

**THE IEE WIRING REGULATIONS 2008 – 17th EDITION: BS7671 2008
March 2008**



1. When do the new 17th Edition of the Wiring Regulations come into force?

- BS: 7671 2008. Requirements for Electrical Installation, (the IEE Wiring Regulations 17th Edition), was published in January 2008 and the new Regulations come into effect from 1st July 2008.
- The new 17th Edition of the Wiring Regulations replaces the 16th Edition, BS7671 2001, incorporating Amendment 1, 2002 and Amendment 2, 2004.
- The Regulations apply to the design, erection and verification of electrical installations and additions and alterations to existing installations.
- Electrical installations designed after 30th June 2008 must comply with the 17th Edition, BS 7671:2008.
- Publication of the 2008 edition does not automatically mean that installations complying with previous editions are unsafe for continued use or that they need to be upgraded.

2. The numbering system

- The numbering of Parts, Chapters and Sections has been changed throughout the 17th Edition to fall in line with the systems employed by the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) and CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation).
- Inspection and testing is now in Part 6 instead of Part 7 so, in the 17th Edition:
 - For Initial verification refer to Chapter 61
 - For Periodic inspection and testing refer to Chapter 62
 - For Certification and reporting refer to Chapter 63
- The model forms for certification and reporting remain in Appendix 6.

3. Chapter 41 - Protection against electric shock

- The term 'direct contact' has been replaced with 'basic protection' – protection against touching live parts.
- The term 'indirect contact' has been replaced with 'fault protection' – protection against receiving a shock from conductive parts that have become live due to a breakdown of insulation or damage to equipment.
- Socket outlets rated not exceeding 20 A and intended for general use must be protected with 30 mA RCDs. This means that general purpose sockets in domestic and similar properties must have RCD protection.
- External sockets rated not exceeding 32 A must also have 30 mA RCD protection.
- Maximum permitted earth loop impedance – Zs values are slightly reduced as they have been adjusted based on a nominal voltage of 230V (not 240V).

4. Chapter 52 - Selection and erection of wiring systems

- There are new requirements relating to the protection of cables buried less than 50mm into a wall or partition and which are not enclosed in earthed metallic covering or do not have mechanical protection capable of resisting nails or screws. In this case cables must be protected by a 30 mA RCD. They must also still be installed in 'safe zones', as previously permitted.
- Cables installed in metal framed walls also require 30mA RCD protection if not otherwise protected by earthed metallic covering.
- The above requirements do not apply where the installation is to be under the supervision of skilled or instructed persons, as is usually the case in office buildings and large retail and industrial premises.
- Maximum permitted voltage drop where supplied directly from a public distribution system is now 3% for lighting and 5% for all other applications.

5. Section 559 – Luminaires and lighting

- This is a new section applicable to all general lighting installations. It includes requirements for fixed outdoor lighting installations, highway power supplies and street furniture and for extra-low voltage lighting installations.
- There are special considerations for protection against fire.

6. Section 701 - Rooms containing a bath or shower

- Socket outlets may be installed in a room containing a bath or shower provided they are installed 3m horizontally from the boundary of zone 1, the area containing the bath tub or shower basin.
- All circuits, including lighting, electric showers, heated towel rails etc., must have 30 mA RCD protection.
- Supplementary equipotential bonding is no longer required providing the installation has main bonding in accordance with requirements in Chapter 41.

7. Other changes to the Regulations

A summary of changes to other regulations and a list of new sections and appendices can be found in the 'Introduction' to the Wiring Regulations, please note this is not an exhaustive list. Link to the 'Full list of contents and an introduction to the new Wiring Regulations' from <http://www.theiet.org/publishing/books/wir-reg/17th-edition.cfm>

8. Forms for certification and reporting

- It has been necessary to make a number of changes to the forms for use with the 17th edition of the Wiring Regulations.
- PDF versions of the 2008 forms will be made available on the IET website at Forms for Electrical Contractors, from the end of March 2008.
<http://www.theiet.org/publishing/wiring-regulations/forms/>

Further Information is available from:

<p>http://www.theiet.org/publishing/books/wir-reg/17th-edition.cfm</p> <p>www.theiet.org/publishing/wiring-regulations/forms/</p> <p>Technical helpline: Tel.: 01438 765599</p>	<p>Institution of Engineering and Technology</p> <p>A summary of the main changes can be found in the 'Introduction' to the Regulations. Link to the 'Full list of contents and an introduction to the new Wiring Regulations' from the IET website.</p> <p>PDF versions of the 2008 forms for electrical contractors, that you can print and fill in by hand, will be made available from the end of March 2008.</p>
<p>www.electricalsafetycouncil.org.uk See Business & Community Forum, 17th Edition Guidance</p>	<p>Electrical Safety Council</p>
<p>www.eca.co.uk See Industry guidance, Technical, 17th Edition Factsheets</p>	<p>Electrical Contractors Association</p>

This Information Sheet has been produced for general guidance. It does not constitute specific legal advice, which should be sought if any of the above issues arise. Except as required by law, we accept no liability for your reliance on the information provided here.