

Building Control



LINCS BUILDING
CONSULTANCY

Guidance Note No. 38

Approved Document P
– Electrical Safety

From 1 January 2005, all electrical work in dwellings will need to comply with the requirements of Approved Document P of the Building Regulations and will need to be carried out by persons who are competent to do electrical work.

Small jobs such as replacing a socket outlet or a light switch on an existing circuit, will not need to be notified to a Building Control body unless these are to be installed in areas of high risk, such as kitchens and bathrooms.

All work that involves the addition of a new circuit to a dwelling will need to be notified to the Local Authority Building Control Services Unit who will then be required to inspect the work and give approval. The work may alternatively be carried out by a competent person who is registered under a Government Approved Part P Self-Certification Scheme.

Persons registered and entitled to self-certify their own electrical work will need to be fully qualified electrical contractors with the ability to thoroughly check a circuit for safety. They will also be able to issue a Certificate proving compliance of the work they have carried out.

Where work is to be carried out by electricians who are not registered under a self-certification scheme, approval will be required from the Building Control Services Unit of the Local Authority. To achieve this it will be necessary to submit a formal application for the work to be carried out, normally using the Building Notice procedure, and pay the appropriate fee for the work to be inspected and certified by the Local Authority. In any event the electrical work which is carried out will still need to be certified under BS7671 by a suitably competent person who will be responsible for the design, installation, inspection and testing of the system on completion and have the confidence of completing a certificate to say that the work is satisfactory and complies with current codes of practice.

Each year on average ten people die and about 750 are seriously injured in accidents involving unsafe electrical installation in homes. Risks in future could increase as rising consumer ownership of portable and fixed electrical appliances is causing extra demand for extension and alterations to dwellings and electrical installations. Much unsatisfactory electrical work is carried out by people being over-ambitious. Do-it-yourself jobs, although needing to be notified to the Building Control officer will still need to be checked by a competent electrician and require the necessary electrical certificate, failure to do so will result in the authority **not issuing a completion certificate.**

Examples of where Approved Document P applies:

Approved Document P applies to electrical installations in buildings or parts of buildings comprising:

- Dwelling houses and flats.
- Dwellings and business premises that have a common supply – for example in shops and public houses where there is living accommodation above.
- Common access areas in blocks of flats such as corridors and stairways.
- Shared amenities of blocks of flats such as laundries and gymnasium areas.
- In or on land associated with domestic buildings for example detached buildings and garages which have fixed lighting or pond pumps in gardens [outbuildings include sheds, detached garages and greenhouses].

Competent Person's Schemes

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

Full Scope Schemes	Defined Scope Schemes
BRE Certification Ltd	CORGI
British Standards Institution	ELECSA Ltd
ELECSA Ltd	NAPIT Certification Ltd
NAPIT Certification LTD	NIC Certification Ltd
NICEIC Certification Services 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, the Council should be satisfied that Part P has been complied with. This may require an appropriate BS7671 electrical installation certificate to be issued for the work by a person competent to do so.

Building Regulation Charges

The charges for notifiable electrical work only will be based on the estimated cost of the works as shown in our charge guidance sheet.

Useful Guidance

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

ELDC – www.e-lindsey.gov.uk

LABC – www.labc-services.co.uk

ELECSA – www.elecsa.org.uk

NAPIT – www.napit.org.uk

IEE – www.tee.org

NICEIC – www.niceic.org.uk



FS58945



Lincs Building Consultancy

**Tedder Hall
Manby Park
Louth
Lincolnshire
LN11 8UP**

**Tel: 08707 551696
Fax: 01507 327069
www.e-lindsey.gov.uk
E-mail: lbc@lincsbc.gov.uk**

If you would like to receive this information in another language or in another format, such as large print, Braille or on an audio tape, please contact Administration at either of the offices shown above.

Please note that these guidance notes are for advice only and may not cover all situations. It is your responsibility to ensure that they are appropriate for use in your particular circumstances.