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# Changes to Electrical Installation Requirements in the Home

In January 2005, the Building Regulations will be changed by the introduction of Part P governing **Electrical Safety in dwellings**. The following is an extract from a News Release issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, earlier this year.

- From 1 January 2005 all electrical work in dwellings will need to comply with Part P requirements and be carried out by persons who are competent to do the work.
- Small jobs such as replacing a socket-outlet or a light switch on an existing circuit will not need to be notified to a building control body (although there will be some exceptions for high risk areas such as kitchens and bathrooms).
- All work that involves adding a new circuit to a dwelling will need to be either notified to building control, who will then inspect the work, or carried out by a competent person who is registered with a Part P Self-Certification Scheme.
- Persons registered with Part P Self-Certification Schemes will be fully qualified electrical contractors with the ability to thoroughly check a circuit for safety. They will be able to issue Building Regulations certificates of compliance.
- Each year on average 10 people die and about 750 are seriously injured in accidents involving unsafe electrical installations in the home. Risks in future could increase as rising consumer ownership of portable and fixed electrical appliances is causing extra demand for extensions and alterations to existing electrical installations. Much unsatisfactory electrical work is carried out by over-ambitious amateurs.
- Most jobs carried out by DIYers will be small jobs that do not need to be notified to building control, but they should still be checked by a competent electrician.
- Part P comes into force on 1st January 2005

Further Information may be obtained by visiting: -

The Institution of Electrical Engineers Website  
[www.iee.org.uk/Publish/WireRegs](http://www.iee.org.uk/Publish/WireRegs)

National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting Website  
[www.niceic.org.uk](http://www.niceic.org.uk)

