



# THE ELECTRICIAN'S GUIDE TO THE BUILDING REGULATIONS

By Paul Cook

## STATUTORY REGULATION

Regulation has finally hit electrical contracting in dwellings. Electricians are now not only expected to know the requirements of BS 7671 for electrical installations but also requirements of Part P of the Building Regulations. But it doesn't stop there. They need a good understanding of those other requirements of the Building Regulations that impact upon electrical installations (this is not new). Although the owner/developer has prime responsibility for ensuring compliance with all aspects of the building regulations in a new property or a refurbished property, customers will expect the electrician to know enough about the Building Regulations to keep them on the straight and narrow. Not only will electrical contractors have to understand limitations on notching and drilling joists, chasing walls, provision of smoke alarms, accessibility for people with disabilities etc., but also the requirements of a range of Office of the Deputy Prime Minister approved documents.

Help is at hand, as the new IEE publication, *The Electricians Guide to the Building Regulations*, is being written specifically to help electricians in their current predicament.

## THERMAL AND SOUND INSTALLATION

One of the features of a modern dwelling is the requirement in Parts E and L to meet the thermal and sound deadening requirements of the Building Regulations. The IEE recently carried out some work to determine specific ratings for twin with earth cables when insulated in a thermally insulated wall

(see table 4D5A of BS7671, table 6F of the On Site Guide). However, with the extent of insulation today, there are situations when electricians cannot meet the requirements to have the cable touching one side of a conducting wall or ceiling. Cables may today unavoidably be totally covered in insulation for part of their length. The new *Electrician's Guide to the Building Regulations* includes some simple standardised circuits, including for cables totally enclosed in thermal insulation for parts of their length. The design requires the use of the new white coloured Low Smoke Twin Flat and CPC (6242B, Thermosetting 90°C, BS7211) cables. Another feature of the new guide is its particular user friendliness. ■

APPROVED DOCUMENT	SCOPE
A	Structure
B	Fire safety
C	Site Preparation and resistance to moisture
D	Toxic substances
E	Resistance to the passage of sound
F	Ventilation
G	Hygiene
H	Drainage and waste disposal
J	Combustion appliances and fuel storage systems
K	Protection from falling, collision and impact
L	Conservation of fuel and power
M	Access and facilities for disabled people
N	Glazing – safety in relation to impact, opening and cleaning
P	Electrical Safety