
Contents

1	The IEE Regulations, BS 7671, and this Guide	1
1.1	The need for this Electrician's Guide	1
1.2	The IEE Regulations – BS 7671	2
1.2.1	International basis	2
1.2.2	The Seventeenth Edition	3
1.2.3	Changes due to the Seventeenth Edition	4
1.2.4	Plan of the Seventeenth Edition	5
1.3	The Electrician's Guide	7
1.3.1	The rationale for this Guide	7
1.3.2	Using this Electrician's Guide	7
2	Installation requirements and characteristics	9
2.1	Introduction	9
2.2	Safety requirements	9
2.2.1	Scope of the Regulations	9
2.2.2	Legal status of the Regulations	10
2.2.3	New inventions or methods	12
2.2.4	Safety requirements	12
2.2.5	Design, equipment, installation and testing	13
2.2.6	Supplies for safety services	13
2.3	Definitions	14
2.4	Assessment of general characteristics	14
2.4.1	Introduction	14
2.4.2	Purposes, supplies and structure	15
2.4.3	External influences	15
2.4.4	Compatibility	16
2.4.5	Maintainability	16
2.5	Low voltage generating sets	17
2.6	Standards	17
2.7	Undervoltage	18
2.8	Over voltage and electromagnetic disturbances	18
3	Installation control and protection	21
3.1	Introduction	21
3.2	Switching	21
3.2.1	Switch positions	21
3.2.2	Emergency switching	22
3.2.3	Switching for mechanical maintenance	25
3.2.4	Functional switching	25
3.3	Isolation	25

3.3.1	Isolator definition	25
3.3.2	Isolator situation	26
3.3.3	Isolator positions	26
3.3.4	Semiconductor isolators	28
3.3.5	Isolator identification	28
3.4	Electric shock protection	28
3.4.1	The nature of electric shock	28
3.4.2	Resistance of the shock path	29
3.4.3	Contact with live conductors	30
3.4.4	Protection from contact	32
3.4.5	Basic protection	34
3.4.6	Fault protection	34
3.4.7	Protection for users of equipment outdoors	34
3.5	High temperature protection	35
3.5.1	Introduction	35
3.5.2	Fire protection	35
3.5.3	Protection from burns	37
3.6	Overcurrent protection	37
3.6.1	Introduction	37
3.6.2	Overload	38
3.6.3	Fuses	39
3.6.4	Circuit breakers	41
3.6.5	Protecting conductors	44
3.7	Protection from faults	45
3.7.1	Introduction	45
3.7.2	Prospective short-circuit current (PSC)	46
3.7.3	Operating time	47
3.7.4	Conductors of reduced current-carrying capacity	48
3.7.5	Back-up protection	48
3.7.6	Insulation monitoring	49
3.8	Short circuit and overload protection	50
3.8.1	Combined protection	50
3.8.2	Current limited by supply characteristic	50
3.8.3	Protection omitted	50
3.8.4	Protection of conductors in parallel	50
3.8.5	Absence of protection	51
3.8.6	Selectivity or Discrimination	51
3.9	Protective measures against fire	52
3.9.1	Introduction	52
3.9.2	What locations are involved?	53
3.9.3	Locations with combustible construction materials	53
3.9.4	Locations with fire risk due to the materials present	53
4	Cables, conduits and trunking	55
4.1	Introduction	55
4.1.1	Cable insulation materials	55
4.2	Cables	57
4.2.1	Non-flexible low voltage cables	57
4.2.2	Cables for overhead lines	59
4.2.3	Flexible low voltage cables and cords	59
4.2.4	Cables carrying alternating currents	61
4.2.5	Corrosion	62
4.3	Cable choice	63
4.3.1	Cable types	63
4.3.2	Current carrying capacity of conductors	64
4.3.3	Methods of cable installation	65

4.3.4	Ambient temperature correction factors	65
4.3.5	Cable grouping correction factors	66
4.3.6	Thermal insulation correction factors	67
4.3.7	When a number of correction factors applies	68
4.3.8	Protection by semi-enclosed (rewirable) fuses	69
4.3.9	Cable rating calculation	69
4.3.10	Special formulas for grouping factor calculation	74
4.3.11	Cable volt drop	74
4.3.12	Harmonic currents and neutral conductors	77
4.3.13	Low smoke-emitting cables	78
4.3.14	The effects of animals, insects & plants	78
4.3.15	Maximum conductor operating temperatures	78
4.4	Cable supports, joints and terminations	78
4.4.1	Cable supports and protection	78
4.4.2	Cable bends	81
4.4.3	Joints and terminations	82
4.5	Cable enclosures	82
4.5.1	Plastic and metal conduits	82
4.5.2	Ducting and trunking	83
4.5.3	Cable capacity of conduits and trunking	85
4.6	Conductor identification	87
5	Earthing	91
5.1	The earthing principle	91
5.1.1	What is earthing?	91
5.1.2	The advantages of earthing	92
5.1.3	The disadvantages of earthing	92
5.2	Earthing systems	93
5.2.1	System classification	93
5.2.2	TT systems	93
5.2.3	TN-S system	94
5.2.4	TN-C-S system	94
5.2.5	TN-C system	94
5.2.6	IT system	94
5.3	Earth-fault loop impedance	95
5.3.1	Principle	95
5.3.2	The importance of loop impedance	96
5.3.3	The resistance/impedance relationship	96
5.3.4	Earth-fault loop impedance values	98
5.3.5	Protective conductor impedance	101
5.3.6	Maximum circuit conductor length	102
5.4	Protective conductors	104
5.4.1	Earthing conductors	104
5.4.2	Protective conductor types	105
5.4.3	Bonding conductors	106
5.4.4	Protective conductor cross-section assessment	109
5.4.5	Protective conductor cross-section calculation	110
5.4.6	Unearthed metalwork	110
5.5	Earth electrodes	110
5.5.1	Why must we have earth electrodes?	110
5.5.2	Earth electrode types	111
5.6	Protective multiple earthing (PME)	112
5.6.1	What is protective multiple earthing?	112
5.6.2	Increased fire risk	112
5.6.3	Broken neutral conductor	112
5.6.4	Special requirements PME-fed installations	113

5.7	Earthed concentric wiring	114
5.7.1	What is earthed concentric wiring?	114
5.7.2	Requirements for earthed concentric wiring	114
5.8	Other protection methods	114
5.8.1	Class II equipment	115
5.8.2	Non-conducting location	115
5.8.3	Earth-free bonding	116
5.8.4	Electrical separation	116
5.9	Residual current devices (RCDs)	117
5.9.1	Why we need residual current devices	117
5.9.2	Principle of residual current devices	118
5.9.3	Regulations for residual current devices	119
5.9.4	Fault-voltage operated circuit breakers	121
5.10	Combined functional and protective earthing	121
6	Circuits	123
6.1	Basic requirements for circuits	123
6.2	Maximum demand and diversity	125
6.2.1	Maximum demand	125
6.2.2	Diversity	126
6.2.3	Applied diversity	126
6.3	BS 1363 socket outlet circuits	128
6.3.1	The fused plug	128
6.3.2	The ring final circuit	130
6.3.3	The radial circuit	132
6.4	Industrial socket outlet circuits	132
6.4.1	Introduction	132
6.4.2	BS 546 socket outlet circuits	133
6.4.3	BS EN 60309-2 socket outlet circuits	133
6.5	Other circuits	134
6.5.1	Lighting circuits	134
6.5.2	Cooker circuits	135
6.5.3	Off-peak appliance circuits	136
6.6	Circuit segregation	137
6.6.1	Segregating circuits	137
6.6.2	Electro-magnetic compatibility (EMC)	138
6.6.3	Lift and hoist shaft circuits	139
7	Inspection and testing	141
7.1	Introduction	141
7.1.1	The tester	141
7.1.2	Why do we need inspection and testing?	141
7.1.3	Information needed by the tester	142
7.2	Inspection	143
7.2.1	Notices and other identification	143
7.2.2	Inspection	144
7.2.3	Periodic inspection and testing	145
7.3	Testing sequence	146
7.3.1	Why is correct sequence important?	146
7.3.2	Correct testing sequence	147
7.4	Continuity tests	147
7.4.1	Protective conductor continuity	147
7.4.2	Ring final circuit continuity	150
7.4.3	Correct polarity	152
7.4.4	Measurement of $R_1 + R_2$	153

7.5	Insulation tests	154
7.5.1	Testing insulation resistance	154
7.5.2	Tests of non-conducting floors and walls	156
7.5.3	Tests of barriers and enclosures	156
7.5.4	Tests for electrical separation of circuits	157
7.6	Earth testing	157
7.6.1	Testing earth electrodes	157
7.6.2	Measuring earth-fault loop impedance and prospective short-circuit current	160
7.6.3	Testing residual current devices (RCDs)	162
7.7	Test instrument requirements	164
7.7.1	Basic requirements	164
7.7.2	Accuracy and resolution	166
7.8	Supporting paperwork	167
7.8.1	Why bother with paperwork?	167
7.8.2	Electrical installation certificate	168
7.8.3	Installation alterations and additions	169
7.8.4	Periodic inspection and testing	169
7.8.5	Minor electrical installation works certificate	171
8	Special installations	173
8.1	Introduction	173
8.2	Bath tubs and shower basins	173
8.2.1	Introduction	173
8.2.2	Bath and shower room requirements	174
8.3	Swimming pools and other basins	177
8.3.1	Introduction	177
8.3.2	Special requirements for swimming pools	178
8.3.3	Fountains	180
8.4	Sauna rooms	180
8.4.1	Introduction	180
8.4.2	Special requirements for saunas	180
8.5	Installations on construction and demolition sites	181
8.5.1	Introduction	181
8.5.2	Special regulations for construction sites	183
8.6	Agricultural and horticultural installations	184
8.6.1	Introduction	184
8.6.2	Agricultural installations	185
8.6.3	Electric fence controllers	186
8.6.4	Horticultural installations	187
8.7	Restrictive conductive locations	187
8.7.1	Introduction	187
8.7.2	Special requirements	187
8.8	Earthing for installations having high protective conductor currents	188
8.8.1	Introduction	188
8.8.2	Special regulations for equipment with high protective conductor currents	189
8.9	Caravan and camping parks and similar locations	190
8.9.1	Introduction	190
8.9.2	Leisure vehicle park installations	191
8.10	Electrical installations in caravans and motor caravans	191
8.10.1	Introduction	191
8.10.2	Caravan installations	192
8.10.3	Tent installations	194
8.11	Highway power supplies and street furniture	195
8.11.1	Introduction	195

8.11.2	Highway and street furniture regulations	195
8.12	Heating appliances and installations	196
8.12.1	Introduction	196
8.12.2	Electrode boilers and water heaters	196
8.12.3	Instantaneous water heaters	198
8.12.4	Surface, floor, soil and road warming installations	199
8.13	Discharge lighting	201
8.13.1	Low voltage discharge lighting	201
8.13.2	High voltage discharge lighting	201
8.14	Underground and overhead wiring	202
8.14.1	Overhead wiring types	202
8.14.2	Maximum span lengths and minimum heights	202
8.14.3	Underground wiring	203
8.15	Outdoor installations and garden buildings	204
8.15.1	Temporary garden buildings	204
8.15.2	Garden installations	205
8.16	Installation of machines and transformers	206
8.16.1	Rotating machines	206
8.16.2	Transformers	207
8.17	Reduced voltage systems	207
8.17.1	Types of reduced voltage	207
8.17.2	Separated extra-low voltage (SELV)	208
8.17.3	Protective extra-low voltage (PELV)	209
8.17.4	Functional extra-low voltage (FELV)	209
8.17.5	Reduced voltage	209
8.18	Marinas	210
8.18.1	Introduction	210
8.18.2	The marina electrical installation	211
8.19	Medical locations	213
8.20	Temporary electrical installations for structures, amusement devices and booths at fairgrounds, amusement parks and circuses	214
8.20.1	Introduction	214
8.20.2	Requirements	214
8.21	Small-scale Embedded Generators (SSEG)	216
8.21.1	Introduction	216
8.21.2	Installation requirements	216
8.22	Photovoltaic Power Supply Systems	217
8.22.1	Introduction	217
8.22.2	Principles	218
8.22.3	Protection systems	218
8.23	Floor and Ceiling Heating Systems	219
8.23.1	Introduction	219
8.23.2	Electric shock and overheating protection	219
8.23.3	Identification	219
8.23.4	Bathrooms and swimming pools	220
8.24	Extra-low Voltage Lighting Installations	220
8.24.1	Introduction	220
8.24.2	Basic requirements	221
8.24.3	Wiring Systems	221
8.25	Mobile Transportable Units	222
8.25.1	Introduction	222
8.25.2	Problems and solutions	222
8.25.3	Detailed requirements	223
8.26	Exhibitions, shows and stands	223
8.26.1	Introduction	223
8.26.2	Special requirements	223

8.27	Operating and maintenance gangways	225
9	Alarm systems	227
9.1	Introduction	227
9.2	Fire Alarm Systems	227
9.2.1	Domestic smoke alarms	228
9.2.2	Detection devices	228
9.2.3	Control panels	229
9.2.4	Fire alarm sounders	230
9.2.5	Types of fire alarm systems	230
9.2.6	Power supplies and cables	230
9.2.7	Record keeping	231
9.2.8	False alarms	233
9.2.9	Servicing	233
9.2.10	Certification	234
9.3	Intruder Alarm Systems	235
9.3.1	Detection devices	235
9.3.2	Control panels	236
9.3.3	Alarm sounders	237
9.3.4	Wiring intruder alarm systems	237
9.3.5	Servicing and certification	237
10	Emergency Lighting	239
10.1	Introduction	239
10.2	Escape routes and exits	239
10.3	Safety signs	239
10.4	Escape luminaire siting	240
10.5	Installation of emergency lighting	241
10.6	Maintenance of emergency lighting	242
10.7	Duration of emergency luminaire output	243
11	Part P of the Building Regulations	245
11.1	The Building Regulations	245
11.2	The Electrical Regulations	245
11.3	To which installations does Part P apply?	246
11.4	Self-certification	246
11.5	Non-certified electricians	247
11.6	The penalties	248
11.7	DIY work	248
11.8	Publicity	248
11.9	What need NOT be notified?	248
11.10	What MUST be notified?	249
11.11	Approved Document A – Structure	250
11.12	Approved Document B – Fire safety	250
11.13	Approved Document E – Resistance to the passage of sound	250
11.14	Approved Document F – Ventilation	250
11.15	Approved Document L1 – Conservation of fuel and power	251
11.16	Approved Document M – Access to and use of buildings	251
11.17	Approved Document P – Electrical safety	252
11.18	Dwellings subject to flooding	252
	List of abbreviations	253
	Cross-reference index	255
	Index	257