

Changes to Part P

From April 2013 the Government will be making important changes to Part P of the Building Regulations



There will be two principal modifications to Part P.

The first relates to the reduction in the range of electrical installation work that is notifiable.

Under the new, revised regulations, electrical work undertaken in kitchens such as adding a new socket or work outdoors such as installing a new security light will no longer be notifiable unless a new circuit is required. This will mean less work has to be notified by electricians.

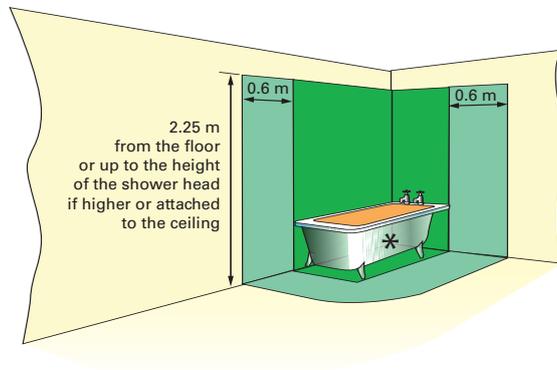
Specifically, work that is notifiable will include:

- A) The installation of a new circuit
- B) The replacement of a consumer unit or
- C) Any addition or alteration to existing circuits in a special location

A special location means:

- A) A room containing a bath or shower, the space surrounding a bath tap or shower head where the space extends vertically from the finished floor level to a height of 2.25m or the position of the shower head where it is attached to a wall or ceiling at a height higher than 2.25 metres from that level or horizontally where there is a bath tub or shower tray, from the edge of the bath tub or shower tray to a distance of 0.6 metres. Or where there is no bath tub or shower tray from the centre point of the shower head where it is attached to the wall or ceiling to a distance of 1.2 metres.
- B) A room containing a swimming pool or sauna heater.

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- Work is Part P notifiable
- Work is Part P notifiable
- Work is not Part P notifiable

* Work is notifiable, where there is no bath tub or shower tray, within the distance horizontally from the centre of the shower head (when it is attached to the wall or ceiling) up to 1.2 m

All other electrical installation work is non notifiable - namely additions and alterations to existing installations outside special locations, and replacements, repairs and maintenance anywhere.

Installing electrical equipment is within the scope of Part P even if the final connection is by a standard 13 amp plug and socket but is only notifiable if it involves work set out in areas previously mentioned.

For example:

- A) Installing a new cooker is not notifiable unless a new cooker circuit is needed.
- B) Connecting an electric gate or garage door to an existing isolator switch is not notifiable work but installing a new circuit from the consumer unit to the isolator is notifiable.

Installing prefabricated, modular wiring (for example kitchen lighting systems) linked by plug and socket connectors is also within the scope of Part P, but again is notifiable only if it involves work set out in areas as previously mentioned.

The second major change relates to the use of a registered third party to certify notifiable work.

Previously, an electrical contractor undertaking work covered by Part P, but who was not registered with a competent persons' scheme, was required to notify their local authority's building control - who could then determine if the work was acceptable under the regulations.

Under the new regulations those carrying out the work but who are not registered with a competent persons' scheme will have to get the work signed off by a registered third party. This potentially could create a new stream of work for registered electricians. However, non-registered electricians **must** continue to notify their work to the LABC prior to commencement until such time as the 'third party certification' scheme has been defined and in operation.

A suitable system for approving individuals to carry out certification has yet to be defined along with a form or certificate so this work can be carried out.

Further details about the changes are expected to be announced later in the year. For more information visit

http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/br/BR_PDF_AD_P_2013.pdf