

Preface

The third amendment to BS 7671 which takes effect July 2015 have made necessary a new edition of this book. The principal author (JW) was more than delighted that Mr Andrew Hay-Ellis, who has academic as well as practical expertise in the subject, has decided to participate in writing this Guide. Andrew has truly brought the book to the 21st century.

The Electrician's Guide was originally intended to be just that; a guide to the Wiring Regulations that would make their very complex requirements clearer to the electrician working without the back-up of engineers and designers. It is one of a number aiming to explain the complexities of the 'Regs'. However technically competent authors often assume that their readers are all similarly fully educated in electrical theory. Sadly this is seldom the case with working electricians, so that the failure to explain the underlying theory leaves them unable to understand the reason for the Regulation concerned. This book is different, assuming only a very basic knowledge of theory and introducing technical matter with brief explanations. Additionally, the authors understand that many of his readers will be sole traders; they therefore try to spell out the financial implications and to suggest money saving action where this is possible.

Also as the years have passed and the Internet has become universal, the need for electricians to be able to cope with advanced mathematical calculation has all but disappeared and thus detailed maths (calculations involving the use of the adiabatic equation, for example) have been removed. This allowed more space to be devoted to material, which, in the opinion of the authors, is of more direct benefit to the intended readership. It is important to appreciate that this includes those studying for the necessary electrician's qualifications.

The very considerable cost of purchasing BS 7671, together with the several Guidance Notes and the Onsite Guide, has to some extent prevented practising electricians from gaining access to the useful information they contain. In the experience of the authors, in fact, a high proportion of electricians are totally unaware of the existence of the Guidance Notes. Whilst it is clearly impossible to replicate all of the information they contain here, important data are included, taking into account the many guides to specific applications of electrical installations, the On Site Guide and to the quarterly publication 'Wiring Matters' from the IET.

As is in the previous editions, there is a helpful cross reference index, linking sections of this Guide to the regulation numbers. Also in this Guide, the 'old' chapter 'Specific Installations' discussed in the previous edition, is now split into 2 chapters (8 and 9), so that chapter 8 reflects the corresponding Specific Installations part of the Regulations, whilst Chapter 9 addresses other installations and equipment which should also be helpful to electricians.

Feedback from readers is always welcome and should be submitted via the publisher, EPA Press.

*John Whitfield and Andrew Hay-Ellis
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