

LABC Technical Guidance Note



Subject : Part P Electrical Safety

Date : July 2007 Ref No: 07/01 Revision :

Purpose

LABC technical guidance notes are for the benefit of its members, to provide information, promote good practice and encourage consistency of interpretation for the benefit of our clients. They are advisory in nature, and in all cases the responsibility for determining compliance with the Building Regulations remains with the Local Authority concerned.

This guidance note is based upon information available at the time of issue and may be subject to change. The Approved Documents should be consulted for full details in any particular case.

Introduction

January 2005 saw the introduction of Part P – Electrical Safety into Building Regulation requirements. These requirements were revised in April 2006. The reference to inspection and testing is no longer included within P1 of Schedule 1, however guidance on when appropriate inspection and testing should be carried out as part of demonstrating compliance is now given in the revised Approved Document to Part P.

The A.D. also gives guidance on who is required to inspect and test an installation and who is expected to provide information to enable safe operation, maintenance or alteration of an electrical installation.

Key Issues

Application of Part P

Part P applies mainly to dwelling houses and flats including their gardens and outbuildings such as sheds, detached garages and greenhouses.

Business premises sharing a common supply with a dwelling, common access areas in flats and shared amenities in flats such as laundries and gymnasiums are also required to meet the requirements of Part P.

Small jobs such as provision of a socket-outlet or a light switch on an existing circuit do not need to be notified to Building Control, although there are exceptions for high risk areas such as kitchens and bathrooms.

In all other cases for the types of premises indicated above, all work that involves adding a new circuit, or electrical work in kitchens and bathrooms or 'special locations' (see table below) will need to be either notified to Building Control by deposited application, or, carried out by a competent person registered with a Part P Self-Certification Scheme.

Compliance with Part P

There are two routes available to those carrying out electrical work to show compliance with the Building Regulations.

1. **Use an electrician/installer who is registered with a competent Persons Scheme.** In this case a deposited application under the Building Regulations will not be required for the electrical work.

We would strongly encourage the use of electricians/installers who are registered with 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 is not necessarily registered under a Competent Person Scheme, tests the work and issues a design, installation and test certificate under BS 7671, Building Control should normally accept that certificate as evidence that the work complies with Part P.

Additional inspections may also be carried out by Building Control in conjunction with acceptance of a certificate.

- b. Where work is carried out by an unregistered electrician or is a DIY installation, the applicant is required to have the work inspected, and, if deemed necessary, tested by Building Control. The cost of testing will be included in the charges associated with the deposited application.

The table below gives examples of work that is either notifiable to Building Control, or must be carried out by a person registered with a Part P Competent Persons Scheme.

Description of work	Area outside bath/shower or kitchen	Within bath/shower or kitchen
Complete new/rewire of installation	Yes	Yes
Consumer unit change	Yes	Yes
Install new shower unit	Yes	Yes
Install additional socket outlet	No	Yes
Install additional light	No	Yes
Additional fused connection unit to ring final circuit	No	Yes
Install new cooker circuit	Yes	Yes
Connect cooker to an existing connection unit	No	No
Install/upgrade main or supplementary equipotential bonding	No	Yes
Replace damaged cable for single circuit	No	Yes
Replace damaged socket outlet	No	No
Replace a light fitting	No	No

Description of work	Area outside bath/shower or kitchen	Within bath/shower or kitchen
Install and fit storage heater, including final circuit	Yes	Yes
Fit and final connection of storage heater	No	No
Installing extra low voltage lighting (no CE marked sets)	Yes	Yes
Provide new supply to garden shed	Yes	N/A
Install socket outlet in garden shed	Yes	N/A
Install light fitting in greenhouse	Yes	N/A
Install pond pump including supply	Yes	N/A
Install hot air sauna	Yes	Yes
Install photovoltaic power supply	Yes	Yes
Install ceiling or floor heating	Yes	Yes
Installation of microgeneration system	Yes	Yes