

Consumer unit – labelling

(June 2022) (third issue – supersedes April 2011)



Question

What labels/notices should be provided on consumer units and where labels/notices are not provided what evidence is required to demonstrate an acceptable installation?

Considerations

Part 1

- BS 7671 'Requirements for Electrical Installations' clause 514-8 refers to the identification of each protective device, e.g. fuse or circuit breaker.

Part 2

- BS 7671 clause 514-12 deals with "Notices: periodic inspection and testing" and notes "The requirements need not be applied for domestic (household) premises or similar installations where certification for initial verification, complete with Guidance for Recipients as detailed in Appendix 6 [of the IET Wiring Regulations Eighteenth Edition (Amendment 2:2022)], has been issued to the person ordering the work."
- Where an installation incorporates a Residual Current Device (RCD) a notice may be provided advising the homeowner on when and how to carry out periodic testing of the device.

Answer

Part 1

- Each fuse or circuit breaker should be labelled so that the circuit protected by the device can be easily identified.

Part 2

Where labels/ notices are not provided:

- Where labels/ notices are not provided the Electrical Installation Certificate, complete with Guidance for Recipients as detailed in Appendix 6 of the IET Wiring Regulations Eighteenth Edition (Amendment 2:2022) should be made available for inspection on site.

Where labels/notices are fitted:

- Where notices are provided these 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.
- 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 on the Electrical Test Certificate.

For periodic Inspection and Testing the label shall read as follows:

Where RCDs are provided, a notice saying:

Important

This installation should be periodically inspected and tested and a report on its condition obtained, as prescribed in BS 7671 Requirements for Electrical Installations

Date of last inspection.....

Recommended date of next inspection.....

Important

This installation, or part of it, is protected by a device which automatically switches off the supply if a fault develops. Test six-monthly by pressing the relevant test button(s) which should operate the device. Afterwards, manually switch on the device. If the device does not operate, or indicates a fault, seek expert advice