New IEE Guidance Note 7

by Geoff Cronshaw

The IEE Wiring Regulations 17th Edition (BS 7671:2008) includes additional sections on special locations that were not included in the previous edition; as follows: Marinas (Section 709), Exhibitions, shows and stands (Section 711), Floor and ceiling heating systems (Section 753), Mobile and transportable units (Section 717), Fairgrounds, amusement parks and circuses (Section 740), and Photovoltaic power systems (Section 712). The special locations that were contained in the previous edition of BS 7671 have been revised to align with the latest IEC and CENELEC standards.

All those involved in electrical installation work need to be familiar with these new requirements.

Help is at hand, in the form of a new edition of IEE Guidance Note 7 (Special Locations).

For example: Section 701 locations containing a bath or shower. What’s new?

Changes to the zonal system, RCD protection on all bathroom circuits, 230 V socket outlets permitted 3 m horizontally from the boundary of zone 1; supplementary equipotential bonding may be omitted subject to the Regulations being met. Chapter 1 of IEE Guidance Note 7 gives detailed requirements.

RCD Protection

Regulation 701.411.3.3 now requires that additional protection shall be provided for all circuits of the location by the use of one or more RCDs having the characteristics specified in Regulation 415.1.1. This is a significant change. Previously (601-09-02), only fixed current using equipment (other than electric showers) located in zone 1 required 30 mA RCD protection and current using equipment (other than fixed current using equipment – such as a washing machine, if suitable for use in a bathroom, connected through a fused connection unit) in zone 3 required 30 mA RCD protection. Regulation 701.411.3.3 means that all circuits, including lighting, electric showers, heated towel rails, etc., require RCD protection, not exceeding 30 mA.

230 volt socket-outlets

Another significant change is introduced by Regulation 701.512.3. This now permits 230 V socket-outlets to be installed in a room containing a bath or shower providing they are installed 3 m horizontally from the boundary of zone 1. This change resolves the ambiguity that existed between locations containing a bath or shower and a bedroom containing a shower.

How to order your copy of IEE Guidance Note 7 (available from the 30th November 2009).

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The Guidance Note enlarges upon and simplifies relevant requirements of BS 7671:2008. It includes detailed coverage of new special locations covered in the IEE Wiring Regulations 17th Edition in easy-to-read text. It also includes full colour illustrations.

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