



Introduction

Electrical work is not complete until it has been properly tested, recorded, and certified.

Depending on the type of work carried out, you may receive different types of certificates or documentation. These are not just paperwork - they confirm that the installation has been tested, is safe to use, and meets current regulations.

This guide explains the main types of electrical certification, when they are used, and what information they provide.

Why You May Receive Different Certificates

Different types of electrical work require different levels of testing and certification.

Smaller alterations may only require a Minor Works Certificate, while larger or more complex work requires a full Electrical Installation Certificate. Inspections of existing installations are covered by an EICR.

This ensures that each type of work is properly assessed and documented without unnecessary complexity.

The 4 Main Types of Certification

Minor Works Certificate (MWC)

Used for: Small additions or alterations to an existing circuit

Typical examples:

- Adding a socket or spur
- Installing additional lighting points
- Replacing accessories where wiring has been altered

What it confirms:

- The work has been tested
- The existing circuit was suitable for the addition
- The work complies with current regulations

What it includes:

- Basic test results
- Description of the work carried out
- Confirmation of safe installation

This is the most common certificate issued for smaller electrical jobs.

Electrical Installation Certificate (EIC)

Used for: New circuits or significant changes to an installation

Typical examples:

- New consumer unit
- New shower circuit
- Full or partial rewires
- EV charger circuits

What it confirms:

- The installation has been fully tested
- The design, installation, and testing meet regulations

What it includes:

- Detailed test results for each circuit
- Circuit schedules
- Protective device details
- Earthing and bonding information

This is a more detailed certificate used for larger or more complex work.

This certificate provides a full record of the installation and is often required for compliance and future reference.

Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR)

Used for: Assessing the safety and condition of an existing installation

Typical examples:

- Homebuyer inspections
- Landlord safety checks

- Periodic inspections

What it confirms:

- The condition of the installation at the time of inspection
- Any issues or potential risks

What it includes:

- Observations coded (C1, C2, C3, FI)
- Test results
- Overall assessment (Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory)

An EICR does not certify new work - it assesses the condition of an existing installation at the time of inspection.

EICRs include observations classified using standard codes to indicate the severity of any issues identified.

If you'd like to understand what these codes mean in more detail, you can read our [guide on Electrical Safety Inspections \(EICRs\)](#).

If you need a full inspection, you can find more information on our [Electrical Safety Inspection page](#) (EICR)

Building Regulations Notification

Used for: Certain types of notifiable electrical work in domestic properties

Typical examples:

- Consumer unit replacements
- New circuits
- Work in special locations (bathrooms, outdoors)

What it confirms:

- The work has been registered with your local authority
- The installation complies with Building Regulations (Part P)

What you receive:

- A certificate from your electrician
- A separate notification from the scheme provider or local authority

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Not all electrical work is notifiable, but where it is, this forms an essential part of legal compliance.

This notification is typically issued separately and may arrive after the work has been completed.

Why This Matters

Electrical certificates are more than just documentation — they provide a verified record that work has been carried out safely and in line with current standards.

They may be required when:

- Selling your property
- Making an insurance claim
- Demonstrating compliance with regulations

Keeping these documents safe is important, as they form part of your property's electrical history.

If you're unsure what documentation you should receive for your project, or need help understanding existing certificates, we're always happy to help.

CONTACT US