

3.7 Frequency of inspection

The frequency of periodic inspection and testing must be determined taking into account:

- 622.1
- 1 the type of installation
 - 2 its use and operation
 - 3 the frequency and quality of maintenance
 - 4 the external influences to which it is subjected.

Table 3.2 provides guidance on the initial frequency of formal inspections of electrical installations as well as the routine checks. The 'initial frequencies' in the title of the table refers to the time interval between the issuing of the Electrical Installation Certificate on completion of the work and the first inspection. However, the competent person carrying out subsequent inspections may recommend that the interval between future inspections be increased or decreased as a result of the findings of their inspection. For example, the inspector may recommend an interval greater than that suggested by Table 3.2 in instances where an installation has not suffered from damage or deterioration which would detract from its overall suitability for continued use. Conversely it would be appropriate to recommend that the next inspection is carried out sooner than is suggested in Table 3.2 where an installation has clearly not withstood the adverse effects of its environment and usage well and is not subject to adequate and appropriate maintenance.

In short, the inspector being a competent person should apply engineering judgement when deciding upon intervals between inspecting and testing an installation and may use the recommendations of Table 3.2 to suggest a suitable starting point for such a decision.

In the case of domestic and commercial premises, a change in occupancy of the premises may necessitate additional inspection and testing.

- 621.2 The formal inspections should be carried out in accordance with Chapter 62 of BS 7671. This requires an inspection comprising careful scrutiny of the installation, carried out without dismantling or with partial dismantling as required, together with the appropriate tests of Chapter 61.

Type of installation	Routine check sub-clause 3.5	Maximum period between inspections and testing as necessary	Reference (see key below)
1	2	3	4
General installation			
Domestic	–	Change of occupancy/10 years	
Commercial	1 year	Change of occupancy/5 years	1, 2
Educational establishments	4 months	5 years	1, 2
Hospitals	1 year	5 years	1, 2
Industrial	1 year	3 years	1, 2
Residential accommodation	at change of occupancy/1 year	5 years	1
Offices	1 year	5 years	1, 2
Shops	1 year	5 years	1, 2
Laboratories	1 year	5 years	1, 2
Buildings open to the public			
Cinemas	1 year	1 to 3 years	2, 6, 7
Church installations	1 year	5 years	2
Leisure complexes (excluding swimming pools)	1 year	3 years	1, 2, 6
Places of public entertainment	1 year	3 years	1, 2, 6
Restaurants and hotels	1 year	5 years	1, 2, 6
Theatres	1 year	3 years	2, 6, 7
Public houses	1 year	5 years	1, 2, 6
Village halls/community centres	1 year	5 years	1, 2
Special installations			
Agricultural and horticultural	1 year	3 years	1, 2
Caravans	1 year	3 years	8
Caravan parks	6 months	1 year	1, 2, 6
Highway power supplies	as convenient	6 years	
Marinas	4 months	1 year	1, 2
Fish farms	4 months	1 year	1, 2
Swimming pools	4 months	1 year	1, 2, 6
Emergency lighting	Daily/monthly	3 years	2, 3, 4
Fire alarms	Daily/weekly/monthly	1 year	2, 4, 5
Launderettes	1 year	1 year	1, 2, 6
Petrol filling stations	1 year	1 year	1, 2, 6
Construction site installations	3 months	3 months	1, 2

▼ **Table 3.2**
Recommended initial frequencies of inspection of electrical installations

Reference key

- 1 Particular attention must be taken to comply with SI 1988 No. 1057 – Electricity, Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 (as amended).
- 2 SI 1989 No. 635 – Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 (Regulation 4 & Memorandum).
- 3 See BS 5266: Part 1: 2005 *Code of practice for the emergency lighting of premises other than cinemas and certain other specified premises used for entertainment*.
- 4 Other intervals are recommended for testing operation of batteries and generators.
- 5 See BS 5839: Part 1: 2002 *Code of practice for system design installation and servicing (Fire detection and alarm systems for buildings)*.