



Electrical Panels Update

By Mark Coles



Following up from Wiring Matters Winter 09 Issue 33, we provide a brief update to the latest standards in the area of Electrical Panels

Electrical panels come in many shapes and sizes and have many applications. Consider a simple empty box which is then firmly fixed to the ground or building structure, adapted to enclose electrical equipment and terminations to perform a particular function – the empty box becomes an electrical panel and issues relating to electrical safety are to be considered.

Standards and the standardisation process

The article on Electrical Panels, published in *Wiring Matters* Winter 09 Issue 33, gave information on factory built panels with forms of separation and extracted information from BS EN 60439-1:1999; this standard,

which was amended in 2004, is due to be withdrawn on 1 November 2014.

BS EN 61439-1:2009 is the UK implementation of EN 61439-1:2009 which was derived by CENELEC from IEC 61439-1:2009 and, together with BS EN 61439-2:2009, supersedes BS EN 60439-1:1999.

Manufacturers, therefore, have a period of overlap where products already designed using the 1999 version of BS EN 60439-1 can still be produced until the date at which the older standard must be withdrawn; this date is 1 November 2014. The interim period allows manufacturers to redesign products and retool factories to ensure

that, from 1 November 2014, all relevant products will conform with the new version of the EN only. It is quite acceptable for manufacturers to sell older stock, complying with the older standard, up to 1 November 2014.

References and further information

To search for standards, the following links may aid:

IEC

www.iec.ch

Available to all, use search facility top right of page, the Scope and Contents pages of most standards can be viewed.

CENELEC

www.cenelec.eu

BSI

Where an organisation currently

holds BSI membership – <https://bsol.bsigroup.com/>
For non-BSI members, registration required – <https://shop.bsigroup.com/en/Login/>

BS EN 60439-1:1999 +A1 2004

Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies. Type-tested and partially type-tested assemblies

BS EN 61439-1:2009 Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies – Part 1: General rules

BS EN 61439-2:2009 Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies – Part 2: Power switchgear and controlgear assemblies

BEAMA Guide to verification of low voltage power switchgear and control gear – www.beama.org.uk/UserFiles/file/publications/installation/BAVG.pdf