

Issue 9 | Summer 2008

SwitchedOn

News for the industry from The Electrical Safety Council



The International Electrical Product Safety Conference 2008

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Benvenuto Selamat datang Willkommen Tere tulemast Mirë se vjen 歡迎 Dobrodošli



www.esc.org.uk

WELCOME



Welcome to the ninth edition of Switched On.

The work we have been undertaking with schools across the UK to raise awareness of electrical safety issues has continued to develop. Over the past few months, we have distributed over 80,000 electrical safety fun packs to primary schools.

These educational packs, which support the National Curriculum, have been well received and are being used by teachers during lesson time to help raise awareness of the potential dangers of electricity and to educate children about electrical safety.

In conjunction with the launch of the fun pack, we also ran a poster competition. Open to all children of primary school age, the standard of entries was excellent. The regional and national winners selected from over 8000 entries were announced in June.

Our events programme for 2008 is now in full swing. To help promote the important message of electrical safety, we have developed a new safety DVD for consumers which follows the life of a family through a typical morning as they prepare for work and college.

The DVD identifies a number of electrical hazards and includes cutaways to interviews with Trading Standards and the Manchester Fire and Rescue Service. A voice-over reviews all the hazards shown in the film, the topics covering misuse of electrical products, poor cable management and not using an RCD.

An interactive game based on the DVD has also been created. This will be a feature at all

the major events we will be attending this year. A prize is awarded after each event for the shortest time taken to spot all the hazards so, if you are at one of the shows indicated in this issue of Switched On, come along to our stand and have a go!

As previously advised, we have taken to the road this year with our exhibition trailer. The trailer greatly increases the opportunities we have to promote the importance of electrical safety direct to consumers.

It is visiting summer shows and city centres, and offers the opportunity for people of all ages to learn about electrical safety in a fun way. Details of where the trailer will be visiting can be found under the Events section and on our website.

On a final note, please enjoy reading the magazine. As always, we would welcome your feedback on its content – email switchedon@esc.org.uk

THE NATIONAL HOMEBUILDING & RENOVATING SHOW

For the second successive year, we attended the National Home Building & Renovating Show which was held in April at the NEC, Birmingham.

We were pleased to have a brand new stand featuring the new consumer safety DVD and the interactive game mentioned in the Director's welcome.

Our stand attracted many interested parties with questions on a large range of electrical issues, including how to deal with a bad case of Glis Glis!

Fortunately, our staff were aware of the issue, Glis Glis being a protected species of rodent, confined to a 200

square mile area of the Chilterns, which has a habit of gnawing through cable insulation in lofts.

In addition to answering a number of such challenging questions from active and prospective home builders and renovators, we discussed a wide variety of electrical safety issues with our many visitors, who took away thousands of our information leaflets for further reference.

We also gave a presentation about electrical safety issues to audiences in the show's Masterclass Theatre. These were well attended and, on each occasion, resulted in a pleasing rush of visitors to our stand looking for further information.



Given the success of our participation in the show, we have already signed up for next year's event.





Solar-powered homes get government go-ahead see page 11

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BS 7671: 2008 now in full effect

After the six month transition period, *BS 7671: 2008 Requirements for Electrical Installations (IEE Wiring Regulations 17th Edition)* came into full effect on 1 July.

All electrical installation work designed from that date must comply with the revised standard. Installations which conform to the standards laid down in BS 7671: 2008 are regarded by HSE as likely to achieve conformity with the relevant parts of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989.

Existing installations may have been designed and installed to conform to the standards set by earlier editions of BS 7671 or the IEE Wiring Regulations, but this does not necessarily mean that they will fail to achieve conformity with the relevant parts of the Electricity at Work Regulations.

Industry charter to combat counterfeiters

For many years at the forefront in initiatives against producers of anti-counterfeit electrical products, BEAMA has joined forces with the ECA, SELECT and EDA (the Electrical Distributors Association) to create a Charter in the fight to combat the 'trade' in counterfeit goods, and the proliferation of products failing to comply with the relevant standards.



The presidents of the four associations have signed the Charter, which commits their members to refuse to trade in counterfeit or non-compliant products. The aim is to drive these dangerous or sub-standard products from the UK market.

The electrical industry sees the Charter as a major move forwards in combating the counterfeiters – a unified front encompassing the associations working together on practical and effective solutions to stem the threat from counterfeit and non-compliant electrical products.



For further information about anti-counterfeiting initiatives, visit www.beama.org.uk and www.counterfeit-kills.com

Building Regulations being amended to address faulty immersion heaters

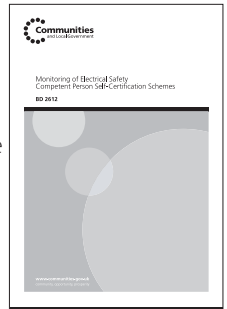


Following severe criticism of government by the coroner handling the case of a baby killed by scalding water, Approved Document G (Hygiene) of the Building Regulations for England and Wales is being revised to address, amongst other things, the safety issues arising from potentially defective hot water systems, including faulty immersion heater thermostats.

New measures will be implemented to ensure that at least two protection systems are employed in hot water systems, including a warning device that will alert users that something has malfunctioned. The changes are expected to come into effect by October next year.

Government publishes overdue report on Part P schemes

In May, Communities and Local Government published their long awaited report on the operation and effectiveness of the Part P competent person self-certification schemes.



Entitled 'Monitoring of Electrical Safety Competent Person Self-Certification Schemes: BD 2612', the 217 page report, which covers the period 1 April 2005 to 30 September 2006, can be downloaded free of charge from www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/monitorelectricalsafety



In April, the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive merged to form a single national regulatory body responsible for promoting the cause of better health and safety at work.

According to the government, the merged body, which retains the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) name, will provide greater clarity and transparency whilst maintaining its public accountability.

The merger will not fundamentally change the day-to-day operations but is intended to set the tone for closer working throughout the organisation.

HSE will retain its independence, reflecting the interests of employers, employees and local authorities. It will be revisiting its strategy to develop a long term view for the next five years, which will be published towards the end of this year.

The decision to merge followed extensive public consultation in which 80% of respondents favoured the move. The consultation document can be viewed at www.hse.gov.uk/press/2006/c06029.htm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 2008

Exhibitions

Conservative Party Conference	28 Sep -1 Oct	ICC, Birmingham
Labour Party Conference	21-25 Sep	MCCC, Manchester
Liberal Democrat Conference	13-17 Sep	BIC, Bournemouth



Roadshow programme

Kent County Show	11-13 July	Kent Showground, Detling, Maidstone, Kent
Lambeth Country Show	19-20 July	Brockwell Park, Norwood Road, London
Brighton*	22-23 July	East Street, Bastion, Brighton
Birmingham	26- 27 July	St Martin's Square, Bullring, Birmingham
Liverpool	29-30 July	Williamson Square, City Centre
Cardiff*	3-4 August	St Johns Street, Cardiff City Centre
Manchester	8-9 August	Cathedral Gardens, Manchester
Sheffield	11-12 August	Fargate, Sheffield City Centre
Bristol	15-16 August	The Podium, Broadmead, City Centre
Pembrokeshire County Show	19-21 August	County Showground, Withybush, Haverfordwest

*To be confirmed

The Electrical Safety Council roadshow trailer will be touring the country over the summer

ANNUAL RECEPTION 2008

The Council's annual reception was again held at the House of Commons in March, with the support of Andrew Selous MP. Attendance at the reception was excellent, and much valuable support for the Council's work was received.

Mr Selous, whose shadow ministerial responsibilities include Health and Safety, has been a supporter of the Council since its inception. He spoke to fellow MPs, Peers, and representatives from the electrical industry and other organisations that work with the Council, praising the Council's consumer safety work. Phil Buckle, Director of Charitable Affairs, then updated the guests on the activities and progress made during the previous year.

We are pleased to have forged constructive relationships with many like-minded organisations. The support of a growing number of government representatives is another development we believe will ultimately help us improve the electrical safety of consumers.



WHICH ELECTRICAL COURSE SHOULD I ATTEND?



City & Guilds electrical installation regulation courses explained

Since the publication of *BS 7671: 2008 - Requirements for Electrical Installations (IEE Wiring Regulations, Seventeenth Edition)*, the numbers and titles of many City & Guilds electrical installation courses have changed. Also, qualifications relating to a new *BS 7671, Inspection and Testing and Building Regulations for electrical installations in dwellings* course have recently been introduced.

This article outlines the main City & Guilds qualifications that are appropriate for electricians, inspectors, designers and other persons requiring training in electrical design, installation and/or the general requirements for inspection and testing.

The courses are based on the requirements of *BS 7671: 2008*. City & Guilds courses covering the requirements for inspection and testing of fixed wiring (2391-10 and 2392-10) and portable appliances (2377) will be covered in a future article.

Care should be taken when selecting a course to ensure that the candidate's experience and knowledge are sufficient for that particular course.

Electrical installation regulation courses

2382-10: City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in the Requirements for Electrical Installations (BS 7671: 2008)

This qualification is aimed primarily at practising electricians with relevant experience, and other allied professionals such as surveyors, consultants and other trades needing to update and enhance their general understanding of the *IEE Wiring Regulations*. It is also suitable for anyone wishing to demonstrate a basic understanding of the requirements of *BS 7671: 2008*.

Students attending this course will be required to have a prior knowledge of basic electrical theory and science, as well as some knowledge of electrical systems.

Only the *general requirements* of inspection and testing are covered in the 2382-10 course. Electricians requiring a more detailed knowledge of inspection and testing should supplement the 2382 qualification by attending a City & Guilds course specifically designed for inspection and testing, such as the:

- 2392-10 (*Level 2 Certificate in Fundamental Initial Testing and Initial Verification*), and/or
- 2391-10 (*Level 3 Certificate in the Certification of Electrical Installations (Inspection, testing and certification of electrical installations)*).

These courses will be covered in a future article.

To obtain the Level 3 2382-10 certificate, candidates must successfully complete a two hour, GOLA (online) multiple choice examination consisting of 60 questions.

The examination is open book, and candidates are permitted to take a copy of *BS 7671: 2008* into the examination. Candidates will also require a non-programmable calculator.

The Guided Learning Hours for this course are 30-35 hours. This equates to 4-5 days, with further time being required for the examination. Because of the wide range of subject matter to be covered, a four day course should be considered to be the minimum. To benefit fully from the course, students would be well advised to revise their knowledge of *BS 7671* prior to attending the course.

2382-20: City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in the Requirements for Electrical Installations Update to BS 7671: 2008 (16th to 17th Edition update)

This qualification is aimed at practising electricians with a working knowledge of *BS 7671* and who have already achieved one of the following qualifications addressing the requirements *BS 7671: 2001* such as the:

- *City & Guilds Certificate in the Requirements for Electrical Installations (BS 7671: June 2001)* (2381-01), or
- *City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Electrotechnical Technology Installation (Building and Structures)* (2330-07), or
- *City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Electrotechnical Technology Electrical Maintenance* (2330-08), or
- *City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Electrical Installation Part Two* (2360) (since 1 January 2004 only).

Those not holding one of the above qualifications (which indicate existing knowledge of the requirements of *BS 7671*) will be required to undertake the full course, that is the *City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in the Requirements for Electrical Installations (BS 7671: 2008)* (2382-10).

To obtain the 2382-20 Level 3 Certificate, candidates must successfully complete a one-hour, GOLA (online) multiple choice examination consisting of 30 questions. The examination is open book, and candidates are permitted to take *BS 7671: 2008* into the examination. Candidates will also require a non-programmable calculator.

The Guided Learning Hours for this course are 7 hours, or 1 day, with further time being required for the examination.

Although this course is intended to cover the changes between the 16th to 17th Editions only, this is a very tight schedule

to cover the wide range of material. Candidates attending this course are therefore expected to have a very good knowledge of BS 7671: 2001 (as amended).

No time is allowed to explain previously existing requirements or general principles. Some colleges may consider extending the minimum hours for this course to enable the subject matter to be covered sufficiently.

2391-20: City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Design, Erection and Verification of Electrical Installations. (Note: This course was previously the 2391-02 and, before that, the 2400)

This course is intended for persons such as those in electrical contracting companies who have responsibility for the quality of the design, specification, installation, and inspection and testing processes. It is intended for candidates who require a knowledge and understanding of the application of the requirements of BS 7671: 2008 beyond that gained from the City & Guilds 2382 courses. It is also suitable for persons having responsibility for all aspects of electrical installation work on site.

Prior to undertaking this qualification, it is strongly recommended that candidates achieve either the *City & Guilds Certificate in the Requirements for Electrical Installations (BS 7671: 2008)* (2382) or similar qualifications,

as the knowledge and understanding gained from that course will help ensure success on this more in-depth course.

Before undertaking this qualification, candidates should also seriously consider undertaking the *City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Inspection, Testing and Certification of Electrical Installations (2391-10)*, as well as gaining practical experience. (This course will be covered in a future article).

To gain the 2391-20 Level 3 Certificate in Design, Erection and Verification of Electrical Installations, candidates must successfully complete the following:

- Unit 302. The aim of this unit is to enable candidates to develop the necessary technical and practical skills in relation to the inspection, testing and certification of electrical installations. Assessment is by practical examination. (Students who have successfully completed the 2391-302 (the practical inspection, testing and certification assessment unit) as part of the 2391-10 are not required to retake this unit as part of the 2391-20.)
- Unit 303. One written assessment covering technical knowledge of design, erection and verification of electrical installations. The written assessment consists of 10 extended response questions. The examination duration is 3

hours. The examination is open book and candidates are permitted to take BS 7671: 2008, the IEE On-Site Guide and/or the AEEU Guide to Good Electrical Practice and IEE Guidance Note 3 into the examination. Candidates will also require a non-programmable calculator.

- Unit 304. One project requiring a minimum of 20 hours' work. The aim of this unit is for candidates to obtain and demonstrate the necessary skills to design a small commercial, industrial or domestic electrical installation.

The Guided Learning Hours for this course are 15 hours for Unit 302, 15 hours for Unit 303, and 10 hours for Unit 304.

It should be noted that these timescales are 'guided learning hours' and students will be expected to complete work in their own time, especially in relation to Unit 304 (the project). College and training centre provision of this course vary in relation to format and timescales. The course may be provided in a single block, one day a week over a set period of time, or one or two evenings per week over an extended duration.

Watch out for an article in a future issue of Switched On giving information on the City & Guilds courses that cover the requirements for inspection and testing of fixed wiring (2391-10 and 2392-10) and portable appliances (2377).

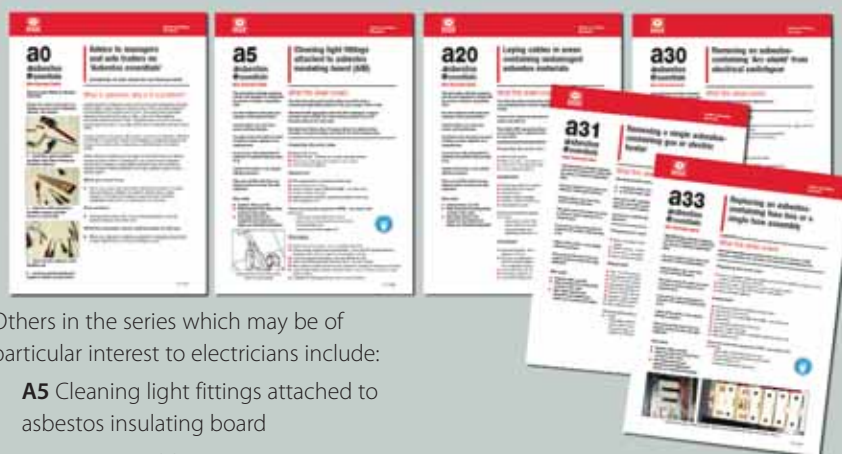
ASBESTOS KILLS! GET INFORMED!

In the spring issue of Switched On, we featured the dangers of asbestos in support of an HSE campaign to make electricians and other tradesmen more aware of the hidden dangers.

Those dangers are significant - every week, about 20 maintenance workers, including six electricians and three plumbers, die from asbestos-related diseases. Indeed, asbestos is the greatest single cause of work-related deaths in the UK.

Amongst a large range of asbestos safety information, the HSE has produced a series of information sheets entitled 'asbestos essentials' which focus on particular work activities.

The first in the series, A0, gives an introduction to the subject, and is intended to be read by managers and sole traders.



Others in the series which may be of particular interest to electricians include:

- **A5** Cleaning light fittings attached to asbestos insulating board
- **A20** Laying cables in areas containing undamaged asbestos materials
- **A30** Removing an asbestos-containing 'arc shield' from electrical switchgear
- **A31** Removing a single asbestos-containing gas or electric heater
- **A33** Replacing an asbestos-containing fuse box or a single fuse assembly

The full set of leaflets can be downloaded from:
www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/
For general information about asbestos and its dangers, visit:
www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/ and
www.esc.org.uk/news_asbestos.html



Electrical Product Safety

An event not to be missed!

The International Electrical Product Safety Conference, organised by the Electrical Safety Council, will take place on 8 - 9 September at Church House, Westminster, London.

The conference will provide a platform to discuss the safety of consumer electrical products in the global market. Recent events, such as the continuing rise in RAPEX* notifications and the European Commission's stocktaking exercise, recognising the issues relating to managing open markets and responding to globalisation, have shown that product safety needs an international approach. The two-day conference will provide an excellent opportunity to take stock of the present situation and provide a clear path forward.

Much has been researched and written about the safety of electrical products. Now, hear straight from the industry leaders and experts about what the future holds.

Dave Dossett, vice president of CENELEC and Chairman of the Electrical Safety Council, will chair the conference, where a wide range of topics will be discussed through a mix of plenary and interactive themed break-out sessions.

Senior international policy makers including Jackie Minor, Director of Consumer Affairs at DG-SANCO and Marc Schoem of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission will review the current state of electrical product safety in the opening session and set the scene for the conference, while key stakeholders representing product suppliers, product users and the market enforcement authorities, including Luigi Meli, Director General

of the European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers, Stephen Russell, Director General of ANEC and Jan Deconinck, Chairman of Prosafe, will widen the debate.

A range of breakout sessions will provide delegates with the opportunity to focus on specific aspects related to product safety. Each group of sessions is repeated in the programme in order to provide delegates with the maximum opportunity to take part, attending four out of the six workshops on offer, including;

- Policy and regulations
- Manufacturers/suppliers/retailers perspective
- Enforcement/market surveillance
- Quality/certification
- Counterfeiting
- Protecting vulnerable consumers

The workshop on policy and regulations will provide a more detailed examination of the main European policy instruments: the New Approach, the Low Voltage Directive, the General Product Safety Directive and RAPEX, the EU rapid alert system for all dangerous consumer products. Speakers include Mark Bogers of DG ENTR and Ron Gainsford, Chief Executive of the UK Trading Standards Institute.

Richard Harris of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Chairman of the Low Voltage Directive Administrative Co-operation Working Group (LVD-ADCO) has been confirmed to speak in the enforcement and market surveillance session, which will provide a detailed insight into activities





ty Conference 2008 –

by authorities working at the national level as well as the enforcement agencies working in the marketplace.

Counterfeit goods can have serious implications for health and safety, and a session on this topic will provide an opportunity to understand better the actions taken by manufacturers, the work being done by the market surveillance authorities, and the preventative support that can be provided by test houses. Hear the manufacturers' view from Kevin Harris of the anti-counterfeiting working group, the market surveillance view from Bryan Lewin of the TSI and the test house view from Doug Geralde of Corporate Audits & Investigations CSA Group.

Speakers including Chiara Giovannini and Tania Vandenberg of ANEC and Lorraine Carney, head of the Electrical Safety Council's child safety programme, will address the issues around protecting vulnerable customers in a dedicated breakout session. Delegates will learn the implications that an ageing population and children having greater access to electrical products will have on safe product design, and what the Council is doing in response to these issues.

Gareth Thomas MP, the UK Parliamentary under secretary of state for trade and consumer affairs has also been invited to speak alongside many other industry experts and policy makers.

We are pleased to confirm the NICEIC Group as an official sponsor of the conference. If your organisation is committed to electrical product safety and would like to be associated with this high profile event, a range of sponsorship and exhibitor packages have been developed and are still on offer with a variety of organisations and needs in mind.

Details of sponsorship and exhibition opportunities can be viewed at www.esconference.org.uk or contact Adam Potter on +44 (0)20 7880 7660 or by email at adam.potter@redactive.co.uk.

In addition to the conference proceedings, a gala dinner on the opening night will provide an unparalleled networking opportunity. The dinner will be held in the historic buildings of Lincoln's Inn, located in the heart of Central London. The building and gardens house an active, working society of barristers and judges. The halls and public rooms of Lincoln's Inn are steeped in tradition, providing a sumptuous backdrop for the gala dinner.

Also, a comprehensive partners' programme will ensure you'll want to make this more than a business trip. Running alongside the main event, the programme provides options for those traveling to London with registered delegates, but who are not attending the conference.

This event promises to be the definitive view on electrical product safety in the global market and everyone is welcome to attend, but please note that registrations are limited and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

For further updates on speakers and information on the conference programme, and to book your place, please visit www.esconference.org.uk or call +44 (0)20 7880 6214.

** RAPEX is the European rapid alert system for dangerous consumer products. For further details see the summer 2007 issue of Switched On, which can be downloaded from www.esc.org.uk.*

“MUCH HAS BEEN RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS. NOW, HEAR STRAIGHT FROM THE INDUSTRY LEADERS AND EXPERTS ABOUT WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.”

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION FORUM ANSWERS MORE FAQs

Since the previous issue of Switched On was published, several more FAQs have been answered by the Electrical Installation Forum and posted on our website (www.esc.org.uk/forum).

All the answers assume that the designer and installer intend to comply fully with the requirements of the 17th Edition.

The following extracts are typical of the information to be found in the '17th Edition' section on our website, currently divided into the following categories:

- New or rewired domestic and similar installations
- Alterations and additions in domestic and similar premises
- Places of work – new installations
- Periodic inspection of existing domestic and similar installations

Q Does the 17th Edition require all 13 A socket-outlets in domestic premises need to be RCD-protected?

A For new installations and rewires in domestic premises, all socket-outlets need to have additional protection by RCD, except perhaps for those intended to supply particular items of equipment such as freezers. Any socket-outlet not having RCD protection needs to be specifically labelled or otherwise suitably identified to indicate its intended use, such as 'freezer only'.



Q I am working on a new electrical installation which was designed to the 16th Edition but which will not be completed until after the 17th Edition comes into full effect. To which Edition should the installation be inspected, tested, verified and certificated?

A An installation designed and installed to the 16th Edition should be inspected, tested, verified and certificated to that Edition.

Q Is an RCD main switch (such as a 100 mA time-delayed device) still required in the consumer unit of a new domestic installation forming part of a TT system?

A For a domestic installation complying with the 17th Edition where all the final circuits are RCD-protected, an RCD main switch is no longer required.

Q Do socket-outlets added to an existing installation in domestic premises have to be RCD-protected?

A Where socket-outlets are added to an existing circuit that is not already RCD-protected, either the circuit will need to have RCD protection added, or the new socket-outlets must incorporate RCD protection (except for a socket-outlet designated for a particular item of equipment, such as a freezer).

Q When changing a consumer unit, do I need to provide RCDs for all circuits required by the 17th Edition to have additional protection, such as socket-outlets, bathroom circuits and cable concealed in walls and partitions?

A Yes. There should be more than one RCD, and the circuits should be divided between them in order to minimize the consequences of tripping.

Q If I replace an existing electric shower, do I now have to provide RCD protection for it?

A No, unless RCD protection is required by the manufacturer's installation instructions, or a new circuit is required (to provide for increased load, for example).

Q Which 13 A socket-outlets in commercial and industrial premises are required to have additional protection by RCD?

A Socket-outlets in commercial and industrial premises must have additional protection by means of an RCD if they are rated at 20 A or less and are for general use without the supervision of a skilled or instructed person. An exception is made for a specific labelled/identified socket-outlet for a particular item of equipment.

The decision as to which socket-outlets are provided with RCD protection in accordance with these criteria should be made in consultation with the client's duty holder under the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989.

As a general principle, it may be considered that socket-outlets in commercial and industrial premises needing to have additional protection by means of an RCD include the following: those in common, circulation and public areas; those in self-catering areas; those intended for use by cleaners; and those that may reasonably be used to supply mobile equipment for use outdoors.

Q During periodic inspections of domestic electrical installations, I often find that cables that are concealed in walls at a depth of less than 50 mm have no additional protection by means of an RCD, as is now required for installations complying with the 17th Edition. What Recommendation Code should I give?

A Code 4. Although existing installations need to be assessed against the requirements of the 17th Edition, this does not necessarily mean that they require upgrading, unless a departure from the latest requirements constitutes a real or potential danger.



SOLAR-POWERED HOMES GET GOVERNMENT GO-AHEAD

New rules to allow homeowners in England and Wales to install solar panels, ground source heat pumps and other microgeneration technologies to help cut carbon emissions were given the green light by government in March.

Currently, the energy used to heat, light and run our homes accounts for 27 per cent of all of the UK's carbon emissions - around 40 million tonnes. Many householders who want to install microgeneration technology are said to be put off by the time and cost involved in getting prior planning permission.

Since April though, homeowners have been able to install certain microgeneration equipment, such as solar panels, without needing to get planning permission, so long as there is clearly no impact on others.

The amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allows for the installation of solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, ground and water source heat pumps, biomass heating, and combined heat and power systems on or within the boundary of domestic premises.

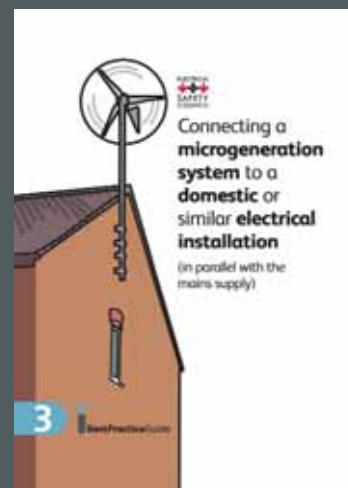
However, size limitations have been set to reduce impact on neighbours. For example, solar panels attached to a building must not protrude more than 200 mm from the roof slope, and stand-alone panels must be no higher than four metres above ground level and no nearer than five metres from the boundary.

The government has made it clear that it will legislate further to allow free-standing and building-mounted wind turbines on detached properties, and air source heat pumps to be installed, without needing planning permission. But this move has to await clearance from the European Commission, which is expected later this year.

The government is also exploring how they can extend to business the use of microgeneration for commercial and agricultural business. It is estimated that, by 2050, 30-40 per cent of the UK's electricity demand could be met by installing microgeneration equipment to all types of building.

Practical advice on connecting domestic microgeneration systems is available in our Best Practice Guide No 3 - Connecting a microgeneration system to a domestic or similar electrical installation (in parallel with the mains supply) - which can be downloaded free of charge from our website

www.esc.org.uk/bestpracticeguides.html



CONSUMER DIRECT PUBLISHES MORE COMPLAINT STATISTICS

Consumer Direct, the consumer advice service funded by government and managed by the Office of Fair Trading, received more than 19,000 complaints about builders, plumbers, electricians, decorators and other home improvement traders in the first three months of this year, valued at almost £80 million.

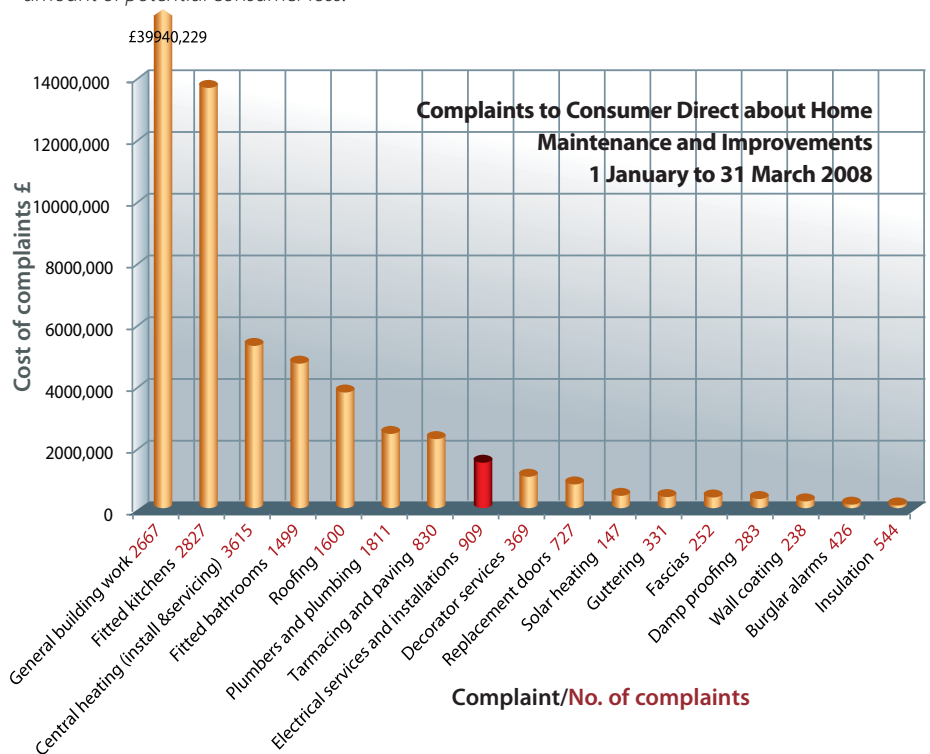
During that period, concerns about home maintenance and improvements accounted for the highest number of calls to the service.

In total, Consumer Direct advisers logged 19,075 home maintenance complaints. This was slightly down from 19,335 for the same period last year, but the total value of the complaints rose by almost £6 million.

Complaints about building work totalled £40 million, with problems with fitted kitchens reaching £14 million, and central heating installation and servicing complaints topping £5.5 million. Complaints about electrical services and installations came in at eighth place in terms of value, at more than £1.6 million.

It is hoped that the increasing use of the *Guide for consumers when ordering electrical work*, produced in association with the Institution of Engineering and Technology will, over time, help to push complaints about electrical installation work much further down the list in terms of both number and value.

* The value attributed by Consumer Direct to each complaint is the total price paid for the goods or services, and does not represent the amount of potential consumer loss.



PERIODIC INSPECTION REPORTING CONFERENCE

In the previous issue of Switched On, we proposed to arrange a conference on the subject of domestic periodic inspection reporting later in the year if there was sufficient interest.

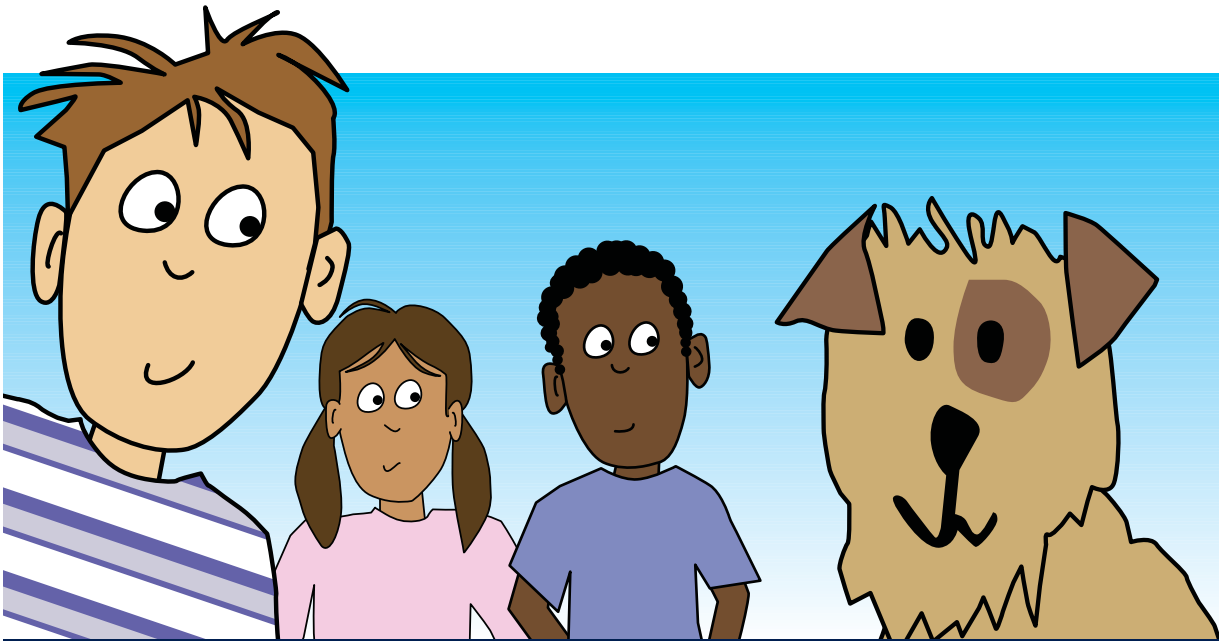
The aim of the conference would be to review the general standard of domestic period inspection reporting, including the associated inspection and testing issues, and to discuss how that standard could be improved for the benefit of householders and other property owners.

Judging by the number of expressions of interest received to date, there appears to be sufficient interest but, if you've not yet done so, please do register your interest.

We would particularly pleased to hear from individuals and organisations who would like to present a paper at the proposed conference on the subject of domestic periodic inspection reporting.

To register your interest, please send an email to pir@esc.org.uk





COUNCIL MAKES LEARNING FUN FOR KIDS

Following the successful launch of our educational website for children last year, we are pleased to report that the Educational Electrical Safety Fun Pack, which featured in the summer 2007 issue of Switched On, has also been very well received by schools, Guides, Scouts, community safety bodies and parents throughout the UK.

We have been inundated with requests for packs, and have now sent out more than 80,000 copies. And the children's website, www.switchedonkids.org.uk, has had thousands of visitors each month since the pack was launched.



"...the children loved them and they learned so much from them."

Pre-preparatory school, Twycross



We have also received hundreds of emails complimenting us on the pack's innovative and fun approach to teaching children about electrical safety, of which the following are typical:

"These packs are a very good compliment to our current science programme"

Pre-preparatory school, Twycross

"What a great kit - the next best thing to actually handling the objects and switching them on and off. Kids love the stickers too. Well done and thank you."

Primary school, Pwll

"They are an excellent resource to stimulate discussion. We are a Welsh medium school, but as there are only images on the plan it can be used very effectively through the medium of Welsh."

School in Powys

"The kits are super and the children will love the stickers! Since I caught a fairly intelligent year 4 trying to mend a glue gun by sticking a pair of metal scissors into it while it was attached to the mains, I have appreciated the importance of electrical safety!"

Science Co-ordinator, school in Bisley, Gloucestershire

"These are really good - well done!! It's good to see something a bit different."

Community Fire Safety, Kettering

"Teachers were very impressed with the resource and have lots of ideas on how to use it."

Primary school, Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland

".... the children are finding them great fun, especially the stickers"

Head Teacher, Isle of Jura Primary School, Scotland

The Goldsmith Infant School in Southsea, Hampshire sent us photos of their children using the Fun Packs in class. The Year 1 & 2 Leader said "Thank you for the fun kits - the children loved them and they learned so much from them."



The Fun Pack also received some good educational media coverage and appeared in a number of publications, including The Teacher (circulation 303,000), Headteacher Update (circulation 25,000) and Guiding (circulation 81,000).

In addition to the success of the Fun Pack, 8000 entries were received for the poster design competition, which closed in April.

The standard of the entries was very high, which made judging difficult. The judges were, however, encouraged by how much the children knew about electrical safety and how well they demonstrated a number of key electrical safety messages in such a creative way on their poster designs.

Details of the winning entries to the poster competition can be found on our electrical safety website for children, www.switchedonkids.org.uk.

FIRE ALARM STANDARD AMENDED

BS 5839-1 (*Fire detection and fire alarm systems for buildings – Part 1: Code of practice for system design, installation, commissioning and maintenance*) has been amended by the BSI Technical Committee FSH/12/1. The amended standard supersedes *BS 5839-1: 2002+A1: 2004*, which is now withdrawn.

The amendment to the Standard does not make significant changes, but does update references to other standards and items of legislation, and takes account of changes in technology and practice.

Legislation

Because of the changes to legislation relating to fire safety precautions, the references to the *Fire Precautions Act 1971* and the *Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 (as amended)* have been removed, including those from the model format for the log book.

Particular reference should be made to current fire safety legislation, including the *Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005*, the *Fire (Scotland) Act 2005*, the *Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006* and the *Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006*.

Categories of system

Clause 5.1.3(e) has been amended to clarify the recommendations for a Category L5 system, whereby a design is based on a localised need for fire detection in only part of a building rather than being based on a fire risk assessment or forming part of a fire engineering solution.

System components

Because of the addition of aspirating smoke detectors to *BS EN 54-20*, components and systems using radio links to *BS EN 54-25*, and multi-sensor, optical and heat detectors to *BS ISO 7240-15*, *BS EN 54-5* and *BS EN 54-7*, or *CEA 4021*, clause 11.2 has updated lettering.

Monitoring, integrity and reliability of circuits external to control equipment

Clause 12.2.2(m) has been amended to state that where a power supply unit or standby battery(ies) are housed in a separate enclosure from the control and indicating equipment (CIE), any cable between that enclosure and the CIE should be suitably

protected against overcurrent in accordance with *BS 7671 Requirements for Electrical Installations*.

Detection zones

Clause 13.2.1(a) is amended to recommend that manual call points located on the landings of enclosed stairways are incorporated within the zone that serves the adjacent accommodation on that level.

However, where the manual call point is located at the final exit from the stairwell to open air it may be incorporated within the detection zone serving the stairwell.

Visual alarm signals

Clause 17.2(d) is amended to clarify the recommended colours for visual alarm signals. These signals should be white or red in colour, unless another colour is necessary to distinguish from other visual signals.

Note 1 to the clause permits lettering (eg FIRE) to be used to distinguish one visual signal having the same colour from another.

Note 2 to the clause recommends that care should be taken to consider those people having photosensitive epilepsy.

Spacing and siting of automatic fire detectors

Clause 22.3(f) clarifies the recommended position of sensing elements of fire detectors within unventilated spaces less than 1.5 m in depth and those greater than 1.5 m in depth.

Note 7 of clause 22.3(h) recognises those circumstances where compliance with clause 22.3(h) may result in non-compliance with clause 22.3(g). Where this is the case non-compliance with 22.3(g) or 22.3(h) need not be regarded as a variation.

Cables, wiring and other interconnections

Clause 26.2(f) of *BS 5839-1* recognises the need for cables to be supported in such a manner that that circuit integrity is not reduced below that afforded by the cable. This has generally meant that cables should be supported by clips that will not melt during a fire.

The addition of Note 9 to this clause emphasises the problem of fire associated



with the use of cables installed in plastic cable trunking. During a fire the cable trunking may melt causing the cables to collapse creating a serious hazard of entanglement for firefighters.

This note is further emphasised by Note 2 of clause 46(b5) (Non-routine attention) where serious shortcomings in cable support that could result in collapse of a significant length of cable in the event of a fire might be regarded as a major non-compliance with the Standard.

The commentary (clause 26.1) has been amended to recognise the requirements of Regulation 522.6.6, Regulation 522.6.7 and Regulation 522.6.8 of *BS 7671* regarding the use of mechanical protection or RCDs to protect cables for the mains supply for the fire alarm system. Indeed, it may be more appropriate to consider installing cables supplying fire alarm systems on the surface in some cases.

Inspection and servicing

Clause 45.4(b) regarding the inspection and testing of automatic fire detectors and remote detectors has been amended to include the recommendation that, where remote indicators are fitted to detectors, these are checked for correct operation

BEST PRACTICE GUIDES

Fire precautions

Work on the fifth Best Practice Guide in the series, *Electrical installations and their impact on the fire integrity of buildings: Part 1 – Domestic premises*, has now been completed. The



Guide relates specifically to single family units such as houses, maisonettes, bungalows and flats, and covers issues relating to the installation of:

- flush-mounted consumer units
- concealed and recessed luminaires including downlighters
- flush-mounted electrical socket-outlets, flex outlet plates and data points
- flush-mounted switches, detection and control devices
- recessed wall luminaires
- concealed speakers.

There are two versions of the Guide – an abridged version for those, such as most electrical installers, just needing basic advice on the precautions to take, and a full version for those wishing to gain a more in-depth knowledge of the subject.

The abridged version is expected to be available for download by the time, or shortly after, this issue of Switched On is distributed. The full version will follow as soon as possible.

To increase awareness of the important information and advice it contains, it is intended to formally launch the Guide at one or more events for electrical installers and other building professionals later in the year. News about these events is likely to be given on our website before the next issue of Switched On is published.

Further Parts to this Best Practice Guide covering other types of premises may be published in due course.

Periodic inspection

Since the last issue of Switched On was published, *Best Practice Guide No 4 - Periodic inspection reporting - recommendation codes for domestic and similar electrical installations* – has been reviewed and amended by the working group in the light of feedback received from users.

The amended version can be downloaded now from the 'Business and Community' section of our website.

Other Guides

Copies of all the published Best Practice Guides can be downloaded free of charge from the 'Business and Community' section of our website (www.esc.org.uk), and also from the websites of several of the other contributors.

In addition to the Guides mentioned above, the published Guides include:

- No 1.** Replacing a consumer unit where lighting circuits have no circuit protective conductor
- No 2.** Safe isolation procedures for low voltage installations
- No 3.** Connecting a microgeneration system to a domestic or similar electrical installation

Further Best Practice Guides in the series may include replacing domestic consumer units, dealing with the effects of flooding, avoiding the dangers of asbestos, and the use of plug-in socket-outlet testers.

News about the development and availability of these and other guides will be announced from time to time on our website, and in future issues of Switched On.

NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL AWARDS 2008

The competition has now opened to find the winner of this year's prestigious NHIC Electrical Safety Award, sponsored by the Electrical Safety Council.

Taking part in the awards is straightforward. It costs nothing to enter, but ultimately the kudos can be priceless.

The award was won last year by Ocean Services (SW) Ltd for setting exceptionally high standards in improving and maintaining electrical safety in its housing stock. It was very clear from Ocean's entry that they were committed to improving and maintaining standards.

This year, the judges will be looking for a winner who can match the standards set by previous winners, such as Ocean Services (SW) Ltd (2007 winner) and Cannock Chase Council (2006 winner and 2007 runner-up).

Those living in rented accommodation are often difficult to reach, and so we rely on landlords across the UK to do all they can to keep their tenants safe and to communicate our electrical safety messages to them.

There is no doubt that many local authorities, housing associations and other landlords make a significant effort to ensure the safety of their tenants. If your organisation is one of them, why not enter the awards?



For an entry form and full details on how to enter, visit www.nhic.org.uk or email info@nhic.org.uk

Judging criteria for the NHIC Electrical Safety Award

- Electrical installations are checked regularly – at least every 10 years (and on change of tenancy)
- Residual current device (RCD) protection is provided for socket-outlets that may be used to power portable equipment outdoors
- Only qualified/registered electricians are used to carry out electrical work
- Relevant standards are complied with
- Tenants' and residents' awareness of electrical safety issues is raised
- Electrical appliances in sheltered schemes are checked once a year
- Customer satisfaction is good
- Energy saving initiatives are implemented

SHAKE-UP OF BUILDING CONTROL SYSTEM

The building industry, local authorities and home owners will all benefit from a shake-up of the building control system in England and Wales, proposed in March by Housing Minister Caroline Flint to crack down on illegal construction work.

The 'Future of Building Control' consultation recommended a more efficient risk-based inspection process for local authorities that focuses on the most dangerous failings. The consultation closed on 10 June.

The consultation paper set out and sought views on government proposals for changes to the building control system in England and Wales.

The changes proposed in the paper are designed to address weaknesses in the current system as identified by users of the system and the building control industry itself. They are intended to both improve compliance with the building regulations and further reduce the burdens associated with the system.

According to the government, good builders who comply with building regulations will be relieved of the burden of unnecessary inspections, while cowboy builders will face tougher scrutiny. A more systematic approach to the review of building

regulations will also give the industry more certainty and allow better forward planning.

Housing Minister Caroline Flint said "Home owners have the right to expect their homes to be built and renovated to minimum standards set out in building regulations. I want to make life more difficult for the cowboy builders that are out there whilst letting the high-quality majority of the industry get on with the job. This should reduce the cost and burden of the process on both the industry and local authorities."

The consultation proposed a more efficient building control system delivering sustainable buildings, including:

- Freeing up more time and resources for local authorities to focus on areas of highest risk, by removing statutory notification stages
- Introducing a periodic review of building regulations every three years, which will allow the building industry to forward plan, rather than having to react to the current continual changes
- Protecting home owners from builders who intend to do major projects without proper planning, by restricting the use of building notices

- Increasing powers for local authorities to tackle illegal or botched construction, including extending the existing time limits for enforcement to two years
- The potential use of fixed penalty notices and stop notices
- Raising awareness amongst the public and the industry and providing more help through the system, including a new guide on extensions and conversions, to help builders and homeowners to meet the building regulations
- Improving the link between planning and building control through a seamless planning and building control service.



Full details of the 'Future of Building Control' consultation can be found at www.communities.gov.uk. Other proposed building regulations control measures were the subject of an article in the spring issue of Switched On.

NEW ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION SKILLS COMPETITION LAUNCHED

SummitSKILLS

As an official sponsor, we are pleased to announce the launch of a new electrical installation skills competition, 'SkilleLECTRIC', to recognise and promote standards and skills within the electrotechnical industry.

The competition has been developed by SummitSkills, the Sector Skills Council for Building Services Engineering, in association with the Electrical Safety Council and other contributors from the electrotechnical sector. It provides a great opportunity for 'bright young sparks' to demonstrate their abilities and highlight their outstanding skills in the electrical contracting industry.

SkilleLECTRIC ran electrical installation competitions across England and Wales

during May and June. The Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) and The Electrical Training Trust of Northern Ireland (ETT) ran similar competitions in Scotland & Northern Ireland respectively.

SummitSkills is organising a UK final in the autumn, which will see the best electricians compete across the four home nations. Competitors will be assessed in a series of practical tests based on real-life work.

Winners of the preliminary stage or heats who meet the required standard will be invited to compete in the UK Final. Subject to eligibility, outstanding UK winners may be invited to compete for a place in the UK's team for the WorldSkills Competition, the

largest international skills competition in the world. The next two WorldSkills events will be held in Canada in 2009 and in London in 2011.

SkilleLECTRIC is part of Skill M&E – three skills competitions that search for the 'best of the best' electrical and mechanical engineers in the building services engineering sector. Skill M&E also incorporates SkillPLUMB and SkillFRIDGE.

For further details, call Linda Briggs on 01908 303971 or visit www.skillMandE.org.uk

CONVERSION PLUGS FOR FOREIGN APPLIANCES

In the spring issue of Switched On, we announced our intention to help migrant communities understand how to safely plug in foreign electrical appliances when using them in the UK, if necessary by using conversion plugs. Since then, we have heard from Fire & Rescue Services up and down the country about fires resulting from foreign plugs, such as the 2-pin Europlug, being forced into 13 A socket-outlets.

One report came from Fife Fire and Rescue Service, which was called to a severe fire in a farm building.

In recent years, the building had been used as overspill accommodation for migrant workers, with sufficient beds for 20 people. There were 15 residents occupying the building on the day of the fire.



There was a limited power supply to the accommodation in the form of two extension reels, providing power to the ground and first floor areas. The reels, which were in good condition and fitted with a thermal cut-out, were fed from a double socket in the entrance hall. At the time of the fire, the ground floor extension reel had three appliances plugged in. The first floor extension reel had one appliance plugged in.



Within the ground floor accommodation area, the most severe damage was in the vicinity of a low coffee table, which was severely charred. There were a number of items on the table top, including the remains of an electrical extension cable reel, which was almost fully unwound with approximately 1m of cable still on the drum. Plugged directly into the reel were the remains of two European-style 2-pin plugs, one connected to a hairdryer and the other to a small portable heating element, used to heat water in a cup. A third socket on the reel was clean, the shape of the clean area indicating that a UK style 13 A plug had been plugged in during the fire.

The two European-style plugs were removed from the reel to establish the degree of damage. The plug attached to the hairdryer was fairly easy to remove and was found to be intact at the connection with the reel. The plug for the heating element had fused to the reel and could not be removed without breaking it.

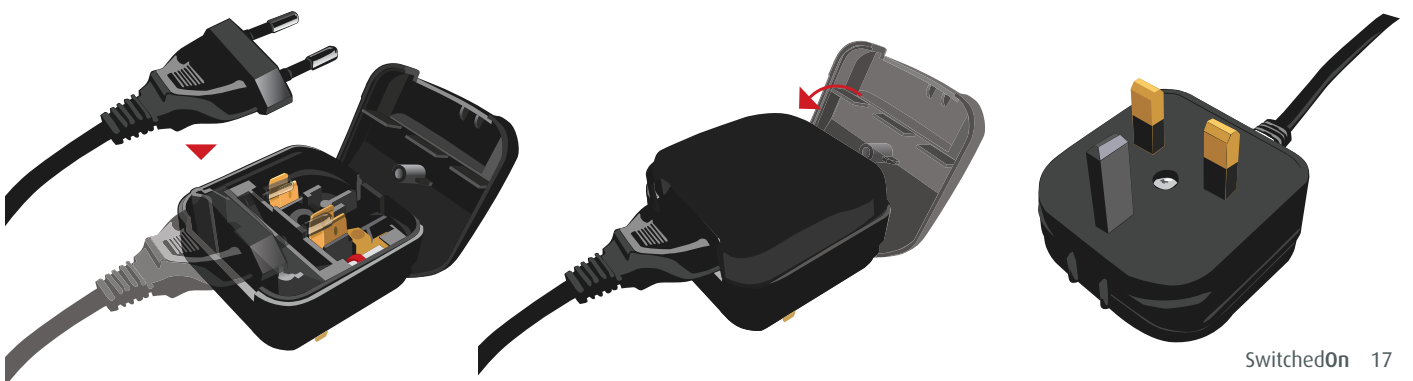
A fire investigation was carried out by two Fife Fire and Rescue Service officers. After eliminating all other possibilities and tracing the pattern of fire spread to its source, it was determined that the most probable cause of fire was overheating or arcing of the European 2-pin plug connected to the water heating element, leading to heating and ignition of the plastic body of the cable reel.

Although the other 2-pin plug had not overheated, examination indicated that it had been damaged, most probably by forcing it into the socket. Given this it would be reasonable to assume that the plug that caused the fire was also misused.

The farm owner had a policy of allowing personal electrical items, but they had to be fitted with UK plugs or used with an adaptor. Further searches of the bunkhouse found another two electrical appliances fitted with 2-pin European plugs, although it appeared their owners had been using adaptors. Several more were found in a small caravan park on the farm, also used to house migrant workers.

To help avoid such incidents, we are supplying thousands of conversion plugs free of charge to Fire & Rescue Services across the UK, for them to give out when, during their home safety checks, they come across cases of foreign plugs being misused.

We have also produced guidance on how to convert foreign electrical appliances for safe use in the UK, and supplied copies to Fire & Rescue Services around the UK. If you would like copies of the guidance leaflet, please email us on enquiries@esc.org.uk. We can supply up to 500 copies free of charge.



DISTRIBUTORS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING AN EARTHING FACILITY

Unlike the Electricity Supply Regulations 1988, the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 (ESQCR) place an obligation on distributors to offer to provide an earthing facility for consumers' installations when making a new connection, unless there is a safety reason for not doing so.

The obligation is contained in Regulation 24(4) of the ESQCR, which states 'Unless he can reasonably conclude that it is inappropriate for reasons of safety, a distributor shall, when providing a new connection at low voltage, make available his supply neutral conductor or, if appropriate, the protective conductor of his network for connection to the protective conductor of the consumer's installation'.

Regulation 24(5) goes on to state 'In this regulation the expression "new connection" means the first electric line, or the replacement of an existing electric line, to one or more consumer's installations.'

The HSE is now the sole government regulator for all safety issues associated with the transmission and distribution of electricity, but when the ESQCR were wholly administered by DTI (now BERR), they published guidance on the regulations (DTI reference URN 02/1544*). The guidance to Regulations 24(4) and (5) states:

'For a new connection the distributor would normally be expected to offer to connect his combined neutral and protective conductor (or protective conductor) to the consumer's earthing terminal.

In certain circumstances the distributor may take the view that such connection to the consumer's protective conductor could result in danger, and therefore not connect his combined neutral and protective conductor to the consumer's protective conductor via the earthing terminal. Examples of situations where caution would be warranted are included in comments for regulation 9 Protective Multiple Earthing.

Where the distributor does not offer to connect his protective conductor to the consumer's earthing terminal he should advise the consumer in writing of the reasons for not offering such a connection. In these circumstances the consumer should install his own earthing arrangements and protective devices in accordance with the requirements of BS7671 Requirements for Electrical Installations.'

Regulation 9 does not allow PME supplies to caravans or boats. The DTI guidance to Regulation 9 identifies locations where special consideration of the earthing and protection arrangements are required when

using PME supplies, such as locations where it may prove difficult to attach and maintain all the necessary bonding conditions (such as farms and building sites), installations in certain wet environments (such as swimming pools and petrol stations) and certain equipotential zones outside buildings (such as some street furniture).

The expression 'new connection' used in Regulation 24 can be taken to also mean the replacement of an existing 'electric line'. The guidance suggests that the definition of 'electric line' has a much wider application than, say, the term 'conductor', and it explicitly states that this can include equipment such as cables, ducts, marker tape and underground link boxes amongst other things.

The question of whether a new cut-out constitutes a "new connection" is not explicitly covered in the DTI guidance, but this is implied. Irrespective of this point, the guidance indicates that the distributor is under an obligation to inform the consumer in writing if deciding not to offer such a connection on justifiable safety grounds.

* The full DTI guidance on the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 can be downloaded from www.berr.gov.uk/files/file26709.pdf

ANOTHER TRADING STANDARDS PROSECUTION



An electrician who issued an invoice falsely indicating his business work was approved, and who issued a false electrical installation certificate, has been prosecuted, fined and ordered to pay back over £8000 to one of his customers.

At Dorchester Crown Court in May, as a result of a prosecution brought by Dorset County Council's Trading Standards Service, the 29 year-old electrician, who had formerly traded as A & J Electrical Services, was fined £1750 and ordered to pay compensation of £8350 to the Ilington Estate, a managed estate near Dorchester. The electrician was also ordered to pay prosecution costs to the local authority of £1000.

The electrician had previously pleaded guilty to two offences under the Trade

Descriptions Act 1968*. One offence was recklessly making a statement on an invoice given to a customer that he was approved by NICEIC by using their logo. The other was that he had given a customer a certificate from BRE Certification Limited stating that he had complied with certain requirements for electrical installation work when he knew this was untrue.

The electrician committed the offences in 2006. Having been investigated by the Trading Standards Service, he temporarily disappeared before being arrested in November 2007 after failing to attend court to answer summonses.

Ivan Hancock, Divisional Trading Standards Manager for Dorset County Council said: "Consumers and businesses often need to

rely on marks of approval and certificates confirming the ability of tradesmen to carry out work; indeed we would recommend that they do that. Any business fraudulently claiming to have qualifications or approval by bodies concerned with safety can expect to be rigorously investigated and face up to the consequences of their actions."

*Until May 2008, the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 was the main legal means to control misleading claims made by businesses. However, new legislation is now in force that provides more comprehensive controls on unfair commercial practices: The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 and The Business Protection from Misleading Marketing Regulations 2008.

CHILD SAFETY WEEK: “MAKE A CHANGE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

Electricity is all around us, from the time we boil a kettle for that first cup of tea, to the moment we set the alarm clock as our head hits the pillow. Children are now surrounded by a plethora of electrical equipment.

But there are concerns that this familiarity may be leading to a growing complacency, with families forgetting that electricity can injure and even kill through shock or fire. In a survey commissioned by the Electrical Safety Council last year, a third of parents admitted that their children did not know not to touch electrics if they were wet, or not to stick a knife in a toaster.

Child Safety Week is the Child Accident Prevention Trust's flagship community education campaign. It helps children, parents and carers understand the real risks to children's safety and the simple changes they can make to reduce those risks.

The Council was an official sponsor of Child Safety Week for the second successive year, joining government departments and other organisations concerned with child safety. This year, Child Safety Week ran from 23 to 29 June, with the theme "Make a change. Make a difference".

Katrina Phillips, Chief Executive of the Child Accident Prevention Trust said: "The

Council's support is vital to the success of Child Safety Week and we're really pleased they agreed to act as an official sponsor again this year".

Child Safety Week was marked by thousands of local activities and events where families had fun and, at the same time, learned about safety. There were quizzes and competitions, safety demonstrations and checks, in-store promotions, advice from local experts and free information to take away.

The springboard for all these activities was a free Child Safety Week resource pack, which can still be obtained from the Child Accident Prevention Trust. To obtain a copy, please visit www.capt.org.uk.

The resource pack contains a colourful booklet packed with information, plus a set of Fireman Sam stickers.

In addition and to support the Child Safety Week, the Child Accident Prevention Trust,

together with all its sponsors, encouraged all those who work with children to request the free

Educational Electrical Safety Fun Pack. The Pack includes an electricity-themed board game, stickers and badges, a 'spot the hazards' colouring sheet and a children's electrical safety poster. Copies of the Fun Pack can be obtained by emailing: enquiries@esc.org.uk.



GRANTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION SAFETY

We are pleased to announce that, as a result of the success of the 'Electrical Installation Safety Improvement Grants Scheme' that we have been trialling in parts of England and Wales, the scheme is now being offered across the whole of the UK.

The scheme is intended to help certain people who are at risk from a dangerous or potentially dangerous electrical installation in their homes, and who cannot afford to have the installation restored to a safe condition.

To qualify for a grant of up to £800, applicants must own and reside in a home

in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, be at least 60 years of age, and be in receipt of a 'recognised means tested benefit'.

Improvement work, based on the findings of a periodic inspection, is carried out by registered electrical contractors appointed by the Electrical Safety Council.

Discussions about the scheme are taking place with the Department for Work and Pensions and the Electrical and Electronics Industries Benevolent Association (EEIBA). Both of these organisations have previously supported the grants scheme, and we are

hopeful that they will continue to support the extended scheme.



If you would like further information about the grants scheme, or are interested in being a sponsor, please telephone us on 0870 040 0561, or email grants@esc.org.uk

ELECTRICAL QUIZ – WHAT'S YOUR CURRENT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE?

This issue of Switched On includes the first of a series of electrical quizzes. The quizzes will be pitched at three levels: 'trickle charged', 'medium powered' and 'high potential'.

The aim of the quiz is to answer the first question, and then to apply the factor indicated (add, subtract, divide or multiply) to the next answer, as instructed, to end up with a final answer which can be entered into a prize draw.

If you wish to enter the prize draw, please email your answer to quiz@esc.org.uk by the closing date of Friday 1 August 2008

The person providing the first correct answer to be selected at random from the entries will receive:

- A Socket & See CB200 Calibration Checkbox (RRP £178.00)*
- An Acutest Testmate TMET100 LED Voltage and Continuity Tester (RRP £41.00)**
- A full set of NICEIC technical publications (RRP £175.00)*
- A year's free subscription to the Electrical Safety Council's Technical Manual on CD (worth £50.00).

The next four persons providing the correct answer to be selected at random from the entries will each receive:

- An Acutest Testmate TMET100 LED Voltage and Continuity Tester (RRP £41.00) **
- A year's free subscription to the Electrical Safety Council's Technical Manual on CD (worth £50.00)

* Prizes kindly donated by NICEIC Group Ltd

** Prizes kindly donated by Acutest

This medium powered quiz relates to BS 7671: 2008 (IEE Regulations 17th Edition):

- 1 Add the number relating to the section of BS 7671 that provides the requirements for floor and ceiling heating to:
- 2 The British Standard number (just the number, not the date) for cartridge fuses for a.c. circuits in domestic and similar premises, then subtract:
- 3 The maximum a.c. voltage between conductors, defined as low voltage. Now divide your current answer by:
- 4 The minimum size of a buried copper earthing conductor (not protected against corrosion or mechanical damage). Finally, add:
- 5 The derating factor for a cable surrounded by thermal insulation where it runs in the insulation for 200 mm.

Rating:



trickle charged



medium powered



high potential

The terms and conditions for the prize draw may be found on our website.

The solution to the quiz will be posted on our website shortly after the closing date together with, as soon as possible, the names of the lucky winners.

ZCARD – SIMPLE CONSUMER ADVICE ON ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN THE HOME



We can supply up to 500 cards free of charge.

Since announcing its availability in last summer's issue of Switched On, many electrical installers have contacted us to request further supplies of our Zcard

The card, which offers tips on electrical safety and gives many other pieces of advice and information in a compact form, has been welcomed by their customers.

If you would like to have copies to give to your customers, please email enquiries@esc.org.uk giving your name, company and address details.

BACK ISSUES OF SWITCHED ON

All the previous issues of Switched On are available to read or download from the 'Business & Community' section of our website, www.esc.org.uk

