

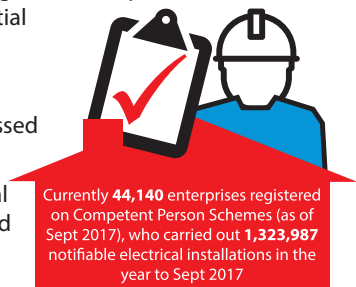
Compliance and Enforcement of Part P of the Building Regulations- Electrical Safety

Putting procedures in place so that Building Regulations are followed, to stop lives being unnecessarily put at risk.

Current Regulations

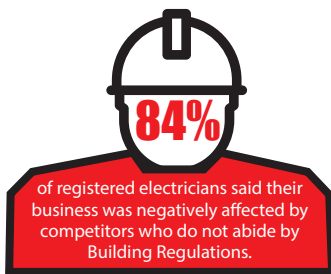
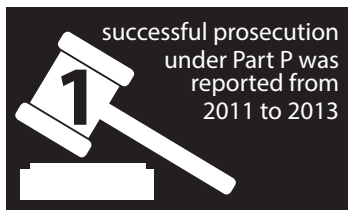
In England and Wales the vast majority of enterprises are registered on an Electrical Competent Person Scheme to demonstrate they can carry out work in line with Building Regulations (in particular Part P, concerning electrical safety design and installation standards in residential properties). However:

- This is not mandatory (unlike in the gas industry).
- Only one individual per registered enterprise is **required** to be assessed and qualified, known as the Qualified Supervisor (QS).
- Consumer awareness of these regulations is low, leading to electrical work being done as DIY, or by unregistered installers. This work could be dangerous and non-compliant.



Problems

Enforcement levels against those who don't comply with Part P of the Building Regulations are low amongst Local Authorities:



This is taking place in an industry where the dangers are clear:



Accidental fires caused by electrical distribution (wiring, cabling, plugs) in 2015/16

Area	Fires	Injuries/Fatalities
England	2,920	379
Wales	448	33
Scotland ¹	346	22



¹2016 figures

What is being done to improve the situation?

- New elements were added to the Electrotechnical Assessment Specification (EAS) in 2015:
 - All installations should be tested by someone who meets the definition of a 'skilled person' in BS 7671
 - The QS is now required to consider the competence level of the operatives under supervision and the risk level of the work to determine how closely they should be involved in the installation work
- The Electrical Safety Roundtable are working with industry to create a way to gather data on the number of non-compliant and unsafe electrical installations found by electrical installers and customers
- The Registered Competent Person Electrical (RCPE) mark was launched in 2014 for competent registered installers in England and Wales, alongside a searchable online database of these installers
- The EAS is currently under review again and is considering ways in which individual competence can be identified through a industry co-ordinated approach



What more could be done

- ✓ Raise awareness of the benefits of using competent, registered electricians through a nationwide consumer campaign underpinned by the requirements in EAS, throughout the UK.
- ✓ Simplify Building Control Compliance by:
 - Making all electrical work in the home notifiable.
 - Ensuring clear advice is given to householders on the ways they can achieve building control, emphasising the use of registered, competent persons.
- ✓ Align assessment regimes across industry to encourage the use of the NAPIT approach whereby all operatives are assessed rather than just the supervisor operative. This approach is already used in the combustion and heating Competent Person Schemes.
- ✓ Advocate that registration for all electrical work in dwellings becomes mandatory.
- ✓ Take more enforcement action against non-compliant and unsafe electric work
- ✓ Encourage closer collaboration between Competent Person Scheme operators and enforcement agencies such as Trading Standards and Building Control to share intelligence and act against installers who fail to comply with the Building Regulations.

