

COMPETENT PERSONS SELF-CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

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THE Government has approved schemes to be operated by BRE Certification Limited, British Standards Institution, ELECSA Limited, NICEIC Certification Services Limited and Zurich Certification Ltd. These schemes are aimed at those carrying out electrical installation work as the primary activity of their business. The Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC), who advise the Government, hope to be able to make recommendations shortly for schemes aimed at those carrying out electrical installation work that is not the primary activity of their business.

All Competent Persons Self-Certification Schemes (“Person” means a legal person, i.e. a firm or an individual) are measured according to the same criteria to ensure the various Competent Person Schemes do not issue conflicting technical advice. The ODPM will closely monitor the operation of the schemes. Members of the public who wish to employ a competent person can obtain details from the scheme operators. The approved scheme operators will be listed in the new edition of the Building Regulations Explanatory Booklet. In addition, these details have been posted on the ODPM website.

The IEE was instrumental in the development of the Electro-Technical Assessment (EAS) Scheme with which competent person schemes are required to comply. The IEE welcomes the introduction of robust competent person schemes as a way of enhancing the professionalism of the industry and ensuring consumer protection.

Those wishing to join a Competent Person Scheme will need to demonstrate their competence, if necessary by first undergoing appropriate training. The work of members will be inspected at least once a year. There will be an initial registration and assessment fee, and then an annual membership and inspection fee.

Further information on Part P may be obtained from the IEE website iee.org/technical