites:-

NICEIC – www.niceic.com
IEE – www.iee.org/Publish/WireRegs/PartP.cfm
ECA – www.eca.co.uk
CLG – (Communities and Local Government)
www.communities.gov.uk

HOW TO MAKE A BUILDING REGULATIONS APPLICATION

If you intend to submit a Building Regulations application for work that includes notifiable electrical work, it is recommended that a note should be added to your plans or specification which states:-

'All electrical work will be carried out by a person competent to meet the requirements of Part P of the Building Regulations. Prior to completion, the Council will be provided with a copy of either:

1. An electrical installation certification issued under a Competent Person Scheme, or
2. An electrical installation certificate signed by a competent electrician in conjunction with Building Control inspecting the work.'

Further guidance about how to make a Building Regulations application can be found in Guidance Note 2: Building Regulations Submissions (available from the address below).

If you require further advice on Part P or any other Buildings Regulations matter, please contact the building control group at the address below:

Department of Enterprise, Tourism & the Environment
PO Box 5557, Civic Centre
Victoria Avenue, Southend on Sea
Essex SS2 6ZF

Tel: 01702 215345
Fax: 01702 215386
Email: doete@southend.gov.uk



LABC
137 Lupus Street
London SW1V 3HE

t: 020 7641 8737

f: 020 7641 8739

www.labc.uk.com