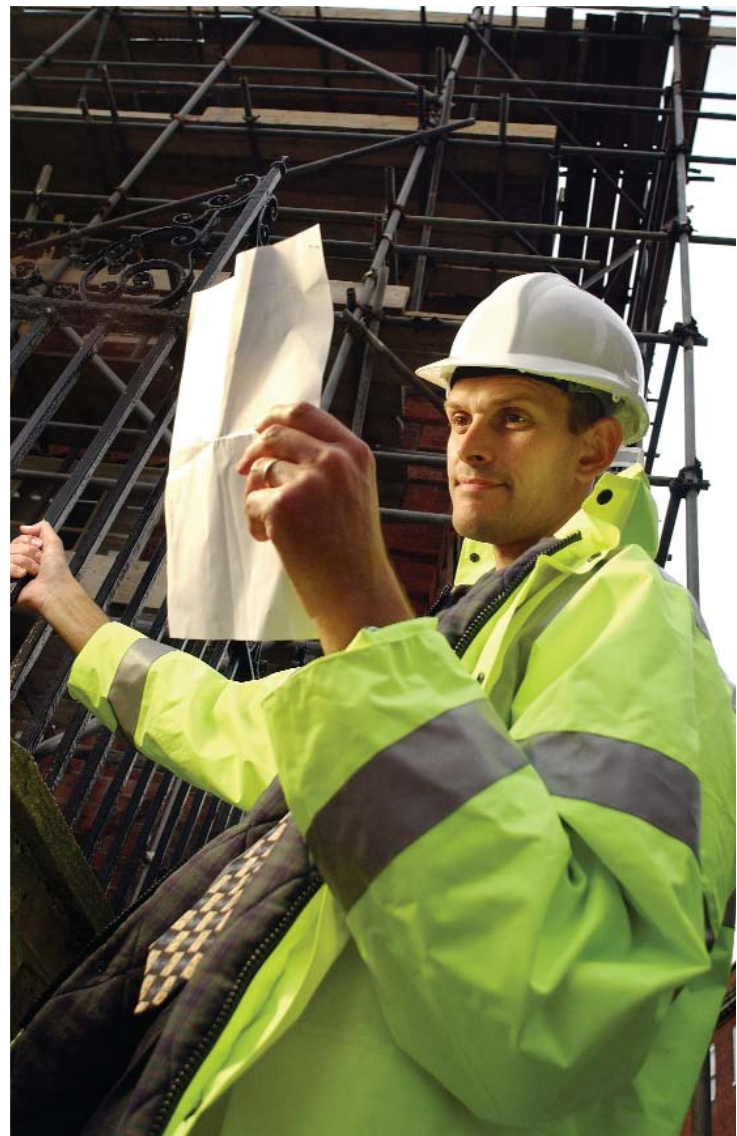


Electrical Safety

Information and Guidance



Building Regulations Part P – Electrical Safety

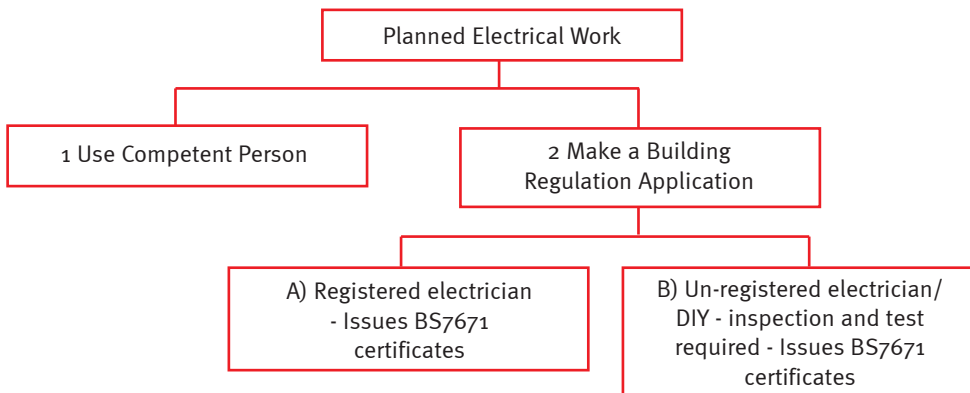
From 1 January 2005 the design, installation, inspection and testing of electrical installations will be controlled under the Building Regulations. The new Part P will apply mainly to dwelling houses and flats including gardens and outbuildings such as sheds, detached garages and greenhouses.

- 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 expectations for high risk areas such as kitchens as bathrooms).
- All work that involves adding a new circuit to a dwelling, or electrical work in kitchens and bathrooms or in ‘special location’ (see below) 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 Part P Self-Certified 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 Persons 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 part of a Competent Person Scheme. (See links overleaf)**
2. Submit a Building Regulation application to the Local Authority:
 - A. Where an electrician is registered with a recognised trade body such as NICEIC, ECA & NAPIT (who need not be registered under a competent persons scheme) tests the work and issues a design, installation and test certificate under BS7671. 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 (a list of those electricians competent to inspect and test will be available on the internet at www.labc-services.co.uk).
 - B. Where the work is carried out by an electrician not listed on the above web sites or is a DIY installation, the applicant is required to have the work inspected and tested by a registered electrician as in A or 1. above.

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



Do I need to apply or not?

Except as identified in the chart below, application for proposals to carry out electrical installation will be given to a building control body before work begins, unless the work is undertaken by a person registered with a Part P self certification scheme.

Whether or not work is notifiable is dependent on the nature of installation work proposed and its location within a 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	Does Part P apply?	
	Areas outside of bath/shower rooms and kitchens	Within a bath/shower room or kitchen (special location)
Complete new / rewire of installation	Yes	Yes
Consumer unit change	Yes	Yes
Installing a new shower circuit	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 a storage heater, including final circuit	Yes	Yes
Fit and final connection of storage heater	No	No
Installing extra low voltage lighting (not CE marked sets)	Yes	Yes
Taking a new supply out to a garden shed	Yes	N/A
Installing a socket in garden shed	Yes	N/A
Installing a light fitting in a greenhouse	Yes	N/A
Installing a 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

Competent Persons Schemes

There are currently five full scope schemes in operation, which list persons who can carry out and certify any electrical work and five defined-scope schemes for other trades who can carry out and certify a limited amount of electrical work ancillary to the main work (for example gas fitters and kitchen fitters, alarm installers and electric garage door fitters).

Full scope schemes

BRE Certification Ltd
British Standards Institution
ELECSA Ltd
NAPIT Certification Ltd
NICEIC Certification Services Ltd

Defined scope schemes

CORGI
ELECSA Ltd
NAPIT Certification Ltd
NIC Certification Ltd
OFTEC Ltd

Building Regulation Applications

If you intend to submit a full plans application for notifiable electrical work we will require a note on the plans which states:

“All electrical work required to meet the requirements of Part P (Electrical Safety) must be designed, installed, inspected and tested by a person competent to do so.”

Prior to completion of work, the Council should be satisfied that Part P has been complied with. This will require an appropriate BS7671 electrical installation certificate to be issued for the work by a person competent to do so, and will provide confirmation of Part P compliance.

Building Regulation Charges

The charges for notifiable electrical work will only be based on the cost of the work as shown as Schedule 3 of our Guidance Note on Charges. If the electrical work is part of a larger scheme (eg. a kitchen extension) the charge for that work will be included in the overall charge in Schedule 2 or 1 if it involves a new dwelling.

Useful Guidance

Information on the new Part P can be found on the following web sites. Some useful links are included below:

ECA – www.eca.co.uk

LABC – www.labc-services.co.uk

ELECSA – www.elecsa.org.uk

NAPIT – www.napit.org.uk

IEE – www.iee.org

NICEIC – www.niceic.org.uk

