

Requirements for Electrical Installations

**IET Wiring Regulations
Eighteenth Edition**

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It is the constant aim of The Institution of Engineering and Technology and BSI to improve the quality of their products and services. We should be grateful if anyone finding an inaccuracy or ambiguity while using this British Standard would inform the Committee Manager, M Coles {mcoles@theiet.org}, The Institution of Engineering and Technology, Futures Place, Kings way, Stevenage, SG1 2UA, United Kingdom.

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Foreword

This British Standard is published under the direction of the British Standards Institution and the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Following a full review, this Standard replaced the 17th Edition of the IEE Wiring Regulations BS 7671:2008 as amended. Copyright is held jointly by the IET and BSI.

Technical authority for this Standard is vested in the Joint IET/BSI Technical Committee JPEL/64. This Joint Technical Committee, which is responsible for the work previously undertaken by the IEE Wiring Regulations Committee and the BSI Technical Committee PEL/64, meets the constitutional and operational requirements of both parent bodies. JPEL/64 has the responsibility for the content of this British Standard under the joint authority of the IET and the BSI Standards Board.

All references in this text to the IET Wiring Regulations or the Regulation(s), where not otherwise specifically identified, shall be taken to refer to BS 7671:2018 Requirements for Electrical Installations, as amended by Amendment 1:2020, Amendment 2:2022 and Amendment 3:2024.

Introduction to Amendment 3:2024

BS 7671:2018+A3:2024 *Requirements for Electrical Installations* was issued on 31st July 2024 and is intended to be implemented immediately.

The Regulations apply to the design, erection and verification of electrical installations, also additions and alterations to existing installations. Existing installations that have been installed in accordance with earlier editions of the Regulations may not comply with this edition in every respect. This does not necessarily mean that they are unsafe for continued use or require upgrading.

This Amendment provides for the inclusion of two new definitions and one new Regulation relating to the use of bidirectional and unidirectional devices.

Editions

The following editions have been published:

FIRST EDITION	Entitled 'Rules and Regulations for the Prevention of Fire Risks Arising from Electric Lighting'. Issued in 1882.
SECOND EDITION	Issued in 1888.
THIRD EDITION	Entitled 'General Rules recommended for Wiring for the Supply of Electrical Energy'. Issued in 1897.
FOURTH EDITION	Issued in 1903.
FIFTH EDITION	Entitled 'Wiring Rules'. Issued in 1907.
SIXTH EDITION	Issued in 1911.
SEVENTH EDITION	Issued in 1916.
EIGHTH EDITION	Entitled 'Regulations for the Electrical Equipment of Buildings'. Issued in 1924.
NINTH EDITION	Issued in 1927.
TENTH EDITION	Issued in 1934.
ELEVENTH EDITION	Issued in 1939. Revised, issued in 1943. Reprinted with minor Amendments, 1945. Supplement issued, 1946. Revised Section 8 issued, 1948.
TWELFTH EDITION	Issued in 1950. Supplement issued, 1954.
THIRTEENTH EDITION	Issued in 1955. Reprinted 1958, 1961, 1962 and 1964.
FOURTEENTH EDITION	Issued in 1966. Reprinted incorporating Amendments, 1968. Reprinted incorporating Amendments, 1969. Supplement on use in metric terms issued, 1969. Amendments issued, 1970. Reprinted in metric units incorporating Amendments, 1970. Reprinted 1972. Reprinted 1973. Amendments issued, 1974. Reprinted incorporating Amendments, 1974. Amendments issued, 1976. Reprinted incorporating Amendments, 1976.
FIFTEENTH EDITION	Entitled 'Regulations for Electrical Installations'. Issued in 1981. (Red Cover) Amendments issued, 1 January 1983. Reprinted incorporating Amendments, 1983. (Green Cover) Amendments issued, 1 May 1984. Reprinted incorporating Amendments, 1984. (Yellow Cover) Amendments issued, 1 January 1985. Amendments issued, 1 January 1986. Reprinted incorporating Amendments, 1986. (Blue Cover) Amendments issued, 12 June 1987. Reprinted incorporating Amendments, 1987. (Brown Cover) Reprinted with minor corrections, 1988. (Brown Cover)
SIXTEENTH EDITION	Issued in 1991. (Red Cover) Reprinted with minor corrections, 1992. (Red Cover) Entitled and reprinted as 'Requirements for Electrical Installations BS 7671:1992'. (Red Cover) Amendment No 1 issued, December 1994. Reprinted incorporating Amendment No 1, 1994. (Green Cover) Amendment No 2 issued, December 1997. Reprinted incorporating Amendment No 2, 1997. (Yellow Cover) Amendment No 3 issued, April 2000. BS 7671:2001 issued, June 2001. (Blue Cover) Amendment No 1 issued, February 2002. Amendment No 2 issued, March 2004. Reprinted incorporating Amendments 1 and 2, 2004. (Brown Cover)
SEVENTEENTH EDITION	BS 7671:2008 issued, January 2008. (Red Cover) Reprinted incorporating Amendment No 1, 2011. (Green Cover) Amendment 2 issued, Aug 2013. Reprinted incorporating Amendments 2 and 3, 2015. (Yellow Cover)
EIGHTEENTH EDITION	BS 7671:2018 issued, July 2018. (Blue Cover) Amendment 1 issued, February 2020 (electronic) Amendment 2 issued, March 2022. (Brown Cover) Amendment 3 issued, July 2024 (electronic)

Note by the Health and Safety Executive

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) welcomes the publication of BS 7671:2018, Requirements for Electrical Installations, IET Wiring Regulations 18th Edition and its updating with the third amendment, published in 2024. BS 7671 and the IET/IEE Wiring Regulations have been extensively referred to in HSE guidance over the years. Installations which conform to the standards laid down in BS 7671:2018 including Amendment 2:2022 and Amendment 3:2024 are regarded by HSE as likely to achieve conformity with the relevant parts of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989. Installations to which BS 7671 is relevant may have been designed and installed in accordance with an earlier edition, now superseded but then current. That, in itself, would not mean that the installation would fail to comply with the Electricity at Work Regulations, 1989.

PART 2

DEFINITIONS

Bidirectional protective device. A protective device where it is intended by the manufacturer that a source of supply is connected to either or both sets of connection terminals.

Unidirectional protective device. A protective device where it is intended by the manufacturer that a source of supply is only connected to one defined set of connection terminals.

CHAPTER 53

PROTECTION, ISOLATION, SWITCHING, CONTROL AND MONITORING

530.3.201 Selection and erection of equipment for protection shall take account of appropriate use of either a unidirectional protective device or a bidirectional protective device.

NOTE: Product standards as listed in Appendix 1 for some protective devices, including RCCBs, RCBOs, circuit-breakers and AFDDs, require these devices to be marked to indicate if they are unidirectional e.g. “in” and “out” or “line” and “load” or arrows.

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