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Safety Bulletin May 2011

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Choosing the Right Electrical Contractor



It is important that electrical installation work is only carried out by people who are competent i.e. people that have the necessary knowledge, skill and experience to enable them to avoid the dangers to themselves and others that electricity can create. It's easy to make an electrical circuit work - it's far harder to make the circuit work safely.

Electrical safety is essential to prevent fires and to prevent injuries from electrocution. It is also usual for your insurer to require that your electrical installation is in a safe condition and that you ensure only competent people work on it.



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Proof of competence is accepted as being registered with a recognised body such as NICEIC (National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting). Registered electricians work to the UK national standard, BS7671 and will issue a safety certificate for their electrical work to confirm that the installation has been designed, constructed, inspected and tested in accordance with the national electrical safety standard, BS 7671 - Requirements for Electrical Installations.

You also need to check that your electrician is registered to work on your type of installation. Registration falls into domestic or commercial. You can run into problems if your electrician works on a commercial installation when only registered for domestic installations. Check with your insurer to establish what their requirements are.

You can check whether or not your electrician is registered and for what type of installation by contacting the professional body to which they are registered. For example: for NICEIC registered electricians look them up on the NICEIC website www.niceic.com or call on 0870 013 0382.