

THE BUILDING REGULATIONS



Guide for Householders, Designers and Builders

PART P:

DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL SAFETY

April 2006 Revisions
(modified April 2007)

THE BUILDING REGULATIONS

PART P : Domestic Electrical Safety

From 1 January 2005, all new electrical wiring or electrical components for a house, flat or small commercial premises linked to domestic accommodation, must be designed and installed in accordance with the new Part P of the Building Regulations.

This change is to reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by faulty electrical wiring in the home. This can be caused by DIY enthusiasts or unqualified people.

This guide explains what you need to know about your responsibilities under the Building Regulations when new wiring and components are installed. The full regulations and guidance on Part P can be viewed at www.communities.gov.uk

1 Is the Work Notifiable?

The Regulations divide new electrical work into 2 categories:

- **Non-notifiable work (see tables 1 & 3)**

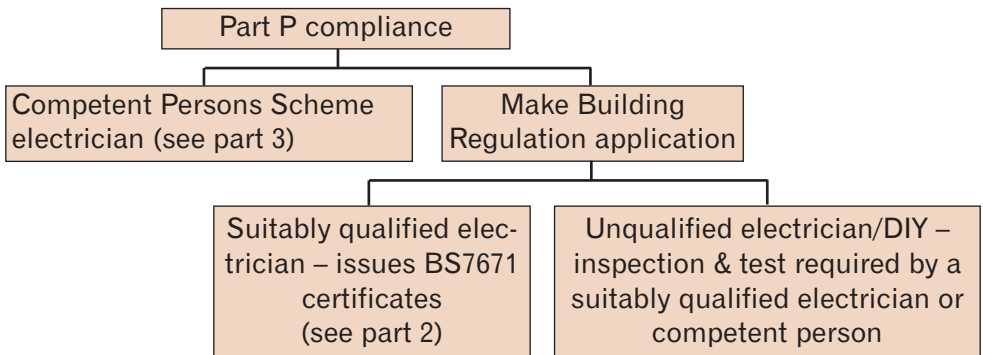
This is for minor works. You have to ensure that the work is done in accordance with the manufacturers instructions, and in a safe way. If you are unsure about how to install new wiring, electrical sockets, etc. then don't! Get a qualified electrician who can do the work safely and protect your family.

- **Notifiable work (see tables 2 & 3)**

All electrical work, except the minor work mentioned in table 1, is notifiable and will have to be checked to ensure compliance.

2 How is Notifiable Work Checked?

Diagram 1 :Routes to Ensure Part P Compliance



You must show you have complied with the Regulations by either:

- A** • Having the work done by a competent person (see part 3).
This is the simplest and quickest method as they are allowed to certify their own work.

Or by:

- B** • Making an application to Lewes District Council. This involves submitting a Building Notice, or Full Plans, application to Building Control who will require an electrical installation certificate from a **suitably qualified electrician** on completion of the works. The suitably qualified electrician will need to have designed **and** installed the electrics in accordance with Part P (installation should not be carried out by anybody other than the qualified electrician who certifies the work under option **B**). *The charges for notifiable electrical work only will be based on the estimated cost of the works under schedule 3 of our fee sheet. If the electrical work is part of a larger scheme, i.e. an extension, then the charge for that work will be included in the overall charge under schedule 2 or Schedule 1 if it involves a new dwelling.*

QUALIFICATIONS ACCEPTED TO CERTIFY ANY WORK:	QUALIFICATIONS ACCEPTED TO CERTIFY WORK EXCEPT WORK IN 'SPECIAL LOCATIONS'
JIB 'Approved' Electrician (NVQ3] or [City & Guilds 2360 part 1&2) with (City & Guilds 2391)	City & Guilds 2360 part 1&2
(City & Guilds 236 part 1&2) with (City & Guilds 2380 or 2381) plus (City & Guilds 2391)	City & Guilds 236 part 1&2 with City & Guilds 2380 or 2381
	NVQ/SVQ3 in Electrotechnical Installation & Maintenance

The electrician will need to provide a copy of their relevant qualification certificate when issuing the installation/test certificate as evidence of suitability.

- C** If you do not intend to do either **A** or **B** above, Lewes District Council may arrange for inspection and testing to be carried out by our own electrical sub-contractor. However, if you wish to use this service you **must** state this intention on your Building Regulations Application Form at the time of submission. Your application fee must then include the higher fee rate which **includes** electrical inspection and testing. This option will **not** be available at any time **after** you have submitted your application.

3 Competent Persons:

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

- **BRE Certification Ltd** Tel: 0870 609 6093
www.partp.co.uk
- **British Standards Institution** Tel: 01442 230 442
www.bsi-global.com/kitemark
- **ELECSA Ltd** Tel: 0870 749 0080
www.elecsa.org.uk
- **NAPIT Certification Services Ltd** Tel: 0870 444 1392
www.napit.org.uk
- **NICEIC** Tel: 0800 013 0900
www.niceic.org.uk

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 are:

- **CORGI Services Ltd** Tel: 01256 372 200
www.corgi-gas-safety.com
- **ELECSA Ltd** Tel: 0870 749 0080
www.elecsa.org.uk
- **NAPIT Certification Services Ltd** Tel: 0870 444 1392
www.napit.org.uk
- **NICEIC** Tel: 0800 013 0900
www.niceic.org.uk
- **OFTEC (Oil Firing Technical Association)** Tel: 0845 658 5080
www.oftec.co.uk

If the work is carried out by a competent person, registered with one of the schemes, it is not necessary to notify the Local Authority before work starts. The competent person is responsible for ensuring that work complies with all the relevant standards.

When the work is complete you should receive a signed Building Regulation self-certification certificate and the Local Authority should automatically receive a copy of the relevant details via the scheme management. You should also receive a completed Electrical Installation Certificate, made out and signed by the competent person.

Anyone who is a member of one of the self-certification schemes will be able to produce written proof of membership. If the electrician you intend to use claims membership but cannot produce written proof, use somebody else.

Table 1: NON-NOTIFIABLE WORK

Note: exemptions only apply if conditions described in italics are met.

Work consisting of:

- Replacing accessories such as socket-outlets, control switches & ceiling roses.
- Replacing the cable for a single circuit only, where damaged, for example, by fire, rodent or impact (*provided that the replacement cable has the same current carrying capacity, follows the same route and does not serve more than one sub-circuit through a distribution board*).
- Re-fixing or replacing the enclosures of existing installation components (*provided that the circuit's protective measures are unaffected*).
- Providing mechanical protection to existing fixed installations (*provided that the circuit's protective measures and current-carrying capacity of conductors are unaffected by increased thermal insulation*).
- Installing or upgrading main or supplementary equipotential bonding (*provided that the work complies with other applicable legislation, such as the Gas Safety (installation and Use) Regulations*).

Work not in a kitchen or **special location** and does not involve a special installation (see table 2) and does not involve a special installation and consists of:

- **Adding lighting points (light fittings and switches) to an existing circuit**
- Adding socket-outlets and fused spurs to an existing ring or radial circuit (*both of the above provided that the existing circuit protective device is suitable and provides protection for the modified circuit, and other relevant safety provisions are satisfactory*).

Table 2 : MINOR WORK THAT IS NOTIFIABLE

The special locations, mentioned above, for which the exemptions do not apply are listed here:

- Locations containing a bath tub or shower basin
- Swimming pools or paddling pools
- Hot air saunas

Special installations

- Electric floor or ceiling heating systems
- Garden lighting or power installations
- Solar photovoltaic (PV) power supply systems
- Small scale generators such as microCHP units
- Extra-low voltage lighting installations, other than pre-assembled, Ce-marked lighting sets.

NOTE IEE Guidance Note 7 gives guidance on achieving safe installations where risks to people are greater.

Table 3 : Examples of electrical work

Examples	Notifiable?	
	Areas outside of bath/shower room and kitchens	Within bath/shower room or kitchen (special location)
Complete new/rewire of installation	yes	yes
Consumer unit change	yes	yes
Installing a new circuit or the extension of a circuit in a kitchen or special location or associated with a special installation	yes	yes
Installing an additional socket from an existing circuit	no	yes
Installing an additional light from an existing circuit	no	yes
Adding a fused connection unit to an existing circuit	no	yes
Installing a new shower circuit	yes	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	no
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 a storage heater, including final circuit	yes	yes
Fit and connect a storage heater	no	no
Installing extra low voltage lighting (not CE marked sets)	yes	yes

Table 3 : Examples of electrical work (continued)

Examples	Notifiable?	
	Areas outside of bath/shower room and kitchens	Within bath/shower room or kitchen (special location)
Take a new supply to a garden shed, a detached garage or a greenhouse	yes	n/a
Installing an additional socket/light fitting from an existing circuit in a garden shed, a detached garage, a greenhouse or a conservatory	no	n/a
Installing pond pump, including supply	yes	n/a
Installing a hot air sauna	yes	yes
Installing a solar photovoltaic power supply	yes	yes
Installing ceiling or floor heating	yes	yes
Installing a small scale generator	yes	yes
Installing an additional socket in a motor caravan	n/a	n/a
New central heating control wiring installations	yes	yes

4 What if I do not follow the Regulations?

- 1 The electrical installation may not be safe.
- 2 You will have no record of the work done.
- 3 We will not issue a Completion Certificate for the works (including the main works if the electrical installation forms part of a larger job, i.e. an extension). This may make any future sale of the property difficult.
- 4 We can take Enforcement Action for failure to comply with the Building Regulations. This could result in a fine and an order to remove the works.

5 What Must I Do?

As the owner – decide whether the work you are doing is notifiable work. If it is, you must make sure the persons carrying out the work are either registered with one of the competent persons schemes or that the person carrying out the work will be able to certify their work and make a normal application for Building Regulations approval.

As the builder – ensure that you have electrical personnel who can either certify their work under one of the competent person bodies or are qualified and experienced enough to enable them to sign their work off under the Electrical Installation Certificate form.

As the designer – ensure you specify that electrical work (if part of a general development scheme) will be designed, constructed, inspected and tested in accordance with the British Standard 7671 (The IEE Wiring Regulations) and will either fall under a competent persons scheme or the Local Building Control Approval route.

6 Further Information:

Further details are available from any of the competent person's schemes or from the DCLG website, www.planningportal.gov.uk

The following sites also provide information on Part P:

ECA - www.eca.co.uk **LABC** - www.labc-services.co.uk

IEE - www.tee.org **JIB** - www.jib.org.uk

Or contact us: Lewes District Building Control on 01273 484477

This document can be made available in large print, audio tape, disk or in another language upon request. Please contact us on **01273 484141** or email lewesdc@lewes.gov.uk

Visit the Council's web site for more information on this and other Council services: www.lewes.gov.uk

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