

Legal Testing Requirements

The law requires that all business owners, their directors, managers, employees and landlords comply with 'The Electricity at Work Regulations'.

No system or part of it may give rise to danger during either normal operation or under fault conditions.

Regulation 4(2)

"All systems to be maintained so as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, danger." 'System' means the wiring of an electrical installation and everything connected to it.

Regulation (29)

"It shall be a defence for any person to prove that he took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of that offence."

It is important to keep a record of installation certification and have all electrical systems checked and reported on periodically, R.B. Grant can advise on the frequency of periodic inspection reports. See table on following page.

Duty holders are responsible for setting up testing, maintaining and monitoring the electrical system and equipment during the periods between tests. The system can be checked by unskilled people for faulty devices and wear and tear. Generally, the following test intervals may be applied for guidance purposes – see table on next page:

Type Of Installation	Routine Check sub-clause 2.1.4	Maximum period between inspections & testing as necessary
General Installations		
Domestic	-----	Change of tenancy /10 years
Commercial	1 Year	Change of tenancy /5 years
Educational Establishments	4 months	5 Years
Hospitals	1 Year	5 Years
Industrial	1 Year	3 Years
Residential Accommodation	At change of occupancy / 1 Year	5 Years
Offices	1 Year	5 Years
Shops	1 Year	5 Years
Laboratories	1 Year	5 Years
Buildings Open To The Public		
Cinemas	4 Months	1 Year
Church Installations	1 Year	5 Years
Leisure Complexes	4 Months	1 Year
Places of Public Entertainment	4 Months	1 Year
Restaurants & Hotels	1 Year	5 Years
Theatres	4 Months	1 Years
Public Houses	1 Year	5 Years
Village Halls/Community Centres	1 Year	5 Years
External Installations		
Agricultural & Horticulural	1 Year	3 Years
Caravans	1 Year	3 Years
Caravan Parks	6 Months	1 Year
Highway Power Supplies	As Convenient	6 Years
Marinas	4 Months	1 Year
Fish Farms	4 Months	1 Year
Special Installations		
Emergency Lighting	Daily/ Monthly	3 Years
Fire Alarms	Daily/ Monthly/Weekly	1 Year
Launderettes	1 Year	1 Year
Petrol Filling Stations	1 Year	1 Year
Construction Site Installations	3 Months	3 Months

*Recommendations taken from BS7671