

AWEW/mjc/NSI 003/15

11 February 2015

To: **All NACOSS Gold and Systems Silver approved companies and applicants and all Fire Gold and Fire Silver approved companies and applicants**

Dear Colleague

AMENDMENT 3 TO BS 7671:2008 – IET WIRING REGULATIONS

We draw your attention to the third amendment to BS 7671:2008 Requirements for Electrical Installations, which is intended to come into effect on 1 July 2015.

Installations designed after 30 June 2015 must comply with BS 7671:2008+A3:2015.

We draw your attention to Chapter 52 on selection and erection of wiring systems. In recent years falling cables have trapped firefighters carrying out their duties leading to some tragic consequences. The problem occurs when the electrical wiring falls prematurely because non fire-resistant supports have melted in the heat of the fire. Consequently new wiring systems will need to use fire-resistant materials (e.g. metal) to support cables in escape routes. Further details are given in Annex A attached to this letter.

We also draw your attention to Chapter 42 on protection against thermal effects. A new regulation has been added due to the number of consumer unit fires reported in domestic premises. From 1 January 2016, consumer units and similar switchgear will have to have their enclosure manufactured from non-combustible material or be enclosed in a cabinet or enclosure constructed of non-combustible material and complying with regulation 132.12. Further details are given in Annex B attached to this letter.

You would need to refer to BS 7671:2008+A3:2015 for details of all the new regulations.

We regret British Standards Institution (BSI) is not in a position to include BS 7671 in the on-line subscription to standards via the NSI website. We believe this relates to the fact the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and BSI hold joint copyright on the document.

Yours sincerely



Tony Weeks
Head of Technical Services

Att. Annexes

ANNEX A

NEW REGULATIONS RELATING TO SELECTION AND ERECTION OF WIRING SYSTEMS

Regulation 521.11 has been added as follows:

521.11 Wiring systems in escape routes

521.11.201 Wiring systems in escape routes shall be supported such that they will not be liable to premature collapse in the event of fire. The requirements of Regulation 422.2.1 shall also apply, irrespective of the classification of the conditions for evacuation in an emergency.

NOTE 1: Non-metallic cable trunking or other non-metallic means of support can fail when subject to either direct flame or hot products of combustion. This may lead to wiring systems hanging across access or egress routes such that they hinder evacuation and firefighting activities.

NOTE 2: This precludes the use of non-metallic cable clips, cable ties or cable trunking as the sole means of support. For example, where non-metallic cable trunking is used, a suitable fire-resistant means of support/retention must be provided to prevent cables falling out in the event of fire.

ANNEX B

NEW REGULATIONS RELATING TO CONSUMER UNITS AND SIMILAR SWITCHGEAR ASSEMBLIES

Regulation 421.201 has been added due to the number of consumer unit fires reported in domestic premises. Regulation 421.201 reads as follows:

421.1.201 Within domestic (household) premises, consumer units and similar switchgear assemblies shall comply with BS EN 61439-3 and shall:

- (i) have their enclosure manufactured from non-combustible material, or
- (ii) be enclosed in a cabinet or enclosure constructed of non-combustible material and complying with Regulation 132.12.

NOTE 1: Ferrous metal, e.g. steel, is deemed to be an example of a non-combustible material.

NOTE 2: The implementation date for this regulation is the 1st January 2016, but does not preclude compliance with the regulation prior to this date.

Regulation 132.12 (which has not been amended) reads as follows:

132.12 Accessibility of electrical equipment

Electrical equipment shall be arranged so as to afford as may be necessary:

- (i) sufficient space for the initial installation and later replacement of individual items of electrical equipment
- (ii) accessibility for operation, inspection, testing, fault detection, maintenance and repair.