BS 7671:2008(2011) incorporates UK only Regulation numbers

When BS 7671:2008, The 17th Edition of The IEE Wiring Regulations, was published, one notable change in the Standard was the adoption of the IEC numbering system.

By Mark Coles

Primarily, this was evident in the swapping of two Parts, i.e. Inspection and testing became Part 6 (was 7) and Special Installations or Locations became Part 7 (was 6). One other obvious change was the appearance of the Regulation numbers. Previously, The 16th Edition of the IEE Wiring Regulations used a hyphenated separator, then came The 17th Edition with a dot separator; BS 7671:2008(2011) takes things a little further with the implementation of the “.100” sequence for UK only Regulations.

BS 7671:2008 adopted the IEC numbering system making it easier to embody future changes and additions resulting from ongoing international standards work within IEC and CENELEC. This meant that, whatever happened in standardisation internationally, The UK could simply take on the IEC number of the new requirement and drop it in to BS 7671 at the required position.

One problem, however, was that the UK had “home grown” requirements which do not appear in the international documents. If a new UK Regulation was to be included, a gap could not simply be created by moving every Regulation down a position as this would interfere with the numbering system. So, to accommodate future IEC changes, a decision was made to have a “.100” signifier for UK only Regulations, i.e. “home grown” and not international or European requirements.

Other examples of “.100” signifier Regulations in BS 7671:2008(2011) are:

422.3.100 Flexible cables shall be of the following construction:
(i) heavy duty type having a voltage rating of not less than 450/750 V, or
(ii) suitably protected against mechanical damage.

422.4.101 Electrical equipment that does not comply with Regulation 422.4.100 shall be enclosed with a suitable thickness of non-flammable material. The effect of the material on the heat dissipation from electrical equipment shall be taken into account.

422.4.102 Accessories to BS 1363 may be supplied through a ring final circuit, with or without unfused spurs, protected by a 30 A or 32 A protective device complying with BS 88 series, BS 3036, BS EN 60898, BS EN 60947-2 or BS EN 61000-1 (RCBO).

Such circuits are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 433.1.1 if the current-carrying capacity (Iz) of the cable is not less than 20 A and, under the intended conditions of use, the load current in any part of the circuit is unlikely to exceed for long periods the current-carrying capacity (Iz) of the cable.

This system has been slowly implemented over the years. We are familiar with the terms “Reserved for future use” and “Deleted by BS 7671:2008”. Rather than delete the requirement and move the Regulations up one position, it is important to retain the number and position as it allows us to cross-reference between the international and European documents.