

Lack of awareness and enforcement of the regulations that require a minimum standard of electrical safety in the home (Part P) is putting lives at risk.

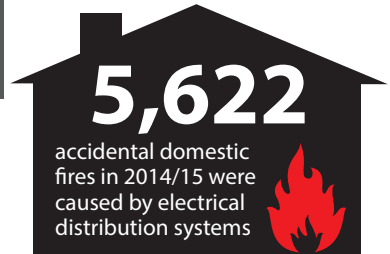
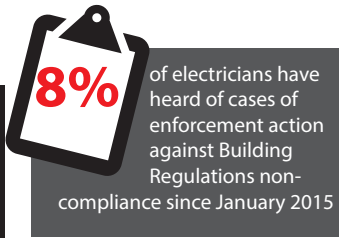
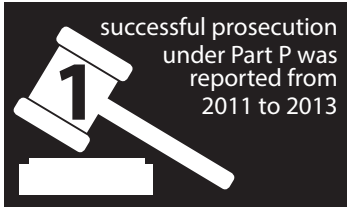
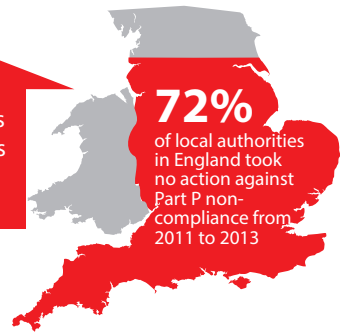
This results in a significant proportion of DIY work and the work of unregistered electricians failing to comply with the Building Regulations.

The problem is compounded by the fact, that there are no tangible de facto legal or financial consequences to discourage those tempted to cut corners from breaking the law.

Risk

“The building control enforcement landscape is one of extremes. On the one hand there is an extremely, perhaps unduly, low level of formal enforcement applied. Against this there is a massive (5 million p.a.) portfolio of informal compliance interventions being conducted.”

EC Harris: Part P impact Assessment commissioned by DCLG



NAPIT's work in this area

NAPIT have embarked on an awareness programme, contacting and visiting electrical wholesale stores to:

- Provide them with a specially designed educational poster and leaflets to have in stores to raise awareness of electrical safety
- Provide training for staff, to help them give correct electrical safety advice to customers

Industry Wide Solution

- 1 Increase consumer awareness** - via multilateral industry promotion of Registered Competent Person Electrical, the single register for all competent electricians (www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk).

The best way to increase consumer awareness would be for DCLG to take ownership of the Registered Competent Person Electrical register to standardise the promotion obligations and increase consumer awareness. Ideally this standardisation should take the form of a voluntary agreement and involve as broad a range of actors as possible.



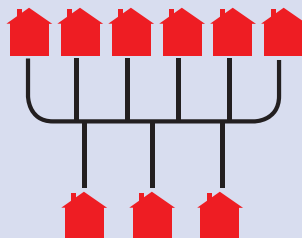
- 2 Simplify Building Control Compliance** -

A by making all electrical work in the home notifiable



B by coordinating the advice given to householders regarding routes to building control compliance, namely:

- use a Registered Competent Person
- use a registered Third Party Certifier
- or
- get the work inspected by your local authority building control department



- 3 Labelling of electrical goods in wholesalers to increase awareness of the risks and routes to compliance** - through encouragement and improvement of adherence to existing agreements and, if necessary, introduce a mandatory, enforceable retail agreement.

To address shortcomings in the current labelling framework for specialist electrical goods:

All labelling on electrical installation parts should be required to be prominently displayed on packaging and be standardised in its design so that it is both eye catching and instantly identifiable.

The voluntary British Retail Consortium agreement, agreed text illustrated, should be standardised so that all retailers sign up to a common practice.

