

Technical Guidance

Sockets and switches in light steel framed separating walls

Question

Is it acceptable to install recessed electrical sockets and switches in light steel framed separating walls?

Considerations

- Robust Details Part E gives guidance on the installation of recessed electrical sockets, switches etc. in light steel framed separating walls.
- The steel frame manufacturer may give guidance on the installation of services in walls constructed using their metal sections.
- The Building Standards (Scotland) do not permit wiring to be contained in separating walls constructed with or containing combustible materials.

Answer

In England & Wales and Northern Ireland recessed electrical sockets and switches may be fitted in light steel framed separating walls.

The steel frame manufacturer should be consulted for any specific guidance but generally it is acceptable if fittings are installed as shown in the diagram below.

In Scotland, recessed electrical sockets, switches, wiring and pipes are unlikely to be accepted within framed separating walls. Acceptance of alternative solutions e.g. independent dry lining to form a service zone, should be sought from the local building control body.

