



The Implications of Part P

Introduction

On January 1st 2005, Building Regulations Approved Document P (commonly known as Part P) came into force. The enforcement of Part P means that it is now a legal requirement for all trades involved in carrying out domestic electrical installation work, including plumbing and heating, to comply with Part P of the Building Regulations.

Part P has been introduced in order to:

- Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and fires caused by faulty electrical installations. Each year, on average, 10 people die and around 750 are injured in accidents involving unsafe electrical installations in the home. In addition to this, 2,336 house fires were caused by faulty installations in 2003.
- Make life harder for 'rogue-installers' to leave electrical installations in an unsafe condition.

Part P covers all fixed installations after the distributor's meter in buildings or parts of buildings comprising:

- Dwellings
- Combined dwellings and premises having a common metered supply (shops, public houses etc)
- Shared amenities in blocks of flats
- Common access areas in blocks of flats

Part P also covers parts of electrical installations outside dwellings, including pond pumps and fixed lighting in gardens, and installations in garages, sheds and greenhouses.

Notification

All proposed electrical work in dwellings will need to be notified to a building control body in advance of the work starting, except when:

- The work is to be 'self certified' as compliant with the Building Regulations by a registered competent person
- The work is of a minor nature (unless it is an addition or alteration associated with a kitchen or 'special installation or location')

Minor work that comprises only the replacement of accessories, such as socket outlets, control switches and ceiling roses, is never notifiable, even in a kitchen or 'special installation or location'.

Minor Work is installation work not involving the provision of a new circuit, such as the addition of socket-outlets or lighting points to existing circuits, and the replacement of accessories such as socket-outlets, light switches and ceiling roses.

Approved Document P lists all of the different Special Installation Locations, however, the main areas which will concern Plumbers/Heating Installers are kitchens and bathrooms.

There are 2 options for confirming compliance with Part P when carrying out notifiable work. These are:

- Inspection of the work by Local Authority Building Control (LABC)
- Self-certification by a prescribed competent person

To self certify under Part P, installers must be registered with an authorised Competent Person Self-Certification Scheme and therefore must be able to demonstrate competence for their areas of work with regard to the IEE Wiring Regulations 16th Edition (BS 7671).

Part P/BS 7671 (Wiring Regulations)

Part P has been introduced with its main aim being to enforce the Wiring Regulations. It is now a legal requirement that any installer carrying out Electrical Installations in dwellings must issue completion certificates (regardless of whether the work is of a minor nature or in a Special Installation Location)

All installations must be **tested** on completion in accordance with BS 7671 and either Domestic Installation Certificates or Minor Works Certificates must be issued.

If an installer becomes part of an Approved Contractor Person Scheme under Part P, the scheme operator will issue Building Regulations Compliance Certificates for installations however, the installer will still be required to issue the appropriate completion certificates in accordance with BS 7671. In the same respect, if an installer chooses to notify LABC of installations, then after a site inspection, LABC will issue Building Regulations Compliance Certificates. In both scenarios, Scheme Operators and LABC will both require proof of competence under the Wiring Regulations, before installers are accepted onto schemes or works are accepted.

All of the certificates mentioned will be required to form part of the Home Information Pack. Customers must keep these certificates, as it is anticipated that once the Home Information Pack is established, the home owners will require these certificates in order for the sale of their home to proceed.

Training/Qualifications

Except for in cases where Scheme Operators offer a service of independent competence assessment, installers are required to hold a certificate of competence under BS7671 in order to be able to carry out and test installations under Part P. The purpose of the training courses to assess the competence of installers is not strictly to teach how to 'wire-up' systems, but to teach installers how to test and understand wiring systems.

Since the majority of installations that Plumbers/Heating Installers will undertake would not necessitate that an installer needs to be qualified to a full '16th Edition' level, defined scope courses will enable installers to qualify to an acceptable level and self certify/notify installations. At present there is limited information available concerning such courses, however the contact details of an organisation that has developed and implemented a 5 day defined scope course is as follows:

EAL Training, Telephone: 0870 013 0389.

Three other defined scope courses are now available through BPEC, Logic Certification and NICEIC Training. The contact details for these courses are:

BPEC Certification Ltd: Tel 024 7642 0970

Logic Certification. Tel: 020 8859 2439

Website: www.logic-cert.com

NICEIC Training: Tel 01582 539516

Email: traininginfo@niceic.com

Website: www.niceic.com

Competent Installers under Part P/BS 7671 will be required to possess all of the relevant testing apparatus and also have this equipment calibrated on a regular basis. Individual testing equipment, or a combined unit will be required, with the capability to test/display:

- Voltage indication
- Insulation resistance
- Continuity
- Phase/earth loop impedance
- External earth loop impedance (not for all installations)
- Residual current device

All organisations authorised to run competent person schemes for Part P are listed on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister website at: www.odpm.gov.uk/electricalsafety. Approved Document P can also be downloaded in full from the same website.

As we become aware of further training courses/information, this Databyte will be updated.

The Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions contained in this information.

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