



Electrical **excellence**

UK electrical installation industry moves to safer, better practices - update

The Electrotechnical Assessment Specification Management Committee (EAS) has agreed at their meeting on 1st December 2011 to delay the implementation of the new Qualified Supervisors technical competence requirements till 6th April 2013, to align with anticipated revisions to Part P of the Building Regulations (England and Wales).

The industry bodies represented on the Electrotechnical Assessment Specification (EAS) Management Committee are pleased to announce that the new level 3 qualification is expected to become available by June 2012, with the first candidates completing some two months later. In order to align with changes likely to occur regarding *Part P* of the *Buildings Regulations (England and Wales)* the committee has agreed that the new requirements will now come into effect on 6th April 2013.

There are five different routes satisfying the requirements for registration as a Qualified Supervisor, including on-site assessment, off-site assessment, a mixture of both and the gaining of appropriate qualifications.

Existing Qualified Supervisors

The new requirement will not apply retrospectively to existing Qualified Supervisors. Persons who already have a competency-based qualification as outlined in the EAS document will not need to have the new qualification if they apply to become a new Qualified Supervisor after 5th April 2013.

What about practising Qualified Supervisors applying before 6th April 2013?

The new requirement applies only to proposed Qualified Supervisors applying after 5th April 2013.

What about persons previously registered as Qualified Supervisors?

Persons who have been working as registered Qualified Supervisors within the two years proceeding 6 April 2013 will be eligible to be proposed as a Qualified Supervisor for a new employer without needing to demonstrate the new level of technical competence.

Qualification

For those choosing the qualification route, the Level 3 certificate in "Installing, Testing and Ensuring Compliance of Electrical Installations in Dwellings" should be available from June 2012. This will be the minimum qualification level for Qualified Supervisors responsible for electrical work in domestic properties subject to *Part P* of the *Building Regulations (England and Wales)*.

For compliance with *Building Regulations* in Scotland, Approved Certifiers of Construction for electrical installations must be eligible to be graded as Approved Electricians and be suitably qualified e.g. SVQ Level 3 in electrical engineering or equivalent.

For work in commercial or industrial premises, the minimum qualification requirement for Qualified Supervisors will be the new Level 3 NVQ "Diploma in Installing Electrotechnical Systems and Equipment (Building and Structures)".

Appropriate Electrotechnical NVQ qualifications are currently certificated through two awarding bodies: City and Guilds (www.cityandguilds.com) and EAL (www.eal.org.uk).

For more information on Electrotechnical Level 3 NVQs, see the *SummitSkills*, *City and Guilds* and *EAL* websites.

About the EAS Management Committee:

- The EAS Management Committee is the National Committee responsible for determining the minimum technical standards against which companies in the electrotechnical sector are assessed.
- The Committee comprises representatives from across the electrical installation industry, including the competent person schemes. The EAS document can be downloaded free from the IET www.theiet.org/eas.

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