

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – BUILDING CONTROL

IMPORTANT NOTE – ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Building Regulations Part P - Electrical Safety

From 1 January 2005 the design, installation, inspection and testing of electrical installations will be controlled under the Building Regulations.

The new Part P will apply mainly to dwelling houses and flats including gardens and outbuildings such as sheds, detached garages and greenhouses.

- Small jobs such as provision of a socket-outlet or a light switch on an existing circuit will be outside the scope of Part P (although there will be some exceptions for high risk areas such as kitchens and bathrooms).
- All work that involves adding a new circuit to a dwelling, or electrical work in kitchens and bathrooms or in 'special locations' will need to be either, carried out by a competent person who is registered with a Part P Self-Certification Scheme, or notified to Building Control with a building regulation application.

There are two routes available to applicants to ensure they comply with Part P:-

1. Use an electrician/installer who is registered with a Competent Person's scheme, in which 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 Person Scheme.

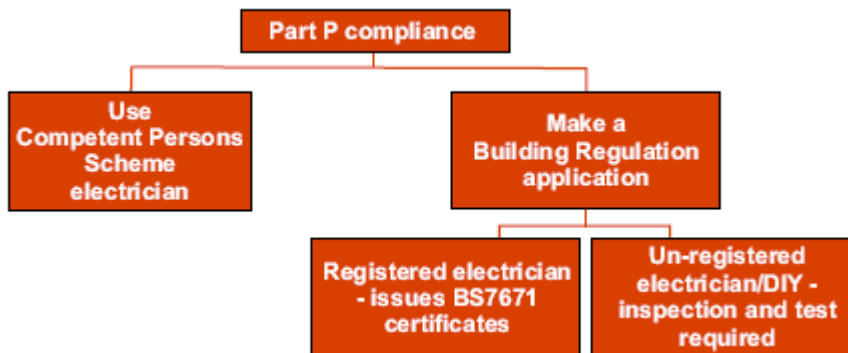
2. Submit a Building Regulation application to the Local Authority:

A. Where an electrician registered with a recognised trade body such as NICEIC, ECA & NAPIT (who need not be 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 as evidence that the work complies with Part P.

Additional inspections by Building Control may also be carried out in conjunction with the acceptance of a certificate (a list of those electricians competent to inspect and test will be available on the internet at labc-services.co.uk).

B. Where the work is carried out by an unregistered electrician or is a DIY installation, the applicant is required to have the work inspected and tested by a competent person or a registered electrician as in A. above.

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



Submitting an application

Unless the work is undertaken by a person registered with a competent person under the Part P self certification scheme, a Building Notice or Full plans application will need to be made to the Building Regulations Department before work begins.

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Whether or not work is notifiable is dependant on the nature of installation work proposed and its location within a dwelling. The location is important because some 'special installations or locations', such as kitchens and bathrooms, may pose a greater risk to people.

If you intend to submit a full plans application for notifiable electrical work we will require a note on the plans which states:

"All electrical work required to meet the requirements of Part P (Electrical Safety) must be designed, installed, inspected and tested by a person competent to do so.

Prior to completion, the Council should be satisfied that Part P has been complied with. This may require an appropriate BS7671 electrical installation certificate to be issued for the work by a person competent to do so.

The charges for notifiable electrical work only will be based on the cost of the works as shown in Table C of our application form. 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 B or Table A if it involves a new dwelling.

Competent Person's Schemes

There are currently five full scope schemes in operation, 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
British Standards Institution
ELECSA Ltd
NAPIT Certification Ltd
NICEIC Certification Services Ltd

Defined scope schemes

CORGI
ELECSA Ltd
NAPIT Certification Ltd
NIC Certification Ltd
OFTEC Ltd

Useful Guidance

Information on the new Part P can be found on the following web sites. Some useful links are included below:

ECA - www.eca.co.uk

LABC - www.labc-services.co.uk

ELECSA - www.elecsa.org.uk

NAPIT - www.napit.org.uk

IEE - www.iee.org

NICEIC - www.niceic.org.uk

Further Information

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01992 564141 or e-mail us at buildingcontrolinfo@eppingforestdc.gov.uk



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