

Electrical Fixed Wiring Installations – The Wiring Regulations have changed!

Technical Bulletin

Allianz Engineering Inspection Services Ltd



Introduction

In the UK, the Inspection and Test of Low Voltage Fixed Wiring Installations is carried out to ascertain compliance with **BS7671 "Requirements for Electrical Installations"** also known as "**The Wiring Regulation**". Whilst not statutory, BS7671 does detail that, conformity to its content would ensure compliance to the statutory requirements of the **Electricity at Work Regulations 1989**.

As with many other documents of this nature, BS 7671 is subject to regular review to provide for increased harmonisation with International and European Standards. In line with this review process an updated version of BS 7671 was released for use from the **1st January 2008**, the **17th Edition**.

Allianz Engineering have been directly involved in this review

When do the changes come into effect?

BS 7671:2008 comes into full effect on **1st July 2008**.

Whilst existing installations that have been installed in accordance with earlier editions may not comply with the latest edition in every respect it does not necessarily mean that they are unsafe for continued use or that they need upgrading.

All installations designed after 30th June 2008 are to comply with the 17th Edition.

What has changed?

The main changes reflect the move towards harmonisation with other relevant International and European Standards. This means that the layout has been restructured and renumbered with many chapters having been completely rewritten.

The details relating to "Special Installations or Locations" have been expanded to include locations not previously mentioned in earlier editions i.e. Marinas;

Exhibitions, Shows and Stands; Solar Photovoltaic Power Supply Systems; Mobile or Transportable Units; Caravans and Motor Caravans and Temporary Electrical Installations for Structure, Amusement Devices and Booths at Fairgrounds, Amusement Parks and Circuses. **Note! The Allianz Engineering core scope of inspection can include locations of these types as part of a main electrical installation or separately.**

Other changes are of a detailed technical nature relating to design and installation and are not covered in this Technical Bulletin.

Will these changes affect the Inspection and Test?

No. The existing scope of work developed by Allianz Engineering will continue to meet the requirements of the new edition.

The In-service Electrical Inspection Report will be modified in line with the structural and wording changes of the 17th Edition from 1st July 2008.

Competent Person?

The **17th Edition** states that "Periodic Inspection and Testing shall be undertaken by a **Competent Person**" i.e. a person who possesses sufficient technical knowledge, relevant practical skills and experience for the nature of the electrical work undertaken and is able at all times to prevent danger and, where appropriate, injury to him/herself and others.

Allianz Engineering are accredited in line with the requirements of both UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) and the NICEIC (National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting) which provides an indication of competence.

For further **technical information and guidance** on this subject please contact our Engineering Standards Department on **01428 726256**.