

CERTIFICATION

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION to BS 7671

1. What is Certification?

A building owner may employ approved certifiers to ensure work meets building regulations. The status of 'Approved Certifier of Construction' is only given to people who hold appropriate qualifications and have sufficient experience to certify that an installation is compliant.

Using an approved certifier is an option open to an owner or developer carrying out work that requires a building warrant. The work done must comply with the building warrant and building regulations. A Certificate of Construction provides assurance that the work as constructed does comply.

Approved certifiers are members of a scheme **approved by Scottish Ministers**. Electrical construction scheme provided by SELECT and NICEIC Group Limited, and these organisations represent many electrical contractors working in Scotland.

Certified electrical installations do not require an inspection by the local authority and a valid certificate attracts a minimum £20.00 refund on the warrant fee you paid.

2. How does it work?

If you decide to use an Approved Certifier of Construction you should –

- Contact an approved body offering certification of electrical installations and arrange for the work to be carried out and certified by an electrician who is an approved certifier.
- Notify the local authority before work starts that you intend to use an Approved Certifier of Construction.
- When the work is finished you will sign a completion certificate which states the completed project meets building regulations.
- Send your completion certificate to the local authority along with a certificate signed by the Approved Certifier of Construction (Electrical Installations to BS7671) to cover the electrical installation.

Approved Certifiers of Electrical Installations must be approved electricians who are suitably qualified e.g. SQV level 3 in electrical engineering. **This person will take responsibility for the electrical work, make checks to ensure that work as constructed complies with building regulations and provide you with a certificate of construction.**

3. What are the benefits?

- Quicker acceptance of completion certificates by local authorities. Certified installations are not inspected at completion.
- A refund on the warrant fee you paid is given if the local authority is notified before work starts and a Certificate of Construction is submitted with the completion certificate.
- Approved certifiers are able to provide a quality service, and ensure compliance of work with building regulations.
- A firm employing at least one approved certifier must meet criteria to be appointed as an approved body.
- Approved bodies hold adequate insurance cover for any project to be certified.
- Members of a certification scheme have their work audited by the scheme provider.
- Construction professionals and trades-people must have met high levels of qualifications and experience necessary to be accepted into certification schemes.
- The skills and experience of construction professionals and trades-people are recognised.

4. How do I find an Approved Certifier?

The Scottish Government's Building Standards Division runs the online Certification Register. This is the only authentic source of information on all approved certifiers.

Open the Register at: <http://www.certificationregister.co.uk/>

The Register is used to find firms that employ at least one approved certifier offering certification services in your local authority area.

The Register is also used by Building Standards Surveyors to check the validity of certificates submitted to them.

You can use the Register to find firms that have gained approved body status under the scheme by their registration number or simply by their trading name.

To find an approved certifier:

- choose a scheme and
- choose a local authority area
- view all the member firms that offer certification services in that area.

Alternatively, type in the name of a firm you know to see if it is registered with the scheme.

View your chosen firm's details and contact the Certification Co-ordinator in the firm to make all the necessary arrangements.

5. Information and Contacts

For further information about Certification and the new system of building standards in Scotland contact the Scottish Government's Building Standards Division at the following address:

Scottish Government Building Standards Division

Denholm House

Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6GA

Email: buildingstandards@gov.scot

Web: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/Building/Building-standards>

Telephone: 0131 244 6511

Details of the certification scheme can be requested from the scheme providers:

SELECT

The Walled Garden

Bush Estate

Midlothian, EH26 0SB

Email: admin@select.org.uk

Web: www.select.org.uk

and www.sec.uk.net

Telephone: 0131 445 5577

NICEIC Group Limited

Warwick House

Houghton Hall Park

Houghton Regis

Dunstable LU5 5ZX

Email: enquiries@NICEIC.com

Web: www.niceic.com

Telephone: 0333 015 6625