



Wiring Regulations Digital

in practice



The Wiring Regulations and some supporting publications are now available in e-book format. There are two packages, designed for domestic and industrial installers, and there is a **free trial** of the industrial package for a limited period.

By Ian Reeve

These products are available on the VitalSource Bookshelf, a smart, interactive and fully searchable e-book format with a powerful set of tools included.

A collection of IET books on your PC sounds like a good idea, but what is it like in practice? Feedback from users shows that the range of great features makes it suitable for many different applications.

Contractors

For contractors, familiarity and ease of use are the key. Five features turn out to be particularly useful.

■ **Cross-referencing.** This is perhaps its most powerful feature. Obviously, one might expect that clicking on a contents page item, an index entry or an obvious cross-reference in the text would take the reader to that location and, of course, it does exactly that. However the Guidance Notes in particular, also carry cross-references in their text and the margins. These too, when

Selecting the On-Site Guide opens the book

Using the extended contents 2.1 is selected

clicked, jump to the linked page.

■ **Finding a particular regulation quickly.** For this, the drill-down facility within the extended Contents list enables Regulations to be easily and quickly found – as shown to the right.

■ **Familiarity.** Wiring Regulations Digital displays the

Section	Page
Requirements for Electrical Installations	3
CONTENTS	3
Introduction to BS 7671:2008	4
Notes on the plan of the 17th...	10
PART 1 SCOPE, OBJECT AND...	11
CHAPTER 11 SCOPE	12
110.1 GENERAL	12
110.2 EXCLUSIONS FR...	13
111 Not used	13
112 Not used	13
113 EQUIPMENT	13
114 RELATIONSHIP W...	13

books as exact copies of the familiar printed pages.

This approach to producing the digital versions was against the perceived wisdom. This suggested that, since printed pages are a different size to computer screens, the text in the books should be broken down to screen-sized chunks, and a strong font used to aid viewing. Testing proved that looking at actual pages reassured contractors that the text was correct. This was particularly evident when a complex Regulation was presented as a screen chunk. In that case, the accuracy of the text was sometimes questioned, whereas the same Regulation presented as in the printed page was not questioned. To present text in this way, a standard software package, VitalSource Bookshelf was used. This package is designed to present printed pages on screens, and so provide a very clear and readable interface for users.

■ You always know that you are using the latest information from the IET – because your bookshelf can be automatically updated via the Internet. So if the IET issues a correction to any of the books, you can be assured of receiving it. Obviously, any new editions would need to be purchased – although the IET is offering a **free update** to the new digital books after the 17th Edition Amendment No 1 is published, if you buy them now.

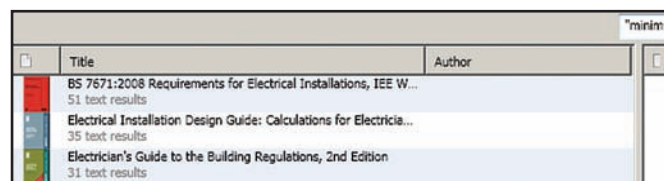
■ Once you have installed the VitalSource Bookshelf software, you can download e-books to your computer (or two computers) and access the content whenever you need it without going online.

One extra piece of good news for NICEIC contractors is that the Inspecting Engineers will accept Wiring Regs Digital as an alternative to the books, provided that they are readily available to all relevant persons at all times, whether site- or office-based.

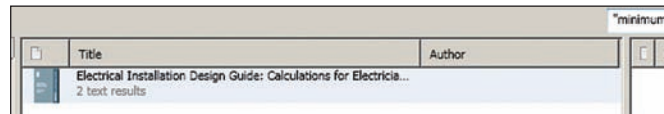
Consultants

For consultants, it is the powerful search and text copying facilities of Wiring Regs Digital that are of particular importance.

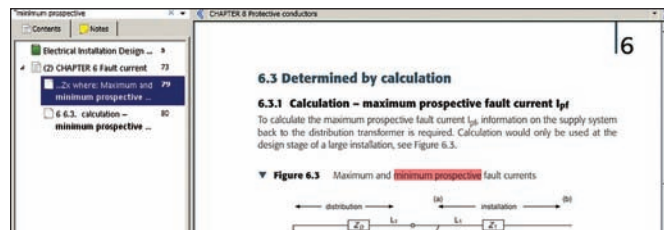
■ Wiring Regs Digital comes complete with an Internet-style search engine, which will search all of the books in a second. If, for example, you are interested in “minimum prospective fault current”. You don’t even have to type all that in, just typing “minimum” will immediately find:



That’s 51 matches in the Regs, 35 in the Design Guide etc, however as you keep typing when you get to “minimum prospective” only the two matches in the Design guide are listed.



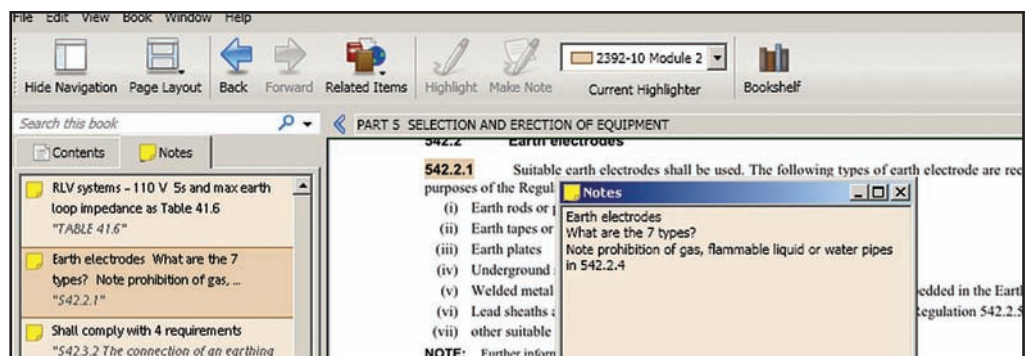
Clicking on that opens up the Design Guide as:



The really observant will have noticed that I actually typed a “quotes symbol” before the words minimum prospective – that forces a “match exact phrase” type of search.

■ For consultants, pages can be printed out and text can be copied and pasted (and edited via a word processor) into reports.

■ Notes can be added and even shared between colleagues – see below.



■ You can download e-books to your computer (actually two) and access the content whenever you need it without going online.

■ It is possible to build a library: by purchasing other titles from the VitalSource store as required, or linking your own pdfs and Word documents into your own folders within Bookshelf.

Lecturers and students

For lecturers and students, the main requirement is to get to a particular location in a book as quickly as possible and then, perhaps, to produce a report or search for further information.



■ The search and copy facilities, described earlier, enable the production of research notes, summaries and reports, which can be linked into your own folders within Bookshelf.

■ Links from PowerPoint (or Word) can be made for use in the teaching environment.

■ The underlying software from VitalSource Bookshelf has been designed with students in mind. It allows notes to be added and shared and grouped. Any groupings can be created, with ‘Exam’, ‘Important’ and ‘Need Clarification’ as defaults. This shows a student’s own notes for Module 2 of the 2392-10 course.

All users

There are two packages, designed for domestic and industrial installers, and there is a **free trial of the industrial package** for a limited period. The packages are:

Domestic	Industrial
	
<p>This package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wiring Regulations ■ Guidance Notes 1 & 3 ■ On-Site Guide ■ Electrician's Guide to the Building Regulations 	<p>This package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wiring Regulations ■ Guidance Notes 1 to 8 ■ On-Site Guide ■ Electrician's Guide to the Building Regulations ■ Electrical Installation Design Guide: Calculations for Electricians and Designers
£175 + VAT	£350 + VAT
<p>The IET is offering a free update to the new digital books after the 17th Edition Amendment No1 is published , if you buy one of the above packages before 1 June 2011</p>	

Corporate and multi users

In respect of larger organisations who would like to distribute the new digital version of the Wiring Regulations across multiple sites or give access to multiple users, the IET would like to hear from you so that we can tailor the product to suit your individual needs. Please contact Liz Wooderson on +44 (0)1438 765533 or email ewooderson@theiet.org.

■ **Further information is available from:**
www.theiet.org/technical or
 +44 (0)1438 767 328 or
wiringregsdigital@theiet.org
 ■ **On a more general note, we do encourage you to let us know your opinions on all aspects of the IET. Of course we can't guarantee to act on every single suggestion – but we will certainly take every idea seriously. Your opinions matter to us! You can send comments to wiringregsdigital@theiet.org**



Wiring Matters is a quarterly publication produced by IET Services Limited, a subsidiary of The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), for the IET. Michael Faraday House, Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 2AY, United Kingdom Tel: +44 (0)1438 313311 Fax: +44 (0)1438 313465. The Institution of Engineering and Technology is registered as a Charity in England & Wales (no 211014) and Scotland (no SC038698). The IET is not as a body responsible for the opinions expressed.

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Contributing Editors M Coles, J Elliott, P Bicheno | **Chief Sub Editor** Jim Hannah | **Design** John Rooney, Jon Bonny, Dan Shadrake.

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Co-operating Organisations The Institution of Engineering & Technology acknowledges the contribution made by the following organisations in the preparation of this publication: British Electrotechnical & Allied Manufacturers Association Ltd – P D Galbraith, M H Mullins | Department for Communities and Local Government – I Drummond | Electrical Contractors Association – D Locke, S Burchell | City & Guilds of London Institute – H R Lovegrove | Electrical Contractors Association of Scotland SELECT – N McGuinness | Health & Safety Executive – K Morton | Electrical Safety Council | ERA Technology Limited – M Coates, A Finney | Consultant - M. Al-Rufaie | Dept of Health - C Holme | British Cables Association – C Reed | Scottish Building Standards Agency | Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform | GAMBICA – M Hadley, A. Sedhev | Lighting Association – L Barling ISSN 1749-978-X