Why is BS 7671:2008 being amended?
The development of BS 7671 is carried out in conjunction with the standard BS 0: A standard for standards (refer to the article ‘Development of Standards’ in Wiring Matters issue 37 Winter 2010 for more information) and is the responsibility of joint IET/BSI committee JPEL/64. As part of the maintenance of standards requirement the committee decided that an amendment was required to align with recent developments of the associated European standards since the publication of 17th Edition as well as other amendments that were deemed necessary.

What are the key amendments?
As mentioned above the alignment to European standards has resulted in four NEW sections being included:

- 444 – measures against electromagnetic disturbances;
- 534 – devices for protection against overvoltage;
- 710 – medical locations;
- 729 – operating or maintenance gangways.

In addition there are a number of other amendments across parts 1 to 7 and the
appendices such as:

- A new ‘100’ numbering system for some ‘UK’-specific regulations to embody future IEC and CENELEC changes. E.g. Regulation 522.6.5 will become 522.6.100.
- Updates to Part 2 Definitions including a number of new definitions related to the new Sections 444, 534 and 710.
- The ‘Periodic Inspection Report’ has been changed to ‘Electrical Installation Condition Report’ along with associated schedules of inspection model forms in Appendix 6.
- Appendices 11 and 12 have been deleted and the content incorporated into Appendix 4. Appendix 3 has been updated to reflect the changes needed for the withdrawal of BS 88-2.2, BS 88-6 and BS 1361 fuses. The model forms in Appendix 6

Chapter 43, Chapter 53 and Appendix 3 have been made due to the fuse standards BS 88-2.2, BS 88-6 being withdrawn and replaced by a single standard BS 88-2 and fuse standard BS 1361 being withdrawn and replaced by BS 88-3. (Reference can be made to the appropriate entries in Appendix 1.)

Will there be a separate Amendment 1 document?
In addition to the four new sections there are a number of other amendments across all parts of the Wiring Regulations. Therefore the decision was to publish a complete new document (Green cover).

When do new installations have to comply with Amendment No 1 requirements?
Amendment 1 will be published on 1 July 2011 and will come into effect on 1 January 2012. This means that installations designed after 1 January 2012 will need to comply with the Amendment 1 requirements. Prior to 1 January 2012 installations should be designed and certified to the 17th Edition requirements.

Can you certify an electrical installation to the 17th Edition that is completed after 1 January 2012?
An installation that was designed to the 17th Edition before 1 January 2012 but gets completed after this date should be certified to the 17th Edition.

What are the amendments to Inspection and Testing?
The major change for inspection and testing is to the Periodic Inspection Report. This will now be called an ‘Electrical Installation Condition Report’ so that the report is more meaningful to the client.

What are the amendments to Special Installations and Locations?
There are two new Part 7 sections. Section 710 Medical locations apply to electrical installations of hospitals, private clinics, medical and dental practices, health-care centres and dedicated medical rooms in the workplace. Section 729 Operating and maintenance gangways applies particular requirements of basic protection and other aspects to the operation or maintenance of switchgear and controlgear in areas that are restricted to skilled or instructed persons.

Amendments have been made in Sections 702, 704, 705, 708, 709, 711, 717 and 740 to specifically refer to the appropriate use of Protective Multiple Earthing (PME).

What are the amendments to the Appendices?
The Committee decided that the content of Appendices 11 and 12 was related to Appendix 4; therefore these two appendices have been deleted and incorporated into Appendix 4. Appendix 3 has been updated to reflect the changes needed for the withdrawal of BS 88-2.2, BS 88-6 and BS 1361 fuses. The model forms in Appendix 6
have been updated to reflect the new electrical installation condition report and associated inspection schedules.

Is there a minor works exemption for the installation of RCDs?
After altering a series of regulations to exempt the installation of RCDs for minor works a decision was taken to remove these amendments.

Do you have to update your training?
At present anyone who has completed a 17th Edition course does not have to do any new training as there is no formal update qualification like there was for the transition from the 16th to the 17th Edition. The IET 17th Edition course will be updated to reflect the Amendment 1 requirements.

Are there any courses available?
The IET Electrical Courses Unit offer both public and in-company courses for the 17th Edition and as of July 2011 the course content will include the requirements of Amendment 1. Details are available from the electrical website: www.theiet.org/courses. Anyone who has already completed their 17th Edition training may be interested in the IET Amendment 1 public seminars www.theiet.org/first-amend; potential additional dates will be added here so check for updates. The seminar can also be provided in-company on your premises. Please contact the Courses Unit on 01438 767289 or email coursesreg@theiet.org.

How do you get a copy?
Prior to publication on 1 July the quickest way to receive a copy is to sign up to the pre order service, currently being offered at £60 for non-members and £52 for IET members, available via the IET electrical website http://electrical.theiet.org/books/regulations/17th-edition-amd1.cfm. Post publication, visit the bookstore http://electrical.theiet.org/books/.

Are there any changes to the IET On-Site Guide and Guidance Notes?
The IET will be updating the content of the On-Site Guide, Electrician’s Guide to the Building Regulations and Guidance Note series to align to the amendment 1 requirements. Guidance Note 8 Earthing and Bonding will also include 17th Edition updates as well as Amendment 1 updates.

Wiring Regulations Digital?
The Wiring Regulations Digital (WRD) packages (Industrial and Domestic) will also be included in the Amendment 1 update programme. Any WRD package that is purchased before 30th June 2011 will be entitled to receive FREE UPDATES in e-book format for the titles included in the purchased package when they are updated to the Amendment 1 requirements. The domestic package is currently offered at a price of £136.60 for IET members (£210 full price) and the industrial package is £273 for IET members (£420 full price). Prices are inclusive of VAT. Visit the IET electrical website http://electrical.theiet.org/books/e-books/index.cfm.

Electrical Courses
In-company electrical training from the IET

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