

Technical Guidance

Consumer unit - labelling

Question

What labels/notices should be provided on consumer units?

Considerations

- BS 7671 'Requirements for Electrical Installations' clause 514-8 refers to the identification of each protective device, e.g. fuse or circuit breaker.
- BS 7671 clause 514-12 deals with notices for periodic inspection and testing. These notices should be fixed in a permanent position at or near the origin of every installation. The most convenient location for these notices is usually on the consumer unit.
- Where an installation incorporates a Residual Current Device (RCD) a notice should be provided advising the homeowner on when and how to carry out periodic testing of the device.

Answer

The following labels/notices should be provided in or close to the consumer unit:

- 1) Each fuse or circuit breaker should be labelled so that the circuit protected by the device can be easily identified.
- 2) A notice saying:

IMPORTANT –
This installation should be periodically inspected and tested and a report on its condition obtained, as prescribed in the IEE Wiring Regulations BS 7671 Requirements for Electrical Installations.

Date of last inspection

Recommended date of next inspection

- 3) Where RCDs are provided, a notice saying:

This installation, or part of it, is protected by a device which automatically switches off the supply if an earth fault develops. Test quarterly by pressing the button marked 'T' or 'Test'. The device should switch off the supply and should then be switched on to restore the supply. If the device does not switch off the supply when the button is pressed, seek expert advice.

Notices should be of durable material and indelibly marked.

There is no requirement for the name of the electrical contractor to be shown on the label/notice. The name and signature of the designer, contractor and the 'competent person' who carried out the test will be identified on the Electrical Test Certificate.