

Conservatories and Part P (Electrical Competent Person Scheme)

The Electrical Competent Person Scheme (Part P) becomes effective from 1st January 2005. After this date all notifiable electrical work has to be notified directly to the appropriate Local Authority or the work needs to be completed by a company registered with a Part P Competent Person Scheme operator – such as ELECSEA which is wholly owned by the GGF.

A conservatory is currently considered by the ODPM to be “an attached out building” and therefore the following applies:

If power is taken into the Conservatory using a spur off an existing ring main or the ring main is extended then it is not notifiable work but must however conform to regulations.

If a new circuit which goes back to the consumer unit is used to supply power then this is notifiable and the work obviously needs to conform to regulations.

In the case where the work needs to be notified there are three ways in which an installer can operate.

Sub Contract Electrical Work

The electrical work is sub contracted to an electrical contractor who is responsible for notifying directly or indirectly the appropriate Local Authority and seeing that the consumer gets a certificate which shows who completed the work and that it complies with Building Regulations. This contractor would normally be a Registered Competent Person and notify via the Competent Person body but could choose to notify the LA directly and pay the fee. The conservatory installer would normally pay the electrical contractor. The conservatory contractor will need to retain records of which company completed the electrical work and it is recommended that a copy of the certificate given to the consumer by the contractor is retained for further reference.

The conservatory installer could be the registered Competent Person (usually under the Defined Scope Scheme) in which case he could operate in one of two ways, but is responsible for notification and seeing that the consumer gets a certificate.

The installer can employ an electrician who is responsible for supervising the electrical work undertaken by the company. He can do other work within the business and does not have to complete the electrical work himself but needs to satisfy himself that the work conforms to the regulations.

As per (a) but in this case the supervising electrician is not employed but is a contracted individual (not a company) who acts as supervisor when required by the conservatory installer.

In both of the above cases (a & b) the name of the person acting as supervisor needs to be retained by the Competent Person Scheme operator and will be verified at the time of annual assessment. The Competent Person is also required to retain copies of the certificate given to the consumer.

In the case of large companies they may use a mixture of 1 or 2a or 2b depending on the

region for the country in which they are operating. It would not be acceptable for say Anglian to have one supervisor for the UK; each region would require such a person.

I hope this helps. Conservatory installers applying for registration with ELECSA can still be registered in time to operate on the 1st January 2005. They would be registered under the Defined Scope Scheme which will limit the knowledge required and scope of work which can be undertaken to providing lighting and power to conservatories.

Under the Defined Scope Scheme the supervising electrician would not be required to be a fully qualified electrician but would need to pass an assessment undertaken by BBA.

Installers are recommended to review their contracts to ensure that they make it clear whether they or the consumer is responsible for the electrical work.
If the installer is responsible they must have comprehensive procedures in place to see the regulations are complied with as above.

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