

GUIDE TO ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION WORK IN SCOTLAND

Detailing significant changes to the regulation of electrical installation work in Scotland.

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Electricity has the potential to cause fire, injury and death. To prevent these risks, it is important that electrical installations are safe and properly installed by trained and competent electricians.

The Technical Standard in the UK for electrical installation work is BS 7671 – Requirements for Electrical Installations (often referred to as the 17th edition of the IEE Wiring Regulations).

IET members should, however, be aware that significant changes to the regulation of electrical installation work were recently introduced in Scotland.

What has Changed?

In May 2005, a new system was brought in to enforce the Building Regulations in

Scotland. It aims to improve the standard of building work and includes regulations for electrical installations.

Under the new system, any electrical work carried out under a building warrant will either have to be certified by a registered installer (known formally as an 'Approved Certifier') or be checked by the local authority.

What is Certification?

The provision of a Certificate of Construction (Electrical Installations to BS 7671) is a means by which an Approved Certifier confirms work complies with Building Regulations. Approved Certifiers are qualified and experienced professional electricians who are members of a scheme approved by Scottish Ministers. In Scotland, two



organisations are approved by the Scottish Government to run a Scheme. They are SELECT (formerly known as the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland) and NICEIC Group Ltd.

IET members may have been more familiar with NICEIC and indeed may have included a recommendation in their documentation that electrical inspections should only be carried out by members of that inspection organisation. If IET members wish to continue to suggest electrical inspections they are advised to note that two bodies can now legally undertake this work.

How can the new Building Standards System help?

Having electrical installation work certified by an approved certifier provides benefits:

- Where the work is being carried out under a building warrant, the person procuring the work will receive a discount from the building warrant application fee where they use an Approved Certifier and advise their intention at the warrant application stage.

- Quicker acceptance of completion certificates by local authorities. Certified electrical installations are not inspected by the local authority at completion.

- Approved Certifiers are able to provide a quality service and ensure compliance of work with building regulations.

- A firm employing at least one Approved Certifier must meet additional criteria to be appointed as an Approved Body.

- Approved Bodies must hold adequate insurance cover for any project to be certified.

- Members of a certification scheme have their work inspected by the Scheme Provider.

- Construction professionals and tradesmen must have met high levels of qualifications and experience to be accepted into certification schemes.

- Scheme Members are subject to an independent complaints procedure.

Information and Contacts

For further information about certification and the new system of building standards in Scotland contact:

The Scottish Government
Building Standards

DivisionDenholm House
LIVINGSTON
West Lothian EH54 6GA
Tel: 01506 600400
www.sbcs.gov.uk

Details from the Scheme providers at:

SELECT
The Walled Garden
Bush Estate
Midlothian EH26 0SB
Tel: 0131 445 5577
www.select.org.uk

NICEIC Group Ltd
Warwick House
Houghton Hall Park
Houghton Regis
Dunstable LU5 5ZX
Tel: 01582 531000
www.niceic.com



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- isolation and switching
- special installations or locations
- inspection, testing and certification
- protection against overcurrent
- shock protection and earthing & bonding
- selection and erection of equipment.

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