

Quick Guide: Electrical Minor Works

The following information has been extracted from the document 'Guidance Note 3: Inspection and Testing' issued by the Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET).

Minor Works (Section 5.2, page 120)

When an addition to an electrical installation does not extend to the installation of a new circuit, the Minor Electrical Installation Works Certificate (MEIWC) may be used.

This one-page certificate is intended for such work as the addition of a socket-outlet or lighting point to an existing circuit, or for a repair or modification to each circuit worked on. Consequently, where three circuits are worked on, for example, then three MEIWC would have to be issued or all of the work could be detailed on an Electrical Installation certificate.

A Minor Electrical Installation Works Certificate (MEIWC) may NOT be used for the replacement of a consumer unit.

Minor Electrical Installation Works Certificate (Section 5, Page 130)

Notes for the person producing the certificate:

Scope

The Minor Electrical Installation Works Certificate is intended to be used for alteration or additions to an installation that do not extend to the provision of a new circuit. Examples include the addition of a socket-outlet/s or lighting points to an existing circuit, the relocation of a light switch etc.

This certificate may also be used for the replacement of equipment such as accessories or luminaires, but not for the replacement of distribution boards, consumer units or similar items., Appropriate inspection and testing, however, should always be carried out irrespective of the extent of the work undertaken.

Part 1 Description of Minor Works

1, 2, 3	The minor works must be so described that the work that is the subject of the certification can be readily identified
4	(See regulations 120.3 and 133.5). No departures are to be expected except in the most unusual circumstances. (See also Regulation 644.1)
5	Not any defects observed in the existing installation that are not related to the work being carried out

Under the 'Comments on existing installation ...' heading, only deficiencies that do not impair the safety of any alteration or addition covered by the certificate may be referred to.

An example is existing main bonding conductors identified by the colour green only ((rather than green-and-yellow) or which have a cross-sectional area less than that required by Chapter 54 but nevertheless considered adequate by the designer of the installation or addition.

Any deficiency liable to impair the safety of the alteration or addition must be corrected before the alteration or addition is carried out. (See Regulation 132.16). It would be unacceptable simply to refer to the deficiency on the certificate.

Part 2 Installation earthing and bonding – existing installation

The existing earthing and binding must be inspected and tested to confirm that it is adequate for the new works. Any extension to earthing and bonding must be installed for the works if required.

Part 3 Circuit details

Generally for domestic installations this will be simple. Record details of the circuit protective device and circuit conductors. Complete the circuit chart details on the DB (distribution board) or consumer unit.

Part 4 Essential tests

The relevant provision of 'Part 6 Inspection and Testing' of British Standard BS 7671 must be applied in full to all minor works. For example, where a socket-outlet is added to an existing circuit, it is necessary to:

- a) Establish that the earthing contact of the socket-outlet is connected to a suitable means of earthing via the main earthing terminal
- b) Measure the insulation resistance of the circuit that has been added to, and establish that it complies with Table 64 of BS7671
- c) Measure the earth fault loop impedance to establish that the maximum permitted disconnection time is not exceeded
- d) Check that the polarity of the socket-outlet is correct
- e) (if the work is protected by an RCD) verify the effectiveness of the RCD

Part 5 Declaration

When filling out and signing a form on behalf of a company or other business entity, individuals must state for whom they are acting.

Guidance for Recipients

The Minor Electrical Installation Works Certificate (MEIWC) has been issued to confirm that the electrical installation work to which it relates has been designed, constructed, inspected and tested in accordance with the British Standard 7671 (IET Wiring Regulations).

You should have received an 'original' certificate and the contractor should have retained a duplicate. A separate certificate should have been received for each existing circuit on which minor works have been carried out.

This type of certificate is NOT appropriate if you requested that the contractor to undertake more extensive installation works, for which you should have received an Electrical Installation Certificate.

The MEIWC will demonstrate that the minor electrical installation works carried out complied with the requirements of British Standard at the time the certificate was issued.

