

# So what's new?

Overview of BS 7671:2018 + Amendment 4:2026  
Requirements for Electrical Installations  
(IET Wiring Regulations 18th Edition)



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# Amendment 4:2026: What do Members need to know?

The joint BSI/IET committee JPEL/64 completed work on Amendment 4 to BS 7671:2018 in January 2026 and BS 7671:2018 +Amendment 4:2026 Requirements for Electrical Installations was published on 15 April 2026 for immediate use.

An electrical installation under construction that has been designed to the previous version, BS 7671:2018+A2:2022 +A3:2024, may continue to be erected and can be verified to that standard subject to contractual arrangements agreed.

BS 7671:2018+A2:2022 +A3:2024 will be withdrawn as a British standard from 15 October 2026 and a new installation from that date must comply with the latest version of the standard.

Please also note that although an installation in accordance with an earlier version of BS 7671 is unlikely to comply with the latest, this does not mean that such an installation is unsafe or requires to be upgraded.

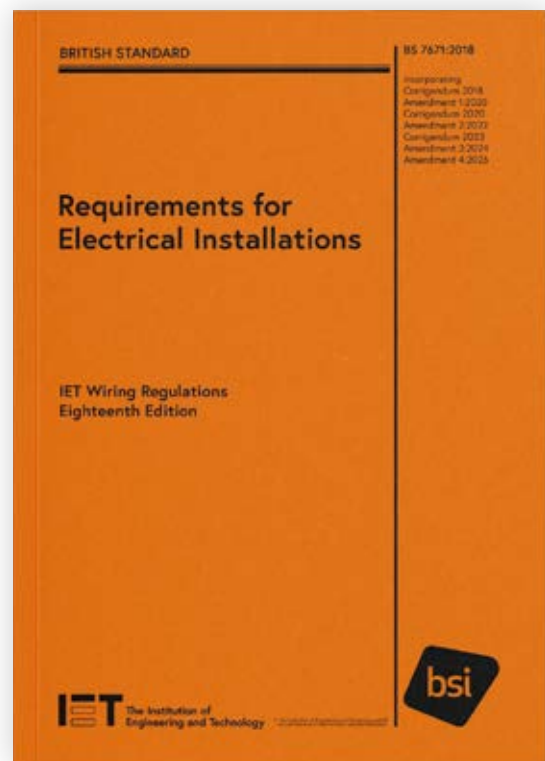
A4:2026 is published in both paper and electronic book format and is distinguishable from the previous version by its bright orange-coloured cover.

Out of interest, an orange-coloured cover on the regulations book was last seen when the IEE Wiring Regulations 14th Edition was published in 1972 and was in use until 1981. Electricians over the age of 60 will no doubt remember this with affection and reminisce over how much simpler the wiring regulations were back then and how much the regulations have evolved over that time!

So, what's changed this time around and which of the changes being introduced will have most effect on SELECT Members and their work?

Immediately obvious is **Chapter 57: Stationary Secondary Batteries**. This is a new chapter containing in excess of 18 new regulations which will ensure the safety and proper functioning of electrical energy storage systems (EESS) and other battery-powered installations.

Also new is **Section 545: Functional Earthing and Functional-Equipotential-Bonding for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Equipment and Systems**. This section is located in **Chapter 54: Earthing Arrangements and Protective Conductors** and provides specific requirements for the minimum cross-sectional area, identification and electrical continuity of functional bonding conductors, combined protective and functional bonding



conductors, the main functional earthing terminal and equipotential bonding ring conductors associated with information technology systems and communication equipment (ICT).

Such earthing and bonding arrangements can help to ensure the proper functioning of electronic equipment and can reduce harmful effects such as electromagnetic interference (EMI).

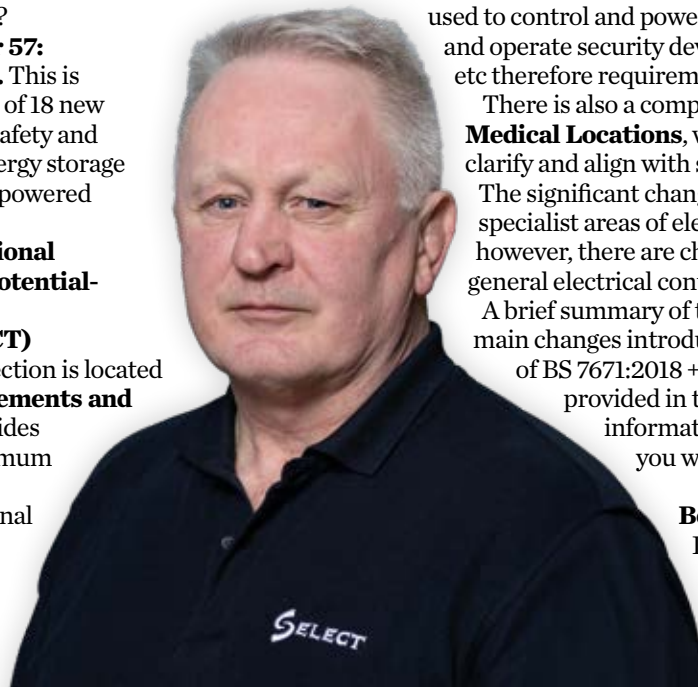
A couple of other notable changes are located in **Part 7: Special Installations or Locations** where the new **Section 716: Power over Ethernet** provides specific requirements for the power supplies of this type of technology.

Power over ethernet (PoE) systems use network infrastructure cables such as Cat 5, 5e, 6, etc and usually transmit data but can also provide power through the connected hardware and equipment. BS 7671 did not contain requirements for this but now provides minimum current-carrying capacities of conductors and requirements for the power supply systems used. Power is provided through connected network routers and switches, which can be used to control and power lighting systems and power and operate security devices such as CCTV cameras, etc therefore requirements in BS 7671 are necessary.

There is also a completely revised **Section 710: Medical Locations**, which was undertaken to clarify and align with specific NHS requirements. The significant change is mainly associated with specialist areas of electrical installation work, however, there are changes which will affect general electrical contractors.

A brief summary of the content of BS 7671 and main changes introduced by the publication of BS 7671:2018 +A4:2026 is therefore provided in this guide to provide that information which SELECT hopes you will find useful.

**Bob Cairney**  
Director of Technical Services



## Part 1: Scope

There is not much change here, apart from the scope of installations to which BS 7671 applies in **Regulation 110.1.1** and which now include two additional types of installation:

- Stationary secondary batteries for storage and supply of electrical installations
- Power over ethernet (PoE).

## Part 2: Terms and Definitions

In Part 2 there are a number of new terms and definitions and several are modified or changed. These will be of help to the user of BS 7671 and may help clarify specific regulations when reading requirements.

Many of the new terms are associated with the extended scope, e.g:

- **Battery:** One or more cells fitted with devices necessary for use, for example case, terminal, marking and protective devices.
- **Primary cell:** Cell which is not designed to be electrically recharged.
- **Secondary cell:** Cell which is designed to be electrically recharged.
- **Transfer switching equipment (TSE):** Equipment containing one or more switching devices for disconnecting load circuits from one supply and connecting to another supply.
- **Balanced cable:** Cable consisting of one or more metallic symmetrical metallic cable elements, i.e. twisted pairs or quads.

Some new terms relate to the expansion of existing regulations, e.g:

- **Protective neutral bonding (PNB):** An earthing arrangement found in TN-C-S systems, where there is only one point in a network at which consumers' installations are connected to a single source of voltage.

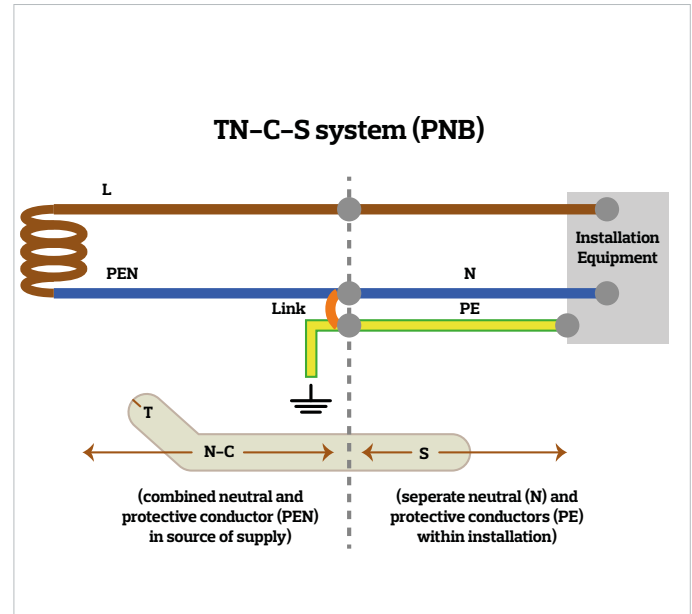
A few new symbols used in BS 7671 and abbreviated terms used in BS 7671 have also been added, e.g:

- EEMS/Electrical energy management system/ 825.1
- MFET/Main functional earthing terminal/busbar/ 545.1

## Part 3: Assessment of General Characteristics

There is also not a great deal of change in here. In **Chapter 31: Purposes, Supplies and Structure, Regulation 312.2.1.1**, single-source systems include a variant of the TN-C-S system earth and is provided for completeness and also information.

This variant is known as protective neutral bonding (PNB) and a new Figure 3.9B is provided to illustrate



the system's arrangement. Information relating to its connections and use is provided in several informative Notes.

The PEN conductor connection to earth is connected to an earth electrode at a point remote from the transformer, between the transformer and the supply terminals of the consumer. This connection should be made as close as practicable to the consumer's supply terminals, in order to minimise the risk of voltage rise in the event of an open-circuit fault in the PEN conductor.

Information provided in A4:2026 also highlights that for installations connected to a public distribution network and where a PNB earthing system is connected to a public distribution network, PME conditions could apply and highlights Regulation 8(4) of the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (ESQCR), which prohibits the use of a public distribution network neutral as a protective conductor in consumers' installations. Reference is made directing the user of BS 7671 to the ENA Engineering Recommendation G12 Issue 5, which details installations where PME is either precluded or not recommended.

There are a number of changes in Part 4 and, in particular, **Chapter 42: Protection against Thermal Effects.**

## Part 4: Protection for Safety

The wording in **Section 421: Protection Against Fire Caused by Electrical Equipment** has been slightly amended to try to help clarify **Regulation 421.1.7 (a)**.

This requires that arc fault detection **shall** be provided in high-rise residential buildings (HRRBs) and is changed from previously where the term 'higher risk residential buildings' was used.

The amended terminology broadly aligns with the term 'high rise domestic building', which is a term used in both Scottish and English Building



Regulations meaning “a domestic building with any storey at a height of more than 18 metres above the ground”.

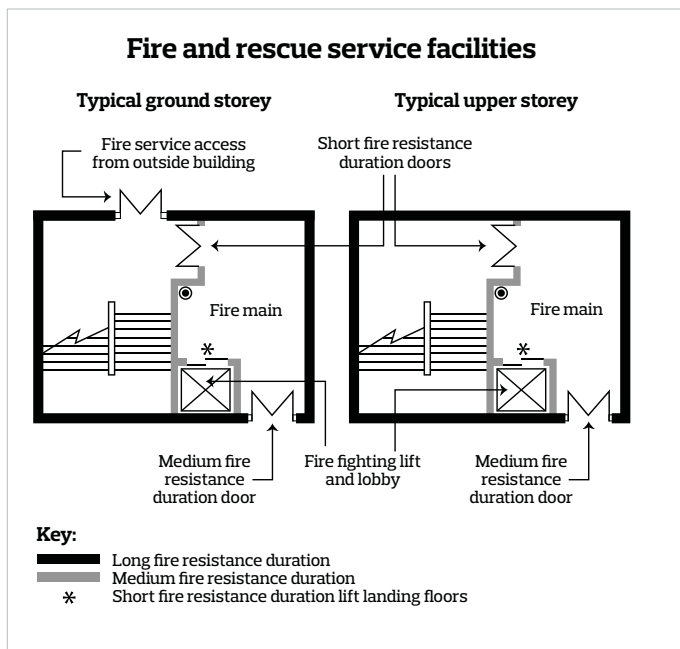
Please note that the other installations mentioned in **Regulation 421.1.7** where AFDDs shall be installed remain unchanged, i.e. houses in multiple occupation (HMOs), purpose-built student accommodation and care homes.

In all other premises, the use of AFDDs conforming to BS EN 62606 continues to be recommended for single-phase AC final circuits supplying socket-outlets not exceeding 32A.

Other changes in Chapter 42 include a new UK-specific regulation to the group of regulations under **Regulation 422.2**. These now take account of specific fire safety terminology for fire-fighting shafts and protected stairways within protected escape routes. The terms are defined in Part 2 and are intended to bring further clarity to these requirements which were first introduced into BS 7671:2018+A2:2022.

For information, a fire-fighting lobby is a protected lobby with a fire-fighting shaft giving access to a fire-fighting stair to an accommodation area, normally associated with firefighters’ lifts and a fire main. See below for information provided in the Building Standards Division Technical Handbook.

SOURCE: Building Standards Division Non-domestic Technical Handbook



New **Regulation 422.2.201** precludes cables or other electrical equipment from being installed in a fire-fighting shaft or a protected stairway of a protected escape route unless part of:

- a) An essential fire safety or related system
- b) General needs lighting
- c) Socket-outlets provided for cleaning or maintenance.

However, a new UK specific **Regulation 422.2.202** clarifies that fire-rated cables installed in a suitably rated fire-resisting enclosure in a protected escape route may be acceptable because such cables would be deemed to be outside of the protected escape route.

**Regulation 422.2.1** lists the specific cables permitted to be installed in protected escape routes also guidance on “escape routes and fire protection” in Appendix 13, which relates to Chapter 42 and has been rewritten to take account of the above changes.



For information, recommendations on protected escape routes and fire-fighting lobbies, shafts and stairs are also provided in Section 2 of Building Standards Division (BSD) Domestic and non-domestic Technical Handbooks. This can be obtained by scanning the QR code left.

In **Chapter 43: Protection Against Overcurrent** there is some redrafting of the requirements relating to protection against fault current in **Section 434**, where the protection has either not been omitted or where protection is via an upstream device as is permitted and it may be worth highlighting the new terminology used.

**Regulation 434.2.1** includes use of the term “inherently short-circuit proof and earth fault proof” where when installing conductors there has been a reduction of cross-sectional area or other change.

The term is defined in Part 2 as “the state of electrical equipment or assembly protected against short-circuits and earth faults due to suitable design and erection provisions”.

An informative note to the definition advises that “electrical equipment might only be inherently short-circuit and earth fault proof under certain conditions of use and designers are to take account of external influences in the selection of appropriate equipment”.

The informative note providing guidance to **Regulation 434.2.1** advises that an enclosure manufactured from non-combustible material reduces the risk, e.g. metal conduit/trunking.

## Part 5: Selection and Erection

There have been quite a few changes in this section, which is the part of BS 7671 most affected by Amendment 4.

### Chapter 51: Common Rules

**Table 51: Identification of conductors** is provided to illustrate requirements for identification of cables by letters and colour and now introduces symbols for use to identify functional earthing and bonding and combined protective and functional earthing and bonding conductors.

Such conductors may be required by **Section 444** as a measure for protection against electromagnetic disturbances and these should be installed in accordance with the new **Section 545**, which is included to provide specific requirements for “functional earthing and functional-equipotential-bonding for information and communication technology (ICT) equipment and systems”.

Also please note the colour pink is to be used where identifying functional earthing or bonding conductors by colour. This was first introduced into BS 7671:2018+A2:2022 and replaced the colour cream, which was previously the colour used.

### Chapter 52: Selection and Erection of Cables

A note has been added to explain the intent of **Regulation**

Continued on page 6 >>>

**Table 52.1 – Requirements for a cable concealed in a wall of partition**

Wall construction type		Depth of cable from the surface	
		<50mm (1)	> 50mm (2)
A	Without metallic parts	a) be installed in a prescribed zone*; and be provided with additional protection by means of an RCD having the characteristics specified in Regulation 415.1.1; or	No additional impact protection required.
		b) comply with Regulation 522.6.204	
B	With metallic parts	a) be installed in a prescribed zone*; and be provided with additional protection by means of an RCD having the characteristics specified in Regulation 415.1.1; or	a) be provided with an additional protection by means of an RCD having the characteristics specified in Regulation 415.1.1; or
		b) be installed in a prescribed zone* and comply with Regulation 522.6.204	b) comply with Regulation 522.6.204

\* A prescribed zone is a zone within 150mm from the top of the wall or partition or within 150mm of an angle formed by two adjoining walls or partitions. A prescribed zone can also be formed horizontally and vertically from any point, accessory or switchgear located on the wall. Wiring from any circuit can be installed in such a zone. Where the location of the accessory, point or switchgear can be determined from the reverse side, a zone formed on one side of a wall of 100mm thickness or less or partition of 100mm thickness or less extends to the reverse side.

>>> Continued from page 5

**521.10.202** to try to help reduce misunderstanding by some people in **Section 521.10: Installation of Cables**.

The intention of the regulation is clarified as being to prevent the general collapse of wiring systems as a result of exposure to the effects of fire such that they would hinder the safe evacuation, rescue or access to firefighters.

It is **not** the intent of this to provide support to maintain circuit integrity for life safety and/or fire-fighting applications under fire conditions. Specific requirements if necessary for this purpose are in **Chapter 56: Safety Services** and also in other industry Codes of Practice such as BS 5266, BS 5839 and BS 8519.

**Regulation Group 522.6 Impact (AG)**

A new Table 52.1 (above) has been introduced with the intention of streamlining the regulations relevant to the installation of a cable concealed in a wall or partition.

SELECT's guidance helps to illustrate these requirements for a wall without metal parts in its construction (below).

In the group of associated regulations to **Regulation 522.8: Other Mechanical Stresses (AJ)**, **Regulation 522.8.10** requires that **except where installed in a conduit or duct which provides equivalent protection against mechanical damage**, a cable buried in the ground shall incorporate an earthed armour or metal sheath or both, suitable for use as a protective conductor. The location of buried cables shall be marked by cable covers or a suitable marker tape. Buried cables, conduits and ducts shall be at a sufficient depth to avoid being damaged by any reasonably foreseeable disturbance of the ground.

New guidance provided in an informative Note to **Regulation 522.8.10** advises that metallic or non-metallic underground conduits with an impact of N750 to BS EN 50626-1 or BS EN 61386-24 are considered to provide equivalent protection against mechanical damage.

BS EN 61386-24 requires the conduit or duct to be marked to indicate the impact rating as detailed in Clause 6 of BS EN 61836-24:2010, where code N is used to identify normal resistance to impact.

In **Section 526: Electrical Connections, Regulation 526.2** is slightly amended and requires that the conductor

class be taken account of when selecting the means of connection. An informative Note is also added to **Regulation 526.9.1** together with the Table 52.4 shown below.

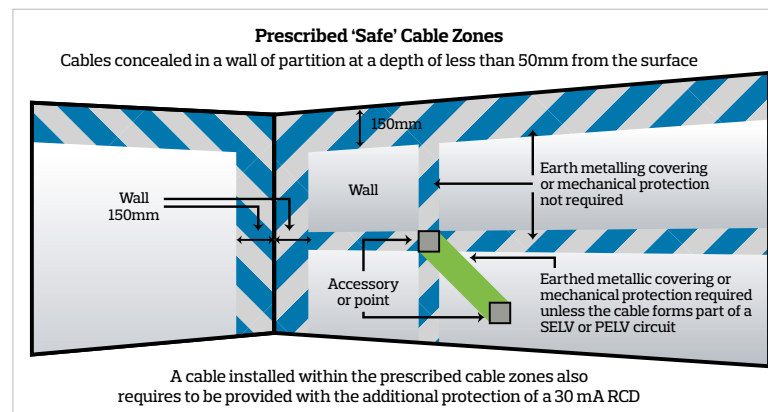
**Table 52.4 – Conductor class**

Conductor class	Conductor type	Flexibility
Class 1	Solid (single wire)	Rigid
Class 2	Stranded (multiwire)	Rigid
Class 5	Fine wires	Flexible
Class 6	Very fine wires	Flexible

**Regulation 526.9.1** requires that in order to avoid inappropriate separation or spreading of individual wires of multiwire, fine wire or very fine wire conductors, suitable terminals shall be used or the conductor ends shall be suitably treated. The implication is that, in some instances, to achieve a satisfactory connection crimp connectors or other suitable means may be necessary to ensure this.

**Chapter 53: Protection, Isolation, Switching, Control and Monitoring**

**Regulation 530.3: General and Common Requirements** requires in **Regulation 530.3.201** an account of appropriate use of either a unidirectional protective device or a bidirectional protective device.



**NOTE:** Product standards 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.

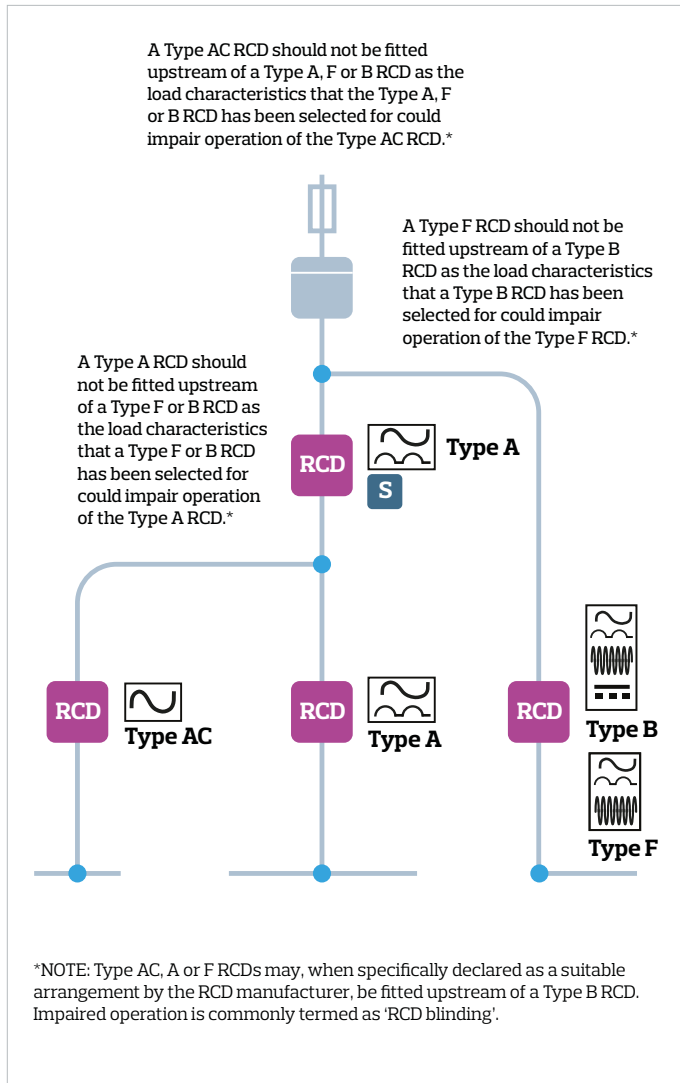
This regulation was first introduced in A3:2024, and was separate from the regulations book, but is now consolidated within A4:2026.

### Regulation 531.3.3: Types of RCD

This includes a new informative Note advising that all RCDs connected in series should be appropriate for the type(s) of residual current expected due to the characteristics of the load(s) and/or possible fault currents and refers the user of BS 7671 to a new diagram, Fig A53.2.



This diagram is similar to the diagram shown which has been taken from the BEAMA guide to the selection and application of residual current devices (RCDs), which can be downloaded by scanning the QR code left.



### Regulation 536.4.202

This has been redrafted and now covers the coordination between low voltage switchgear and control gear assembly and the overload protective device.

Also, the regulation now contains load curtailment as one of the conditions to be satisfied.

The characteristics of a device protecting a low voltage switchgear and control gear assembly against overload are to satisfy one of three conditions indicated:

- The rated current or current setting of the upstream protective device ( $I_n$ ) is less than or equal to the rated current of the assembly ( $I_{nA}$ ) and any outgoing unit ( $I_{nc}$ ), or
- Load curtailment shall be used to limit the maximum current demand for the assembly, or
- The total connected load without diversity does not exceed the rated current of the assembly ( $I_{nA}$ ) and any outgoing unit ( $I_{nc}$ ).

Other key requirements include that :

- Where load curtailment is used to limit the maximum current demand for the assembly or an outgoing unit, the following conditions shall be met:
- $I_{nA}$  and  $I_{nc}$  shall be greater than or equal to the limited maximum current demand using load curtailment.
- Diversity shall not be used as a means of load curtailment, load control, or overload protection.
- Where an assembly is connected to more than one source of supply that can operate in parallel and simultaneously, the requirements of **Regulation 551.7.2** also apply.
- Examples of a low voltage switchgear and control gear assembly are a distribution board and consumer unit. An example of an outgoing unit is an RCCB.
- $I_{nA}$  is the marked rated current of the assembly.
- $I_{nc}$  is the outgoing unit, e.g. RCCB enclosed rated current inside the assembly, which can be lower than the rated current of the device according to its respective standard.
- $I_{nc}$  should be stated in the documentation supplied with the assembly.
- Examples of suitable overload protective devices are a general-purpose type (gG) fuse to BS 88-2, a fuse to BS 88-3, a circuit-breaker to BS EN 60898, circuit-breaker to BS EN 60947-2 or a residual current circuit-breaker with integral overcurrent protection (RCBO).



Information on this is given in the BEAMA guide to overload protection of an RCCB or switch in an LV assembly to BS EN 61439-3, which can be downloaded by scanning the QR code left.

### Section 537: Isolation and Switching

The changes in this section include an amendment to Table 537.4 and clarification regarding devices used to achieve the function of isolation, which now includes the terms 'disconnecter' and 'switch disconnecter' for completeness – previously the table only mentioned an 'isolating switch'.

To help understand these, terms are defined in **Part 2: Terms and definitions** as follows:

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● **Disconnecter:** A mechanical switching device which in the open position complies with the requirements for the isolating function.

**NOTE:** A disconnector is capable of opening and closing a circuit when either a negligible current is broken or made or when no significant change in the voltage across the terminals of each pole of the disconnector occurs. It is also capable of carrying currents under normal circuit conditions and carrying for a specified time current under abnormal conditions such as a short-circuit. It is a no-load device, but checks need to be made as indicated by the (1) in the column for Isolation of Table 537.4 – this is identified if the isolation symbol is shown.

● **Switch-disconnector:** A switch which, in the open position, satisfies the isolating requirements specified for a disconnector.

**NOTE:** A switch-disconnector is otherwise known as an isolating switch – this is suitable for on-load isolation

● **Isolating switch:** Switch designed to provide isolation of the installation or part of the installation and equipment from the supply and to carry and to make and break the current in all line current carrying poles.

There has also been a redraft of regulations relating to provision of a firefighter's switch with **Regulation 537.4.2** requiring these in locations specified by the fire engineer to support the building's overall fire strategy. The regulation also provides examples where these may be required, which includes outdoor lighting operating at high voltage and indoor discharge lighting operating at low voltage.

### Chapter 54: Earthing Arrangements and Protective Conductors

This sees the introduction of a new **Section 545: Functional Earthing and Functional-Equipotential-Bonding for Information and Communication Technology Equipment and Systems (ICT)**

This provides additional requirements for functional earthing and functional-equipotential-bonding for information technology systems and communication equipment (ICT), such as broadcast and communication technology. Such earthing and bonding conductors may be necessary to reduce the effects of electromagnetic disturbances on electronic equipment as identified in **Section 444**.

Included are requirements for minimum cross-sectional area, identification, electrical continuity of functional bonding conductors, combined protective and functional bonding conductors, main functional earthing terminal and equipotential bonding ring conductors.

### Section 551: Low Voltage Generating Sets

**Regulation 551.7.1** has been redrafted with an indent (c)

added to the regulation, which requires a suitable protective device where energy flow is bidirectional. In addition, an indent (d) is also added which prohibits the connection of a source to the load side of an RCD under certain conditions.

**Regulation 551.7.2** is redrafted to form a group of associated regulations with **Regulation 551.7.2.1** requiring the generating set to be installed on the supply side of all the protective devices and stationary batteries to be considered a generating set and not a load for the purposes of these regulations.

**Regulation 551.7.2.2** sets out the requirements for the low voltage switchgear and control gear assembly when a generating set is used as an additional source of supply in parallel with another source and the generating set is connected via LV switchgear.

### Chapter 56: Safety Services

The regulations group under 560.6 is modified and includes the new terminology 'primary batteries' and 'stationary secondary' relating to the electrical sources for safety services. It also states that central safety power supply systems are to conform to BS EN 50171.

### Chapter 57: Stationary Secondary Batteries

This is new and provides requirements for stationary secondary battery installations where the designed purpose is for storage and supply of electrical installations.

It contains specific regulations for selection of the battery, power conversion equipment (PCE) and the electrical energy management systems (EEMS), selection and erection including compliance with appropriate standards, earthing requirements, measures for protection against electric shock and ADS provided by RCD and protection against fault current on the DC side, isolation and protection against hazards and also for identification and notices

However, the scope of the chapter does not apply to certain other systems which contain batteries, and specific exclusions listed include batteries incorporated into products covered by product safety standards or within central battery systems, fire detection and fire alarm systems to BS 5839 series and emergency lighting systems to BS 5266 series etc.

## Part 6: Inspection and Testing

There is very little change here, with only a minor change relating to **Chapter 65: Periodic Inspection and Testing**. The change made is part of the industry strategy to improve the quality and accuracy of PI&T and the Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICRs) produced.

A new requirement is given in **Regulation 653.1** which requires that upon completion of the periodic inspection and testing of an existing installation, an EICR based on the model given in Appendix 6 shall be produced, taking account of the notes for the person producing the report provided in Appendix 6.

These notes are rewritten to better explain the purpose of PI&T and the information that should be recorded on the EICR.

**Regulation 653.2** requires the EICR to include guidance for the recipient(s) based on the model in Appendix 6. This guidance has also been redrafted.

A note is added below these requirements to advise that photographic and/or thermographic images can be appended to the report. This is commonly done nowadays by those producing EICRs.

## Part 7: Special Installation or Locations

There have been a number of changes in several of the sections and significant changes include the redrafting of **Section: 710 Medical Locations** and a new **Section 716**. Information on these changes is outlined below:

### Section 702: Swimming Pools and Other Basins

The scope of Section 702 includes pools for religious and/or ceremonial purposes and can also be applied to the installation of hot tubs located outdoors. **Regulation 702.55.5** requires that hot tubs shall conform to BS EN 60335-2-60.

For information, the supply to a hot tub should be protected by a 30 mA RCD and, if located indoors, the zoning concept given in Section 701 would be more appropriate.

### Section 709: Marinas and Similar Locations

Regulation 709.313.1.101 requires that between the hull of the vessel and metallic parts on the shore side, equipment conforming to BS EN 61558-2-4 shall be used.

The protective conductor (PE) of the supply to the isolating transformer shall not be connected to the earth terminal in the socket-outlet supplying the vessel.

This is to prevent corrosion between dissimilar metals and uses an isolating transformer to prevent galvanic currents circulating.

### Section 710: Medical Locations

This section contains many changes, with several of the key ones highlighted below.

For the power supply for medical locations of group 2 there are specific new HD requirements given in **Regulation 710.313.1.102**. This requires that in case of a single fault in the power supply, a total loss of power shall be prevented by the provision of two independent supplies in accordance with BS 8519 and the provision of an uninterruptible power system (UPS) which shall be located taking into account factors such as continuity of supply in the event of a fire in another part of the building and separation of the medical location from a fire in batteries and PCE of medical IT systems.

Regarding protection against electric shock, it is clarified in **Regulation 710.41** that when determining the condition to be fulfilled where RCD protection is provided to achieve fault protection in a TT system, a voltage of 25 V AC rather than 50 V is to be used. Also, additional protection by RCDs shall not be used for circuits of a medical IT system. **Regulation 710.411.6.3.101** provides the requirements for the medical insulation monitoring device (MED-IMD) used in a medical IT system.

**Regulation 710.419** and associated group of regulations provide provisions where automatic disconnection according to **Regulation 411.3.2** is not feasible and a new UK-specific **Regulation 710.419.201** identifies that a supplementary

protective equipotential bonding system, according to **Regulations 710.415.2** and **710.419.3**, is deemed to meet this requirement. Additional requirements for identifying supplementary bonding and for the live conductors of a medical IT system are given in **Regulation 710.514**.

In an informative Annex B710, a model schedule for inspection and test is provided for recording the resistance of each individual supplementary bonding conductor. Such inspection and test is required as part of the initial verification process as per **Regulation 710.64** and also for periodic inspection and test as per **Regulation 710.65**.

### Section 714: Outdoor Lighting Installations

The scope of the section in relation to highway power supplies or street furniture is clarified.

Although some installations may be excluded from the classification of outdoor lighting systems, this section still applies to installations defined as highway power supplies or street furniture.

For example, road traffic signals are excluded from outdoor lighting systems. However, they are included within the scope of highway power supplies and street furniture and therefore fall under the requirements of this section of BS 7671.

Clarification on **Regulation 714.411.3.4: Additional protection** is provided and requires that except for lighting supplied from a SELV source, lighting that is accessible to the public shall have additional protection by an RCD having a rated residual operating current, as specified in **Regulation 415.1.1**.

An informative Note advises that lighting includes luminaires, control equipment and wiring.

**NOTE:** Lighting is considered inaccessible if live conductors or equipment are out of reach or located within a locked or secured enclosure or housing, having a minimum impact rating of IK 08.

### Section 716: Power over Ethernet

This new section provides for the distribution of ELV DC power using balanced ICT cables and accessories primarily designed for data transmission as per relevant standards, which include BS EN 50173-1, BS EN 60512-99-0001 and BS EN 60512-9-3 (connectors for electronic equipment) and BS EN 62368-3.

Requirements are provided for protection against electric shock, protection against overcurrent and selection and erection of electrical equipment.

The source of supply for PoE is usually SELV or PELV but this is restricted in certain special locations due to concerns regarding the touch voltage and reduction in body resistance due to wet or damp conditions.

**Regulation 716. 414.1.1** requires one of the following sources of supply shall be used:

- Power sourcing equipment (PSE) conforming to BS EN 62368-1 and BS EN 60950-22 in addition to the interoperability requirements of ISO/IEC/IEEE DIS 8802-3:2024, or
- A source specified in **Regulation 414.3** having a voltage not exceeding 60 V ripple-free DC in dry conditions and 15 V ripple-free DC in all other locations.

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Types of wiring system used may include Category 5, Category 6, Category 6A, Category 7, Category 7A, Category 8.1 or Category 8.2 or other and requirements for the load current (design current) in any conductor is that it shall not exceed 750 mA.

### Section 722: Electric Vehicle Charging Installations

Regulation 722.421.1.7.201 clarifies that AFDDs are not required for circuits supplying EV charging equipment conforming to BS EN 61851 series that incorporate socket-outlets or vehicle connectors conforming to BS EN IEC 62196-2.

## Part 8: Functional Requirements

### Chapter 81: Low Voltage Electrical Installations Part 8-1: Functional Aspects – Energy Efficiency

This new chapter is for information only and advises that requirements for conservation of energy are given in Building Regulations in the UK.

In Scotland this is provided in Section 6 of the Scottish Government's Building Standards Division Technical Handbooks (Domestic and Non-Domestic). BS HD 60364 -8-1 also provides recommendations for energy efficiency.

Appendix 17 in BS 7671, which provided guidance on energy efficiency in the previous version, has been removed from Amendment 4:2026.

## Appendices

Appendices are generally informative and provide guidance to supplement requirements in BS 7671, with the exception of Appendix 1 which is normative and therefore contains requirements.

### Appendix 1

This is updated and has been retitled **British Standards And Other Standards Or Documents To Which Reference Is Made In BS 7671** to reflect its actual content.

### Appendix 4: Current-Carrying Capacity and Voltage Drop

This provides information on the factors and methods to consider to select a cable with suitable cross-sectional area of conductors for the connected load. It now contains new installation methods 72 and 73 and a new reference method, D2, for buried cables. These are mentioned in the information provided for determining current-carrying capacities in Table 4A2A, 4D4A, 4E4A, 4H4A and 4J4A.

### Appendix 6

This provides revised **Model Forms For Certification And Reporting** and sees minor changes to the EIC and MEIWC. However, there are major changes to the Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR).

### Appendix 13


This is revised and provides guidance on **Escape Routes And Fire Protection**, which supplements the regulations given in Chapter 42.



## FIND OUT MORE

Further information and details of these changes and more will be a key feature at the 2026 SELECT Toolbox Talks. These events will be held in the following locations:

- **6 May** – The Walled Garden, Edinburgh
- **7 May** – Drybrugh Abbey Hotel, Borders
- **12 May** – Apex Hotel, Dundee
- **13 May** – Hampden Park, Glasgow
- **20 May** – Fenwick Hotel, Ayrshire
- **21 May** – Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries
- **27 May** – Kingsmill Hotel, Inverness
- **28 May** – Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen
- **10 June** – The Corran Halls, Oban
- **17 June** – Shetland Arts Development Agency, Mareel, Shetland
- **23 June** – The Pickaquooy Centre, Orkney
- **30 June** – The Machrie, Islay
- **2 July** – Caladh Inn, Stornoway

 To book, log in to your MY SELECT account at [www.select.org.uk](http://www.select.org.uk) and go to the 'Events'

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