



PART P NOTIFICATIONS TO BUILDING CONTROL

by Paul Cook

THERE IS ALWAYS and will continue to be, some uncertainty in electricians' minds as to whether the work they are carrying out is notifiable to Building Control. This may not be terribly important to a firm registered on a Competent Persons Scheme. Generally, the firm will be able to follow the rules of notifiability given by each Competent Persons Scheme operator but they may differ slightly despite the intention of the scheme operators to cooperate on this matter. The ODPM has recently given advice and made some changes in this respect. The

attached list is the current understanding of the IEE. The ODPM has specifically advised that:

Consumer units

Consumer unit replacements are notifiable, since these are not minor works and, as a consequence, a full Electrical Installation Certificate is required.

Conservatories

Conservatories are not special locations and work in them is not

notifiable unless it involves a new circuit or a new extension to an existing kitchen or bathroom circuit.

Gardens

Garden lighting and power installations are special installations.

Kitchens

As a guide only, in open plan areas, the zone of a kitchen may be considered to extend from the edge of the sink to a distance of three metres or to a nearer dividing wall.

Description of work	Other areas	Special location or kitchen
New installation	✓	✓
Rewire	✓	✓
Change consumer unit	✓	✓
Install/upgrade main equipotential bonding	✗	✓
Installing a new final circuit	✓	✓
Addition to a circuit, e.g. additional socket-outlet, lighting point, switch, flex outlet	✗	✓
Replace accessory	✗	✗
Replace damaged cable, like for like	✗	✗
Replace equipment, like power for like power e.g. immersion heater	✗	✗
Replace shower (like for like)	X	✗
Replace cooker (like for like)	NA	✗
Installing ELV e.g. telephone, information technology, security (not notifiable in kitchens)	✗	✓
Install light outdoors with outdoor switch	NA	✓
Install light outdoors on dwelling wall no outside connection (other than final connection within fitting)	NA	✗
Install socket-outlet outdoors including on dwelling wall	NA	✓
Wiring to garden	NA	✓
Caravan (any work in a caravan)	✗	✗
Periodic inspection (not building work)	✗	✗

Table 1 (Notifiable Works) Part P Notification for dwellings

Extra low voltage work in kitchens is notifiable (excluding security systems and communications [telephone and IT]).

The installation of extra-low voltage CE-marked lighting sets is not notifiable.

Outside Lighting

A luminaire installed on the outside wall of a house without a switch or connection box is not notifiable. Should the work include switches and junction boxes then it would be considered to be notifiable.

Other equipment to the outside of the house

Air conditioning units, radon fans, ventilation fans and so on, which are fixed to the outside of a house without any controls, would not be notifiable.

Socket-outlets on outside walls

The installation of a socket-outlet on an outside wall is notifiable because it is likely to be used to supply garden lighting and portable equipment outdoors. Such a socket-outlet must be protected by an RCD in accordance with Regulation 471-16-01.

Attached garages

Work in an attached garage is not notifiable unless the work involves a complete new circuit or an extension to an existing kitchen or bathroom circuit.

Detached garages

Work in a detached garage is notifiable if it involves the addition of a new circuit.

Replacement, repair and maintenance

The general advice from the ODPM is that replacement, repair, periodic inspection and maintenance work is

generally not notifiable even if carried out in a kitchen, bathroom or outdoors or is associated with a special installation.

Cookers

The replacement of a cooker is not notifiable.

Showers

The like-for-like replacement of a shower is not notifiable. Should an increased rating shower be installed, obviously it is necessary to check that the cable has sufficient rating and if it does not and work is necessary to change the protective device or the cable size then the work would become notifiable.

In summary

Notifiable work includes the addition of new circuits and extensions to circuits in kitchens, bathrooms and into the garden. ■