



17th Edition News

The Wiring Regulations are well on the way to their first major amendments, with a scheduled publication target date of July 2011. The changes that we are likely to see will be the introduction of ECR (Electrical Condition Reports), a new special location known as Medical locations and some further additions to SPD's (Surge Protective Devices), within Part 4, Section 443.

A far reaching decision that will affect all electricians, electrical contractors and anyone that is involved in the electrical industry comes after a review of specific assessment criteria.

This review by the Electrotechnical Assessment Specification (EAS) management committee includes the IET, NICEIC, ECA and all the Part P Competent Person Scheme providers.

For the first time, the EAS establishes that by the end of **December 2010**, all qualified supervisors will be required to have undertaken and achieved a qualification to the **17th Edition of the Wiring Regulations**. It is further reported although not officially endorsed, that anyone involved in the process of carrying out any electrical installations will be similarly, be required to hold a **17th Edition Qualification**.

The implications of the EAS are very clear and unambiguous - All businesses seeking competent person status are required to have at least one qualified supervisor, who has day-to-day responsibility for ensuring the safety, quality and technical standard of works undertaken and compiling the results of inspection, testing and verification for certification.

Anyone who has become a qualified supervisor since the introduction of BS 7671:2008 on 1st July 2008 will be required to have already completed the required training and obtained a 17th Edition Qualification.