

QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED BY CONSUMERS ABOUT PART P

Q) What is 'Part P'?

A) This refers to Part P of the Building Regulations 2000. These are statutory requirements that apply to building work in England and Wales. Part P gives legally enforceable rules relating to electrical safety in houses and flats (referred to in the regulations as 'dwellings'). The various other Parts of the Building Regulations give legal requirements relating to structure, fire safety etc.

Q) What work has to comply with Part P?

A) Since 1 January 2005, all electrical installation work carried in houses and flats in England and Wales must comply with the Building Regulations.

Q) Why have the new rules been introduced?

A) To help reduce the number of deaths, injuries and fires caused by faulty electrical installations and to make it harder for 'cowboy builders' to leave electrical installations in an unsafe condition.

Q) If I want some electrical work carried out, do I have to tell my local authority's Building Control Department before the work starts?

A) The diagram below sets out the options for consumers.

Q) What will happen if electrical work does not comply with the Building Regulations?

A) The electrical installation might not be safe. Also:

- the local authority may insist that you have faulty work put right
- without the relevant electrical safety and compliance certificates, you may have difficulty in selling your home.

Q) How can I find a registered installer to carry out my electrical installation work?

A) Visit the websites of the approved scheme



A You do not need to tell your local authority's Building Control Department about:

- repairs, replacements and maintenance work; or
- extra power points or lighting points or other alterations to existing circuits (except in a kitchen or bathroom, or outdoors).

You need to tell them about most other work. If you are not sure about this, or you have any questions, ask your local authority's Building Control Department.

B Why should I use an installer who is registered with a competent person scheme?

- Members of schemes can deal with all the new rules for you.
- Members are qualified to carry out electrical work.
- Members will give you a certificate to confirm their work follows the new rules.
- You will not have to pay Building Control charges.
- You will have the option of taking out an insurance - backed guarantee for the work.
- You will have access to a formal complaints procedure if you are not happy with the technical standard of the work.

To contact one of the competent person schemes operators, phone one of the numbers on the following page. Registered installers are in the process of becoming members of the new TrustMark Scheme which was launched in Jan 2006. Quality Scheme members will offer consumers more protection than the minimum protection registered installers must offer.

operators shown here, or, more conveniently, visit the Local Authority Building Control website: www.competentperson.co.uk. This has a searchable database of all Competent Persons registered with approved scheme operators.

Q) Where can I find out more about Part P?

A) Amongst other places, further details including leaflets can be found on the government website www.communities.gov.uk, and on the Electrical Safety Council's website www.electricalsafetycouncil.org.uk



Authorised competent person self-certification schemes for installers who can do all electrical installation work

BRE Certification Ltd
Phone: 0870 609 6093
www.partp.co.uk



British Standards Institution
Phone: 01442 230442
www.bsi-global.com/kitemark



ELECSA Limited
Phone: 0870 749 0080
Website: www.elecsa.org.uk



NAPIT Registration Limited
Phone: 0870 444 1392
Website: www.napit.org.uk



NICEIC Group Ltd
Phone: 0870 013 0382
Website: www.niceic.com



Authorised competent person self-certification schemes for installers who can do electrical work only if it is necessary when they are carrying out other work

CORGI Services Limited
Phone: 01256 372200
www.corgi-gas-safety.com



ELECSA Limited
Phone: 0870 749 0080
www.elecsa.org.uk



NAPIT Registration Limited
Phone: 0870 444 1392
www.napit.org.uk



NICEIC Group Ltd
Phone: 0870 013 0382
www.niceic.com



OFTEC (Oil Firing Technical Association)
Phone: 0845 658 5080
www.oftec.org

