

Wiring to wall lights

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Question

Is it acceptable at completion of a dwelling for electrical cables for wall lights to be left protruding through the wall with just a covering of insulation tape?

Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause Chapter 8.1.7 states that lighting outlets should be provided in each room, hall, landing and staircase. Wall lights are often provided in addition to the main light in a room and are sometimes left as an option for the homeowner to fit their own choice of fitting after occupation.
- Insulation tape can be easily removed exposing live cables, which would become a hazard.
- BS 7671 'Requirements for Electrical Installations' clauses 526.5 and 559.6.1.1 refer to lighting points and a requirement for their termination to be in a suitable accessory or enclosure. Use of insulation tape, with or without connection blocks, does not comply with the electrical requirements.

Answer

Where electrical cables are provided for homeowners to fit their own fittings after occupation the cables should be either terminated in a:

- suitable proprietary electrical enclosure complying with the appropriate British Standards e.g. recessed back box with cover, or
- temporary light fitting e.g. batten lampholder.