



STATEMENT

NEW RCD PROTECTION WITH 17th EDITION An explanation from gas-elec

Middlesex, 5 November 2009 – The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) plays a key role in the electrical installation industry in terms of standards and safety and every few years the wiring regulations are updated.

In accordance with this, from 1 July 2008 the 17th Edition of the IEE Wiring Regulations (BS 7671:2008) came into effect effectively replacing the 16th Edition.

“The rationale behind the 17th Edition is mainly to comply with European standards. While there is a period of transition between editions, it is notable that the 17th Edition is the most significant since the 1992 regulations,” adds Mike O’Flynn, gas-elec operations director.

Between editions a six-month phasing-in period is allowed and during this time, installations can comply with either.

“Therefore all new installations, alterations and additions done after 1 July 2008 will need to comply with BS 7671:2008. The only exception is where longer-term projects overlap both editions. In this case, the client must be made aware of the situation,” adds Mike.

The 17th edition now stipulates a new concept of protection and all socket-outlets – for general use as well as mobile equipment – up to 20A in homes will require 30mA Residual Current Device (RCD) protection. And, whereas the 16th Edition stipulated that a RCD was only required on all the downstairs sockets in a dwelling, the revised edition stipulates all sockets.

The 17th Edition also allows for the omission of supplementary bonding in bathrooms, as long as all electrical equipment in the bathroom, including the lighting circuit, is protected by a 30mA RCD.

“Our advice would be to contact your *gas-elec* regional office to see whether your dwelling is compliant. If the electricians require upgrading as a result of the new regulations, one of our engineers will be able to complete the necessary remedial work,” concludes Mike.

For more information on the 17th Edition, visit the BSI British Standards at www.bsigroup.com.

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Editor's Notes

Founded in 1996, **gas-elec** carries out impartial safety inspections and light remedial works. Its unique inspection service provides the residential lettings market and homebuyers and sellers with multiple inspections of the gas and electricians in one visit. **gas-elec** has recently launched a number of new energy-saving products and services. These include the *g-save* fuel economiser, which reduces fuel bills by up to 31% and a consumer comparison website (*gas-elec Compare*) that offers users the widest range of energy suppliers in order to compare their gas and electricity prices. **gas-elec** has over 126 franchisees operating from 18 regional offices, who this year will carry out more than 120,000 safety inspections in domestic properties throughout the UK. For more information visit www.gas-elec.co.uk.

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