

Compliance Certificate' to the occupier and send notification to us that the work has been carried out.

**Certification by a building control body** - If you are not intending using either of the options already covered, before work begins the installer must notify Building Control making an application to certify the work. We would always advise that any electrical work should be carried out by an appropriately qualified person, the details of your installer and their level of qualifications must be supplied as part of your application. We will then determine the extent of inspections and testing required or if we deem it necessary a specialist to carry out the inspections and/or test on our behalf. This process still requires an appropriate level of experience and competence of the installer. There will be a fee payable for this service, but you may be able to benefit from a reduced fee if your installer is qualified, please call to discuss before submitting your application.

Once we are satisfied that the work has been carried out to the correct standard we will issue a certificate of final inspection of work.

**Current competent persons schemes for work on electrical installations (fully part P compliant) are shown below**

- ELECSEA
- BRE Certification Ltd
- NAPIT Registration Ltd
- NICEIC
- British Standards Institution



More information is available from:

✉ Building Control, South Somerset District Council, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2HT

💻 [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/buildingcontrol](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/buildingcontrol)

☎ 01935 462462  
(8.45am to 5.15pm Monday to Thursday)  
(8.45am to 4.45pm Friday)

💻 [building\\_control@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:building_control@southsomerset.gov.uk)



Version 6, dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**If you would like this document translated into other languages or into Braille, large print, audio tape or CD, please contact:**

☎ **01935 462462**

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany w językowych polskim.

Este documento encontra-se disponível em Português, a pedido.

## Building Control Services

### Part P - Electrical Safety



### Guidance Leaflet - 8



## Introduction

Part P – Electrical safety was introduced to the building regulations in January 2005, and was last revised in April 2013. It applies mainly to dwelling houses and flats including their gardens and outbuildings such as sheds, detached garages and greenhouses.

Business premises sharing a common supply with a dwelling, common access areas in flats and shared amenities in flats such as laundries, gymnasiums are also required to meet the same standards.

Small works such as the provision of a socket outlet or a light switch on an existing circuit do not need to be notified to Building Control, although there are exceptions for high risk areas such as kitchens and bathrooms. In all other cases for the types of premises indicated above, all electrical work that involves adding a new circuit, or electrical work in kitchens and bathrooms or 'special locations' including locations containing a bathtub or shower basin, swimming or paddling pools and hot air saunas.

## Design and installation

Electrical installations should be designed and installed in accordance with BS7671:2008 (incorporating Amendment No1:2011).

## Provision of information

Sufficient information should be provided to ensure that people can operate, maintain or alter the installation with reasonable safety, this should include for an electrical installation certificate, labels, operating log books/instructions and other methods as included in BS7671:2008.

## New dwellings

Wall-mounted socket-outlets, switches and consumer units in new dwellings should be easy to reach, in accordance with Approved Document M – Access to and use of buildings. To ensure compliance with this standard we recommend that consumer units are installed between 1350mm and 1450mm from finished floor level.

## New dwellings formed by a change of use

Where a material change of use creates a dwelling, or changes the number of dwellings in a building you will be required to ensure that the property complies with the standards required by Part P, this means that in some cases the existing electrical installation will be required to meet current standards.

Note: if existing cables are adequate, it is not necessary to replace them, even if they use old colour codes.

## Additions and alterations to existing electrical installations

When the works are complete the building should be no more unsatisfactory in terms of complying than it was before work commenced, therefore, when extending or altering an electrical installation only the new work must meet current standards. There is no obligation to upgrade the existing installation unless either of the following applies –

- The new work adversely affects the safety of the existing installation
- The state if the existing installation is such that the new work cannot be operated safely

Any new work should be carried out in

accordance with BS7671. The existing electrical installation should be checked to ensure the following conditions are all satisfied -

- The rating and condition of existing equipment belonging to both the consumer and to the electricity distributor are suitable for the equipment to carry the additional loads arising from the new work
- Adequate protective measures are used
- The earthing and equipotential bonding arrangements are satisfactory

## Certification, inspection and testing

There are now three ways to certify work as complying with the Building Regulations.

**Self-certification by a registered competent person** - the work is carried out by a person who is registered with a competent persons scheme and should complete a BS7671 electrical installation certificate. Within 30 days the installers Competent persons scheme then issue a 'Building Regulations Compliance Certificate' to the occupier and send notification to us that the work has been carried out.

**Certification by a registered third party** - before work is carried out, an installer who is not registered may appoint a registered third party certifier to inspect and test the work as necessary. Within 5 days of completing the work the installer must notify the registered third-party certifier who, subject to the results of the test and inspection being satisfactory, then completes an electrical installation certificate. Within 30 days the registered third party certifier Competent persons scheme then issue a 'Building Regulations