
Preface to the Third Edition of the Electrician's Guide to the 17th Edition of BS 7671

The first amendments to BS 7671 in 2011 have made necessary a new edition of this book. The opportunity has been taken to totally review it and to apply new thinking to its contents. 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. BS 7671 now includes very detailed and specific requirements for specialist installations that are unlikely to be encountered by most unsupported electricians; examples are installations in medical locations, PV panels and the requirements for operating and maintenance gangways. To deal with these special installations in this book would involve so much extra material that the author does not consider the space justified. Any electrician concerned with work of this nature is almost certain to be working with specialist designers and supervisors; this would obviate the need for the guidance provided by this book. The reader is, however, directed to the necessary data.

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 in consequence such mathematics is no longer part of many of their education courses. Thus the opportunity has been taken to remove detailed maths (calculations involving the use of the adiabatic equation, for example) from this book. This has allowed more space to be devoted to material, which, in the opinion of the author, 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 eight Guidance Notes and the Onsite Guide, has prevented most practising electricians from gaining access to the useful information they contain. In the experience of the Author, 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.

As well as BS 7671, account has also been taken of the eight guides to specific applications of electrical installations, the On Site Guide and to the quarterly publication 'Wiring Matters' from the IET. Following several requests, the cross-reference index has been reinstated, so that if regulation numbers are known the relevant section of this Guide can be immediately found. Additionally, the alphabetic index has been considerably extended.

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

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