

## **Electrical Installation Condition Reports – a guide**

Electrical installations deteriorate over time and with use. They should therefore be inspected and tested at regular intervals to check whether they are in a satisfactory condition for continued use. Licence conditions require an inspection and test every five years (periodic inspection) and the application process requires applicants to upload a current test certificate. The certificate is known as an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR).

A periodic inspection will:

- Test to make sure the electrical installation is safe to be used until the next inspection (following any work needed to make it safe)
- Find any damage and wear and tear that might affect safety, and report it
- Find any parts of the electrical installation that do not meet the IET Wiring Regulations
- Help find anything that may cause electric shocks and high temperatures
- Provide a record of the installation at the time of the inspection, and for inspection testing in the future.

A schedule of circuits is also provided, which is a useful record for a property.

### **Who should carry out the periodic inspection and what happens?**

Periodic inspection and testing should be carried out only by electricians registered with a competent body such as NAPIT, NICEIC, ECA etc. They will check the condition of the electrics against the UK standard for the safety of electrical installations, BS 7671 – Requirements for Electrical Installations (IET Wiring Regulations).

The electrician will issue an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) detailing any observed damage, deterioration, defects, dangerous conditions and any non-compliance with the present-day safety standard that might give rise to danger.

If anything dangerous or potentially dangerous is found, the overall condition of the electrical installation will be declared to be 'unsatisfactory', meaning that remedial action is required without delay to remove the risks to those in the premises.