

# Consumer Advice: Electrical DIY work and the Electrical Certifier Scheme



Carrying out electrical work in your own home is not something to undertake lightly. At NAPIT we strongly recommend that you employ a registered electrical installer to carry out anything more complex than replacing fittings. That way you will be assured of compliance and will be issued with the correct certificates. Where the work is notifiable under the Building Regulations you will also be issued with a Building Regulations Compliance Certificate which will confirm compliance both you and the local authority.

We do recognise that there are individuals who are electrically competent but who are not themselves registered. This includes electricians working on non-domestic work, college lecturers, those holding electrical qualifications but working outside the industry and so on.

If you are electrically competent you can carry out your own electrical work and, where it is notifiable under the Building Regulations, you must have the work checked by an approved person. One way to do this is to notify your local Building Control department in advance that you are going to carry out electrical work and they will inspect your work. An alternative to this in England is to use an electrician who is NAPIT registered as a Third Party Electrical Certifier.

The Electrical Third Party Certification Scheme was introduced by the UK Government 2013 under amendments to Part P of the Building Regulations. It allows registered members to check domestic electrical work undertaken by others via robust inspection and reporting procedures, and certify its compliance with the Building Regulations in England.

Registered Electrical Certifiers must be qualified, insured and subject to regular assessment, as well as submitting all their reports to NAPIT for review. The fees for certifying work are set by the Electrical Certifier themselves, as with all work we recommend that you obtain quotes before committing to such work.

The registered Electrical Certifier must be informed in advance of any proposed work they will be employed to certify before it begins. The work will need to be inspected by the registered electrical certifier at first fix and second fix, and to undergo final testing.

The Electrical Certifier will need to complete a Third Party Certifier's Electrical Installation Report and submit this to NAPIT within 21 days of the date of the final inspection, either via email or post, before the work is notified. The Third Party Certifier's Electrical Installation Report will be audited by NAPIT before the work is certified as compliant with the Building Regulations. On completion NAPIT will update the relevant Local Authority.

Electrical Certifiers are not permitted to certify work retrospectively under this compliance route.

To find an Electrical Certifier use the NAPIT search facility at <https://www.napit.org.uk/member-search.aspx> tick "Electrical Certifier" and enter your post code or town/city.