

REMINDER OF CHANGES TO ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION COMPLIANCE

(PUBLISHED OCTOBER 2015)

All electrical Installations must be designed and installed in accordance with BS 7671:2008 IET Wiring Regulations. Connect Saint Helena Ltd are responsible for inspecting and testing all new installations to ensure that the requirements of the Regulations have been met.

We assess electrical installations to the latest IET Regulation standard, so if the Regulations change, our testing regime will also change. Any installation that does not pass the test and meet the latest Regulations cannot be connected to the electricity network.

There were changes that came into effect on 1 July 2015 (BS 7671:2008 Amendment 3) and Connect worked closely with ESH and the Lifelong Learning Service to provide training for electricians and wiremen to ensure their work align with the new standards. Only Wiremen and Electricians who passed the training are eligible for a Saint Helena Wireman's Licence. A full list of licenced Wiremen is available on our website www.connect.co.sh or from our office at Seales Corner.



Further changes to the IET Regulations came into effect on 1 January 2016 and if you are **planning, installing or purchasing electrical equipment**, you will need to be aware of how these changes affect you.

THE CHANGES ARE IN **3** CATEGORIES:

1. CONSUMER UNITS

To comply with Regulation 132.12 (*Accessibility of electrical equipment – see below*), **consumer units** within **new domestic** (Household, garages, outbuildings) premises, must be either:

- made from metal; or if made of plastic
- be enclosed in a metal cabinet or enclosure; and
- All openings into the enclosure or cabinets for cables, conduits, trunking or ducting must be **sealed**.



- These parts of the regulations are to reduce fire risk. Any fire resulting from poor, damaged or dangerous connections need to be contained within the enclosure and not spread to the rest of the building.

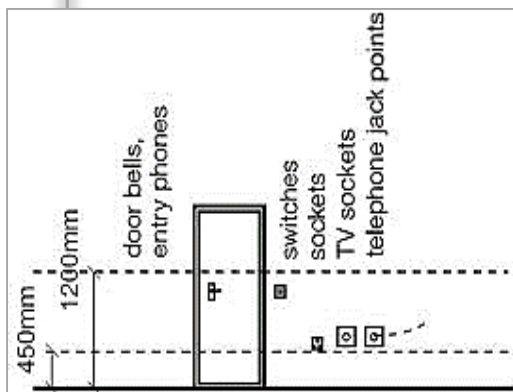


2. ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY IN BUILDINGS

These parts of the regulations are to ensure that everyone can gain access to the building and use its facilities.

Within **new domestic** (Household, garages, outbuildings) premises:

- Switches and socket outlets shall be installed at heights so that everyone, including those with limited reach, can easily use them. To satisfy this requirement all switches, sockets-outlets and controls in new domestic buildings, must be installed at a height of 450mm to 1200mm from the finished floor level.



- Consumer units in **new domestic** buildings should be located so that the switches are between 1350mm and 1450mm from the finished floor level. At this height, the consumer unit is out of reach of young children yet accessible to other people when standing or sitting.
- The location of the unit will need to be planned so as to not to cause an obstruction.

3. LABELLING

To ensure general safety, the external earth and the individual consumer unit's switches in new domestic installations must be clearly and appropriately labelled.

If you need further advice, please contact the Electricity Distribution Manager, Colin Anthony on telephone number, 22255 or email colin.anthony@connect.co.sh.

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