

Installers continue to self-certify

According to figures released by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in April, a growing number of electrical installers are opting to self-certify compliance with Part P through competent person scheme registration, with a majority opting for registration with the NICEIC

An estimated 61,000 firms reportedly undertake electrical installation work in England and Wales, and since the regulations came into force in January, more than 30,000 have made enquiries about self-certification to the NICEIC. The latest available figures released by the ODPM in April reveal that the NICEIC has a 74.7% share of the market, in terms of the number of businesses registered with competent person schemes.

BRE: 750
BSI: 70
CORGI: 1841
ELECSA: 718
NAPIT: 873
NICEIC: 12,587
OFTEC: 0



More than 14,500 businesses had registered to self-certify compliance with Part P through the NICEIC Domestic Installer Scheme as at the end of June, and on their behalf, the NICEIC has notified more than 158,000 jobs to Building Control.

Jim Speirs, director general of the NICEIC said, "The NICEIC will continue to ensure the highest integrity of our contractor assessment schemes, and provide the most professional, value for money service to our clients."

He continued: "The ultimate goal for the NICEIC must always be to offer householders an assurance of electrical safety in their home."

Rising demand for training

The requirement for electrical installers to comply with Part P and other relevant Building Regulations has significantly increased the demand for training. The NICEIC has responded by developing a wide range of courses and offering advice and guidance to applicants. This process has led to an impressive 75% pass rate for first time applicants undergoing assessment, and a 98% pass rate on revisits.

NIC Certification, which is part of the NICEIC Group of Companies, launched the Domestic Installer Scheme Qualification (DISQ), a new qualification for contractors registering with full and defined scope Part P competent person schemes in May. DISQ offers two qualification levels reflecting the different classifications of electrical installations under Part P.

David Cowburn, Director of NIC Certification said: "Until now, most prescribed Part P qualifications have concentrated on the needs of contractors undertaking a full range of electrical installation work. DISQ has been developed to provide electrical installers with a level of training, appropriate to the level of electrical work that they carry out."

DISQ Level A prepares installers undertaking a wide range of electrical installation work, such as new builds or rewires, for assessment with a full scope competent person scheme (Level A). DISQ Level B/C prepares installers undertaking a limited amount of electrical work associated with non-electrical trades e.g. gas, bathroom or kitchen installers, to undergo assessment with a defined competence scheme (Level B – addition of an extra circuit, and Level C - alteration of an existing circuit).

The emphasis of the training is on understanding regulations, standards and terminology, and having the ability to identify unsafe electrical situations and perform electrical test procedures. Knowledge and appreciation of the relevant requirements of other appropriate Building Regulations are also covered. An assessment of competence follows the training, and its duration depends on the range of work carried out (typically one day), with a successful outcome leading to an NIC



Certification award of a Certificate of Competence.

Other courses available for electrical installers through NICEIC Training include Certificates for Domestic Installations, Inspection & Testing, Electrical Installers' Guide to the Building Regulations, an Introduction to Testing Installations, BS 7671: 2001 IEE Wiring Regulations and Design, Erection & Verification.

For information on enrolment with any NICEIC Training Course visit www.niceic.org.uk or call 0870 013 0389. For information on registering with the NICEIC Domestic Installer Scheme call 0800 013 0900.