



## Electrical Safety

### Building Regulations - Part P

From 1 January 2005 the design, installation, inspection and testing of electrical installations has been controlled under Part P of the Building Regulations. This applies to dwelling houses and flats including gardens and outbuildings such as sheds, detached garages and greenhouses.

- Small jobs such as the provision of a socket-outlet or a light switch on an existing circuit will not need to be notified to Building Control (although there are exceptions for kitchens and special locations).
- All work that involves adding a new circuit to a dwelling, or electrical work in kitchens and bathrooms or in 'special locations' (see table on reverse) will need to be either notified to Building Control with a building regulation application, or carried out by a competent person registered with a Part P Competent Persons Scheme.

There are two routes available to ensure compliance with Part P:

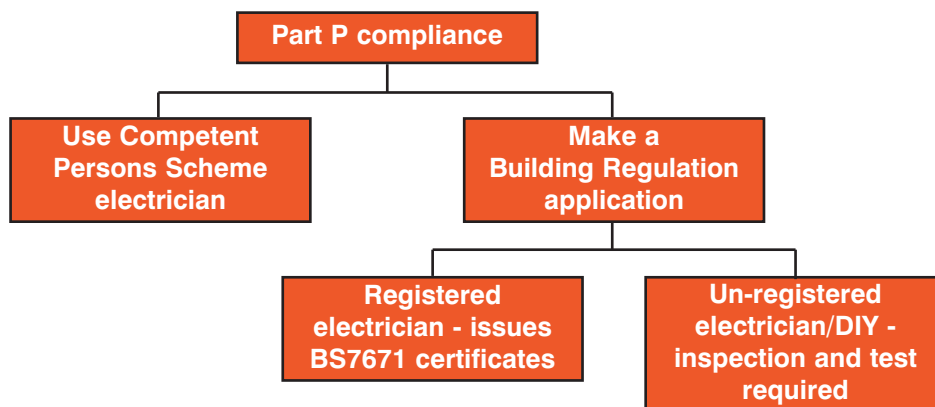
1 Use an electrician/installer who is registered with a Competent Persons scheme

In this 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 Persons Scheme.**

2. Submit a Building Regulation application to the Local Authority

- a. Where an electrician registered with a recognised trade body such as NICEIC, ECA & NAPIT (but not 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 in conjunction with site inspections as evidence that the work complies with Part P.
- b. Where the work is carried out by an unregistered electrician or is a DIY installation, the work should be inspected and tested by a registered electrician as in a) above. Additional inspections by Building Control will also be carried out.

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



## To notify or not, that is the question?

Except as identified in the chart below, notification of proposals to carry out an 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 competent persons scheme. Whether or not work is notifiable is dependant on the nature of the installation work proposed and its location. The location is important because some 'special installations or locations', such as kitchens and bathrooms, pose a greater risk to people.

Examples of work	Notifiable?	
	Areas outside kitchens and bath/shower rooms	Within a kitchen or bath/shower room
Complete new/re-wire of installation Consumer unit change Installing a new shower circuit Installing a new cooker circuit Installation and fit of storage heater, including final circuit Installing extra low voltage lighting (not pre-assembled CE marked sets) Installing external lighting Taking a new supply to a garden shed/greenhouse Installing a socket or light fitting in a garden shed/greenhouse Taking a new supply to a conservatory or porch Installing a pond pump, including supply Installing a hot-air sauna Installing a solar photovoltaic power supply Installing ceiling or floor heating Installing a small scale generator New central heating control wiring	<b>YES</b>	
Connecting a cooker to an existing connection circuit Replacing a damaged cable for a single circuit Replacing a socket outlet or light fitting Fit and final connection of storage heater Installing or upgrading main or supplementary equipotential bonding	<b>NO</b>	
Installing an additional socket or additional light fitting Addition of fused connection unit to ring final circuit	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>

## Competent Persons Schemes

There are currently five full scope schemes in operation, for installers 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

BRE Certification Ltd (with ECA)  
 British Standards Institution (BSI)  
 ELECSA Ltd  
 NAPIT Certification Ltd  
 NICEIC Certification Services Ltd

### Defined scope schemes

APHC  
 CORGI  
 ELECSA Ltd  
 NAPIT Certification Ltd  
 NICEIC Certification Services Ltd  
 OFTEC Ltd

## Building Regulation Applications

If you intend to submit a full plans application involving notifiable electrical work you should note on the plan that "All electrical work required to meet the requirements of Part P (Electrical Safety) will be designed, installed, inspected and tested by a person competent to do so". Upon completion, an appropriate BS7671 electrical installation certificate should 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 cost of the works as shown in Table 3 of our fee guide. If the electrical work is part of a larger scheme i.e. a kitchen extension, the charge for that work will be included in the overall charge in Table 2, or Table 1 if it involves a new dwelling.

## Useful Guidance

Further information on the new Part P can be found on the following web sites.

APHC - [www.competentpersonsscheme.co.uk](http://www.competentpersonsscheme.co.uk) BSI - [www.kitemarktoday.com](http://www.kitemarktoday.com) ECA - [www.eca.co.uk](http://www.eca.co.uk)  
 ELECSA - [www.elecsa.org.uk](http://www.elecsa.org.uk) IEE - [www.iee.org](http://www.iee.org) LABC - [www.labc-services.co.uk](http://www.labc-services.co.uk) NAPIT - [www.napit.org.uk](http://www.napit.org.uk)  
 NICEIC - [www.niceic.org.uk](http://www.niceic.org.uk)