

Part P of the Building Regulations and how it affects you

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What is Part P of the Building Regulations?

In 2005 the Government introduced electrical safety rules into the Building Regulations for England and Wales. Because of this, most fixed electrical installation work carried out in homes must, by law, meet the Building Regulations.

Part P states that anyone carrying out electrical installation work in a home must make sure that the work is designed and installed to protect people from fire and electric shocks.

Part P applies to newly-built homes and to any changes made to existing installations, including any parts that have been rewired. You can find full details on Part P on the Communities and Local Government website, www.communities.gov.uk.



What electrical work is covered by this law?

All electrical installation work in a home, garden, conservatory or outbuilding must meet the Building Regulations.

Apart from some types of minor work, all electrical work must either be reported to the local-authority building-control, or be carried out by an electrician who is registered with one of the Government-approved scheme providers (see the inside back page of this leaflet).

For more information about electrical work, including minor work, that must meet Part P of the Building Regulations, visit our website, www.esc.org.uk.



Who is responsible for making sure that electrical work meets the requirements of Part P?

By law, all homeowners and landlords must be able to prove that all electrical installation work meets Part P, or they will be committing a criminal offence.

Local authorities can make homeowners or landlords remove or alter any work that does not meet the Building Regulations.



What do I need to do before electrical installation work can be carried out in my home?

You must either:

- tell your local-authority building-control about the installation work before it starts; or
- employ an electrician who is registered with one of the Government-approved Part P schemes.

We recommend that you use a registered electrician to do the electrical installation work. For more information, see the back page of this leaflet.

The advantages of using a registered electrician are:

- you will not have to pay any building-control charges;
- the electrician can deal with everything for you;
- the electrician will arrange for you to receive a certificate that confirms the work meets Building Regulations;
- you have access to a formal complaints procedure if the work doesn't meet Building Regulations; and
- you can choose to take out an insurance-backed guarantee when you have the work done, and you can make a claim if the work is later found not to meet Building Regulations.



What does Part P of the Building Regulations mean for me?

If you use a registered electrician, you can expect to have safe electrical installation work done, as the work will meet the UK national standard, BS 7671 (Requirements for Electrical Installations). When the work is finished you will receive:

- an Electrical Installation Certificate or Minor Works Certificate that confirms that the work meets BS 7671; and
- a Building Regulations Compliance Certificate that confirms that the work meets the Building Regulations.

Is it important who carries out electrical installation work in my home?

Yes. Electrical installation work must be carried out only by people who have the knowledge, skill and experience needed to avoid danger to themselves and others. It's easy to make an electrical circuit work – it's far harder to make the circuit work safely.

We strongly recommend that you use a registered electrician to do any electrical installation work you need.

They work to the UK national safety standard and will give you a safety certificate to confirm that their work has been designed, inspected and tested in line with that standard.



How do I find a registered electrician? You can find a registered electrician by contacting the following organisations, who are approved by the Government to register electricians under Part P of the Building Regulations.



BRE Certification Ltd
(working in partnership with the
Electrical Contractors' Association)
Phone: 0870 609 6093
www.partp.co.uk



ELECSA Ltd
Phone: 0845 634 9043
www.elecsa.co.uk



NICEIC Group Ltd
Phone: 0870 013 0382
www.niceic.com



British Standards Institution
Phone: 01442 278 577
www.kitemarktoday.com



NAPIT Registration Ltd
Phone: 0870 444 1392
www.napit.org.uk

For a full and up-to-date list of organisations that register electricians, visit the Communities and Local Government website www.communities.gov.uk.

The Electrical Safety Council

18 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6LB Phone: 0870 040 0561 Fax: 0870 040 0560
Email: enquiries@esc.org.uk Web: www.esc.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 257376

The Electrical Safety Council is an independent charity committed to reducing deaths and injuries through electrical accidents at home and at work.

