

ECA Part L
Competent
Person Scheme

Authorised by ODPM





Electrical Energy Efficiency Scheme

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ABOUT THE ECA ELECTRICAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEME

The Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA) has developed the **Electrical Energy Efficiency Scheme** for firms wanting to self-certify that the electrical installation work carried out in commercial and industrial buildings complies with Part L of the Building Regulations.

The Scheme comprises three different scopes covering the following areas of work:

- **LIGHTING**
- **ELECTRICAL HEATING**
- **CONTROLS**

Firms are permitted to self-certify work that falls within the scope of their registration. For example, a firm that is registered under 'Lighting' cannot self-certify work that falls under 'Heating'.

For firms wishing to self-certify work falling within more than one scope, please see page 10 for further details.

WHY APPLY?

Firms that are registered with an authorised Competent Person Scheme have the right to self-certify that their work complies with the Building Regulations. This means that any electrical installation work carried out within the scope of Part L does not have to be inspected by a building control body.

Clients that use a firm registered as a Competent Person have the reassurance that they are using a firm that has been independently inspected and certificated as competent to carry out the work.

WHY HAS PART L BEEN REVISED?

Part L of the Building Regulations was first introduced in 1995 and concerns the efficient use of energy within buildings. The revised version of Part L takes effect from the 6th April 2006.

Part L has been revised as part of the government's drive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One important way of achieving this is by improving the energy efficiency of buildings.

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES TO PART L?

The new requirement is as follows:

"Reasonable provision shall be made for the conservation of fuel and power in buildings by:

- limiting heat gains and losses:**
 - through thermal elements and other parts of the building fabric; and
 - from pipes, ducts and vessels used for space heating, space cooling and hot water services;
- providing and commissioning energy efficient fixed building services with effective controls; and;**
- providing to the owner sufficient information about the building, the fixed building services and their maintenance requirements so that the building can be operated in such a manner as to use no more fuel and power than is reasonable in the circumstances."**

HOW DOES PART L AFFECT ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS?

It is clear from the new requirement that anyone involved in the installation of building services is likely to be affected.

However, the way the requirement is applied depends on whether work is being carried out in dwellings or in other buildings.

Official guidance in the shape of the approved document is sub-divided into:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| L1A | Work in new dwellings |
| L2A | Work in new buildings other than dwellings |
| L1B | Work in existing dwellings |
| L2B | Work in existing buildings that are not dwellings |

In the case of new buildings other than dwellings, the need to comply with Part L can have an important bearing on the choice of energy supply system, the use of enhanced management and control features, such as the control systems that are provided, energy metering, lighting, electric heating, the inspection and commissioning of building services systems, and the provision of operation and maintenance information for incorporation within building logbooks.

Part L also entails the production of the evidence needed to demonstrate compliance. The relevant evidence can be produced by, for example, developers, building control bodies, builders and electrical contractors. In the case of electrical contractors (and builders) the firms concerned should be Competent Persons.

For electrical work in dwellings refer to the existing Part P Competent Person Schemes which have been modified to reflect the effects of the relevant changes to Part L. For further information visit www.partp.co.uk

SCHEME REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

There are two main requirements a firm must be able to satisfy for registration with the Scheme. A firm must:

- **DEMONSTRATE ITS TECHNICAL COMPETENCE***
- **EMPLOY THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED ENERGY SUPERVISORS****

JOB REPORTING

Local authorities are required by law to maintain records of all work carried out that is subject to the Building Regulations. If a firm registered as a Competent Person carries out any work within the scope of Part L - for example, a lighting installation in a commercial building - the job must be reported to the relevant local authority.

Job reporting to local authorities will be carried out via the Scheme operator. For this purpose the ECA has developed an electronic job reporting system whereby firms registered under the Scheme can register a job via the website, quickly, easily and at a cost of only £1.50 per job.

MONITORING PERFORMANCE

A firm registered as a Competent Person is subject to periodic annual inspections to check that its work consistently complies with the Building Regulations.

COSTS OF REGISTRATION

These are set out in the fee sheet attached (see page 11)

ABOUT US

For over 100 years the Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA) has been the leading UK trade association for the electrotechnical industry. For more information about the ECA's services to members see www.eca.co.uk

* A firm must be able to demonstrate its technical competence to carry out electrical installation work. This can be demonstrated by achieving a successful assessment against the requirements of the Electrotechnical Assessment Scheme (EAS) or equivalent. For example, firms with any of the following would satisfy this requirement:

- Firms holding an UKAS-accredited EAS certificate for A1-type work
- Firms on NICEIC's roll of approved contractors
- ECA member firms that have been assessed under the Association's requirements for periodic technical assessment for A1-type work

** A firm must employ at least one individual who is qualified to work as the firm's Energy Supervisor, i.e. the person/s responsible for certifying that electrical installation work is carried out in compliance with Part L (see page 8 for further details).

SCHEME COVERAGE

The ECA's Part L Electrical Energy Efficiency Competent Person Scheme covers three distinct sets of work activities, or 'scopes' (see table below).

Applicants applying for more than one scope should note that while the initial assessment requirements for all three scopes are identical, the subsequent annual monitoring of work is not.

The monitoring of a Competent Person's activity is tailored to the scope of its activities (see page 10). In very general terms, the more scopes for which a firm is registered, the more extensive is the monitoring it will undergo.

SCOPE	DESCRIPTION ¹	EAS WORK CATEGORY ²	AD L2A ³ (2006 edition)	AD L2B ⁴ (2006 edition)
Lighting	This includes the installation and commissioning of lighting in all types of spaces, including display lighting, together with the appropriate local lighting controls. Emergency escape lighting is excluded.	A1	Paragraphs: 45-47 82	Paragraphs: 43 56-58 94
Electrical Heating	This includes the installation and commissioning of space heating systems provided by electric heaters together with the associated local controls.	A1	Paragraphs: 44 82	Paragraphs: 43-46 94
Controls	This includes central automatic control systems provided for regulating the operation of fixed building services. Metering includes all meters provided to monitor energy consumption and enable building operators to effectively manage energy use.	A1	Paragraphs: 41-43 77-79 82	Paragraphs: 43 69-71 94

NOTES:

1. DESCRIPTION

The descriptions provided above are indicative. If you have any queries concerning the scopes and how they apply to the activities of your firm please ring the assessment team on 01623 404515

2. EAS WORK CATEGORY

The requirements of the Electrotechnical Assessment Scheme (EAS) are defined in relation to a number of work categories that derive from the *Qualification of electrical installation contractors*, DD CLC TS 50349:2004. A1 is defined as 'electrical installations (up to 1kv) in buildings and other industrial installations'

3/4. AD L2A AND L2B

The references listed to Approved Document L2A *Work in new buildings other than dwellings* and L2B *Work in existing buildings other than dwellings* are **indicative only**. They are provided to illustrate how Part L bears upon electrical work in each of the scopes described above.

TECHNICAL COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS

THE COMPETENT PERSON

Firms registered as a Competent Person are required to carry out work in compliance with the Building Regulations and it is against this requirement that their competence is assessed.

FIRMS ARE ASSESSED FOR:

- a. **their core electrical competence to carry out the relevant electrical installation work; and,**
- b. **their ability to do this work in compliance, principally, with Part L of the Building Regulations.**

The requirement for the firm to demonstrate its electrical competence is met by its satisfactory assessment against the requirements of the Electrotechnical Assessment Scheme (EAS) (see, Table 1 below).

The requirement for the firm to demonstrate its ability to work in compliance with Part L is met by it employing a sufficient number of Energy Supervisors.

THE ENERGY SUPERVISOR

The Energy Supervisor is an experienced individual responsible for ensuring that electrical installation work is designed, installed and commissioned in compliance with the Building Regulations. An Energy Supervisor must:

- Hold an NVQ/SVQ Level 3 in Electrotechnical Services (Buildings and Structures) or an equivalent competency-based qualification*; OR
- Be registered as a Gold Card holder under the Electrotechnical Certification Scheme (ECS). This will be accepted as proof of relevant competence for the purposes of the Scheme.

The Energy Supervisor must also have satisfactorily completed a suitable Part L training course recognised by the ECA for the purposes of the Scheme.

*Equivalent qualifications

- S/NVQ Level 3 in Installing and Commissioning Electrotechnical Systems and Equipment
- A registered electrical apprenticeship

This list is not exhaustive and others may be accepted after individual consideration

TABLE 1

The following firms are recognised as meeting the requirements of the Scheme concerning their electrical competence:

- Those that are registered on the NICEIC Roll of Approved Contractors;
- Those that hold an UKAS-accredited EAS certificate for A1 work;
- Those that hold an ECA certificate for A1 work in buildings other than dwellings

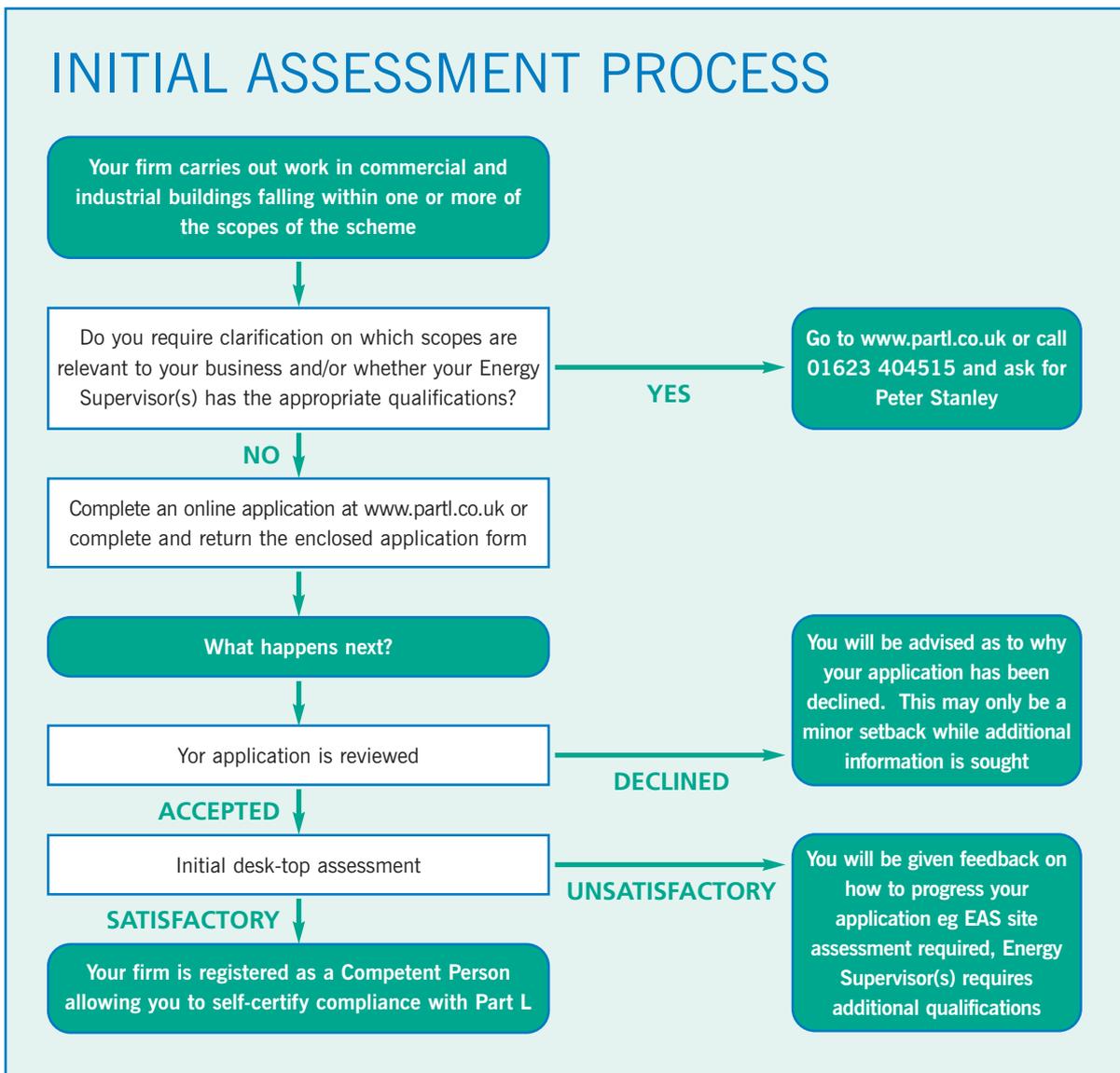
TABLE 2

The following Part L training course is recognised as meeting the requirements of the Scheme:

- ECA's T34-006 Part L for Energy Supervisors (details enclosed)

Other courses may be appropriate and meet the requirements of the Scheme. As additional courses become available they will be assessed for their equivalence. Please contact ECA Education and Training on 020 7313 4838 or email eandt@eca.co.uk for clarification on this point.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS



MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

It is a condition of ODPM authorisation of Competent Person Self-Certification Schemes that they monitor the work of the firms that are registered with them to ensure that these firms are in fact working in compliance with the Building Regulations.

This monitoring activity is risk-based and will take place on an annual basis. A firm registered with the Scheme should expect to have a minimum of two installations assessed per scope for which it is registered.

If a firm is, for example, registered for both the 'Lighting' and the 'Heating' scopes, it must expect to have two lighting installations and two heating installations available for inspection.

It is of course possible, for the lighting and heating installations that are inspected to be part of the same job or contract and thus located in the same building.

The prime focus of the annual monitoring assessments is to check whether or not the installations comply with Part L. However, it should be noted that when a Competent Person self-certifies that its work complies with the Building Regulations it infers that the firm's work **complies with all applicable Building Regulations**. There are parts of the Building Regulations other than Part L that bear upon the work of electrical contractors and it should be borne in mind that electrical contractors almost inevitably carry out some 'builders' work in association with their electrical installation work - this too must comply with any applicable Building Regulations.

Specific guidance is under development to enable firms to be fully prepared well in advance of their first monitoring inspection.

JOB REPORTING

Local authorities are required to maintain records of all work carried out that is subject to the Building Regulations.

Details of the work carried out by Competent Persons registered with the Electrical Energy Efficiency Scheme must be reported to the appropriate local authority upon the work's completion.

The ECA has developed a password-protected online job reporting system that will enable registered firms to report jobs to the relevant local authority via the website and ensure that the required information is reported correctly. Guidance material will be provided upon successful registration with the Scheme.

CONTACT INFORMATION

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

01623 414515
partl@eca.co.uk?

QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING ENQUIRIES

020 7313 4838
eandt@eca.co.uk

USEFUL WEBSITES

Electrical Energy Efficiency Scheme	www.partl.co.uk
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	www.odpm.gov.uk
Local Authority Building Control	www.labc.co.uk
The Carbon Trust	www.thecarbontrust.org.uk
Energy Technology List	www.eca.gov.uk/etl/
BuyingSolutions	www.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk
Environment Agency	www.environment-agency.gov.uk
NetRegs	www.environment-agency.gov.uk/netregs
Defra	www.defra.gov.uk





Representing the best in electrical
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