

Guide to Part P Building Regulations

Under current Building Regulations electricians must prove their competence to undertake the design, installation, inspection and testing of electrical work. The introduction of Part P (Electrical Safety) to Building Regulations was introduced to prevent the growing number of fatal injuries and accidents caused by substandard electrical work, often carried out by DIY amateurs.

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Now in force for two years, Part P applies mostly to dwelling houses and flats, including gardens and outbuildings such as sheds, detached garages and greenhouses.

It covers all work involving installing new circuits, and electrical work in kitchens and bedrooms, or in [special locations](#). However small jobs, such as fitting a socket or light switch to an existing circuit, are exempt, except in high risk areas.

Under the new regulation, Building Control must be notified of proposals to carry out electrical installations before work begins — unless the work is to be done by an electrician with a Part P self-certification scheme.

There are two ways to ensure Part P compliance:

1. Become registered under Competent Person's scheme.

This allows electricians to carry out design, installation and issue of a test certificate under BS7671, which Building Control will accept as fully compliant with Part P, with no building regulation application or notification of work to be started necessary.

In this case the electrician should give the person (usually the householder) ordering the work a Building Regulations self-certificate and copy it to the local authority. They should also offer the householder the opportunity to buy an insurance backed guarantee to cover them in case work is not compliant with Building Regulations.

Competent Person schemes include:

- BRE Certification Ltd;
- British Standards Institution;
- ELECSA Ltd.;
- NAPIT Certification Ltd; and
- NICEIC Certification Services Ltd.

A limited amount of work may also be carried under schemes:

- CORGI;
- ELECSA Ltd.;
- NIC Certification Ltd.; and
- OFTEC Ltd.

2. Make a Building Regulation application to the local authority

If registered with a trade body, such as NICEIC, ECA and NAPIT, Building Control will accept a test certificate from the electrician under BS7671 as evidence that work complies with Part P, although they may carry out additional inspections.

If not registered, work carried out by either by an un-registered electrician or as a DIY project must be inspected and tested by a registered technician as above.

For further information, download [Part P, Electrical Safety — Dwellings \(PDF: 4.56 MB\)](#)

Special locations include

- Areas including a bath or shower
- Swimming or paddling pools
- Hot air saunas
- Electric floor or ceiling heating systems
- Garden lighting or power installations
- Solar Photovoltaic (PV) power supply systems
- Small scale generators such as microchip units
- Extra-low voltage lighting installations, other than pre-assembled, CE-marked lighting sets.