

Landlords: Finding a Competent Electrical Installer



This brief guide is aimed at providing advice to individuals who have responsibility for selecting a Competent Installer to carry out electrical work in domestic premises.

Finding a Competent Electrical Installer

Introduction

Electrical work in domestic premises should always be carried out in accordance with the requirements laid down in the UK national standard for the safety of electrical installations, BS 7671: 2001 (IEE Wiring Regulations). Although BS 7671 is not a statutory document, installations conforming to that standard are regarded by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as likely to achieve conformity with the relevant parts of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989*. The Electricity at Work Regulations is a statutory instrument requiring precautions to be taken against the risk of death or personal injury from electricity in work activities.

All electricians and installers carrying out electrical work, whether as an employer, employee or self-employed person, must comply with the relevant requirements of the Electricity at Work Regulations. In particular, Regulation 16 of those regulations requires that all persons (other than DIYers) working on electrical installations must have appropriate technical knowledge and experience to prevent danger or injury.

*NOTE: In Northern Ireland, the Electricity at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991 applies. These are issued by the Health and Safety Agency for Northern Ireland.

Sole traders and electrical supervisors of businesses registered with one of the competency schemes mentioned will have had their qualifications, experience and samples of their work checked to confirm that they do have the appropriate knowledge and experience to carry out electrical work in accordance with BS 7671. Using a registered installer therefore will place less responsibility on the person ordering the work in deciding whether an installer is competent or not.

Type of Work

The Electricity at Work Regulations apply to all persons carrying out any work activity falling within the scope of the regulations. They cover new electrical installation work as well as the regular inspection and testing of existing installations.

Regular inspection and testing is essential because the condition of installations deteriorate over time and

inspection and testing will identify whether the installation continues to be safe to use or not (known as periodic inspection and testing). The Electricity at Work Regulations apply to both domestic and non domestic installations.

Electrical Installation Work

Other laws governing the standard of domestic electrical installation work are different in England and Wales from those in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Installers carrying out electrical installation work in England and Wales have to comply with Part P of the Building Regulations whereas in Scotland it is the Building Standards system they need to comply with. At the present time there is no equivalent statutory requirement in Northern Ireland.

By using an installer registered with one of the mentioned competency schemes should ensure that certificates will be provided to confirm that the new installation work (including any alterations and additions) complies with BS 7671. This certificate will either be an Electrical Installation or Minor Works certificate.

In **England & Wales**, the following organisations are authorised by Government to assess and register installers who are competent to carry out and self certify domestic electrical installation work in compliance with Part P of the Building Regulations. This will mean that in addition to a BS7671 certificate a Building Regulations Compliance Certificate will also be provided.



BRE Certification Ltd working in partnership with the Electrical Contractors' Association
Phone: 0870 609 6093
Website: www.partp.co.uk



British Standards Institution
Phone: 01442 278 577
Website: www.kitemarktoday.com



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



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



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

In addition to those already mentioned, there are other government-authorised Scheme Operators that register installers who carry out electrical work. The scope of work covered is limited to electrical installation work carried out in connection with, or ancillary to, some other non-electrical work. Examples of work/installations that fall within the scope of work carried out include:

Plumbing • Kitchen • bathroom and bedroom • Security systems • Gas heating • Loft conversions • Telecommunications • Oil-fired heating • Extensions • Door/gate entry • Solid fuel heating • Conservatories • CCTV • Extractor fans • Garden installations • Maintenance • Air conditioning • Swimming pools • Stair lifts • Spa baths



Corgi Services Ltd
Phone: 0870 401 2200
Website: www.corgi-gas-safety.com



OFTEC Ltd
Phone: 0845 658 5080
Website: www.oftec.co.uk

Further information and a full searchable list of registered installers can be found at: www.competentperson.co.uk

In **Scotland**, the following organisations are approved by the Scottish Executive for the registration of installers competent to carry out electrical installation work in compliance with the Scottish Building Standards System:



NICEIC Group Ltd
Phone: 0131 445 5577
Website: www.niceic.com



SELECT
Phone: 0131 445 5577
Website: www.select.org.uk

In **Northern Ireland**, there are no government-approved schemes for the registration of installers who carry out electrical installation work. However, the following organisations do register installers competent to carry out electrical installation work on domestic (as well as other) premises.



Electrical Contractors' Association
Phone: 0207 3123 4800
Website: www.eca.co.uk



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



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

Periodic Inspection and Testing of Existing Installations

For the periodic inspection and testing of existing installations, there are no government-approved schemes in the UK that register competent inspectors. However, the following organisations do register businesses that may be competent to carry out this work, although their schemes may not cover the entire UK.



British Standards Institution
Phone: 01442 278 577
Website: www.kitemarktoday.com



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



Electrical Contractors' Association
Phone: 0207 3123 4800
Website: www.eca.co.uk



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



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



SELECT
Phone: 0131 445 5577
Website: www.select.org.uk

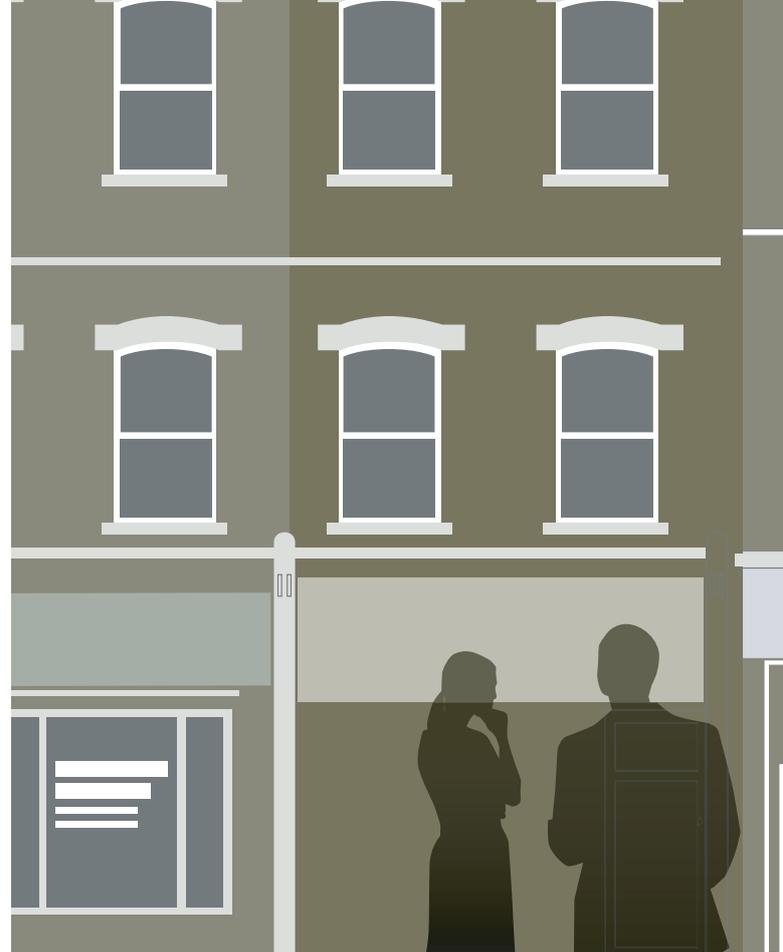
Before selecting a particular business to do the electrical work, it would be advisable to check with the mentioned organisations that the business is approved and registered for undertaking periodic inspection and reporting work.

By using an installer registered with one of the mentioned competency schemes should ensure that a report will be provided recording the condition of the existing installation. This report is called a Periodic Inspection Report.

There may be occasions when a periodic inspection is carried out by an electrician or installer who is not registered with one of the above-mentioned registration schemes. Where this is the case, the responsibility for ensuring that the electrician or installer is competent to undertake the work rests with the individual selecting or approving the use of that particular individual or business.

As mentioned in the introduction, the Electricity at Work Regulations requires that all persons (other than DIYers) working on electrical installations must have the appropriate technical knowledge and experience to prevent danger or injury. Technical qualifications can help an individual to decide whether a particular electrician or installer is competent, but great care is needed if the judgement is based on these alone. Some of the relevant nationally-recognised qualifications that an electrical installer or electrician may hold are:

- City and Guilds 2360 Part 2 (Electrical Installation Competencies) or NVQ/SVQ Level 3 in Electrical Installation Work, (SCOTVEC National Certificate in Electrical Installation) or an equivalent electrical installation qualification
 - City and Guilds 2380/2381* (16th Edition) Certificate
 - City & Guilds 2391* (Inspection, Testing and Certification) Certificate
- * The Scottish Qualifications Authority Tailored Award in Design and Verification of Electrical Installations may be offered in lieu of the City & Guilds 2380 and/or the City & Guilds 2391 assessment.



What is the Electrical Safety Council?

The Electrical Safety Council is a consumer safety body supported by all sectors of the electrical industry as well as local and central government. It deals with all electrical safety matters on behalf of consumers. It is an independent, non-profit making organisation, registered as a charity. The Electrical Safety Council is a driving force in the field of electrical safety for the protection of consumers, working with other organisations to improve standards and promote best practice.

For further advice on electrical safety matters and the selection of competent electrical installers visit our website www.electricalsafetycouncil.org.uk.