West Lothian Council

# BUILDING STANDARDS
# ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS
## Information Note 08

'West Lothian Council is committed to providing the people of West Lothian with services which are reliable, courteous and effective'

**This guidance is for building warrant applications submitted on or after 1 May 2005**

**Certificate of Completion Acceptance is no guarantee of the standard of workmanship.**

**WARNING**
**IF A PERSON GRANTS OR PRODUCES A CERTIFICATE WHICH IS FALSE OR MISLEADING HE/SHE MAY BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE UNDER THE BUILDING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003**

**Electrical installations will require a 'certificate' confirming that the electrical installation is installed and constructed:**

- **safely to accommodate any likely maximum demand; and**
- **has incorporated appropriate automatic devices for protection against overcurrent or leakage; and**
- **with means of isolating parts of the installation or equipment connected to it, as are necessary for safe working and maintenance**

**Using a Certifier Of Construction (Electrical Installations to BS:7671)**

The Building (Scotland) Act 2003 permits the design or construction of building work to be certified by qualified, experienced, and reputable building professionals and tradespeople as complying with the building regulations without the need for detailed scrutiny of designs or inspections by local authorities

There are 2 schemes currently registered with the Scottish Government Building Standards Division (BSD) to cover certification of electrical installations to BS:7671.

**These are run by SELECT and NICEIC, and are the preferred option to certify electrical installations.**

Under this method the electrical installer can issue a 'Certificate of Construction', which will cover ALL the electrical work, shown on the building warrant plans.

It should be noted that the certificate of construction would cover ALL the electrical work that forms part of the Building Warrant. This may include electrical work that has not been installed by the approved certifier of construction or may not even part of their building contract. The electrical installer will confirm whether a 'certificate of construction' can be issued.

Some electrical installers are unable to issue 'certificates of construction', even if they are members of SELECT/NICEIC. The Scottish Government Building Standards Division (BSD) maintains a register of approved certifiers of construction (updated weekly). This can be viewed via the Internet at http://www.sbsa.gov.uk/register/default.asp

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## Information Note 08 CONTINUED

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**Using a Non–Certifier Of Construction (Electrical Installations)**

Under this method, the electrical installer will issue an Electrical Installation Certificate and / or Minor Electrical Installation Works Certificate, under British Standard 7671.

These certificates will include full testing reports, schedules and other information relevant to the installation.

Further certificates will be required for fire alarm and detections systems (BS 5839) and emergency lighting (BS 5266).

All parts of BS 7671 certificate have to be completed in order to be a valid certificate (i.e. for designer, for construction, for inspection and testing).

A copy of the current calibration / testing certificate for the equipment used to test the installation will be required.

Proof that the individual(s) / company has / is a current member of an electrical professional organisation (SELECT / NICEIC / ECA / NAPPIT or other UKAS accredited organisation), will be required to ensure that they are a 'competent person' and able to sign the certificate.

As a minimum the electrical installer will also have to prove that the installation has been checked by an Approved Electrician and will have to provide a copy of the electricians current SJIB card.

Under this method, it may be necessary that the Building Standards Surveyor fully inspect and witness any testing of the installation to ensure that all aspects of the regulations have been satisfied.

In all circumstance the testing of the fire alarm, emergency lighting and door access systems will have to be witnessed by the Building Standards Surveyor.

Some contracts may involve multiple contractors or installations. In this case a number of BS 7671 certificates will be required from each installer.

Where the Building Standards Surveyor has to inspect the full installation(s) an inspection should be carried out before the completion certificate submission.

In some cases the owner/relevant person will require an independent inspection from another electrical installer.

We are always delighted to receive suggestions for improving our standards and performance.
Contact us at:

**Building Standards**
**County Buildings**
**LINLITHGOW**
**WEST LOTHIAN**
**EH49 7EZ**

**Telephone 01506 775222**
**E-Mail:dbc@westlothian.gov.uk**
**WEB: http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/1210/161/BuildingStandards**

**Office Opening Hours**

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|---|---|
| Monday to Thursday | 8.30am – 5.00 pm |
| Friday | 8.30am – 4.00pm |