

Information for customers

Domestic electrical installation condition reports



This guide is for people who would like to get a domestic electrical installation condition report for their property or for a property they are planning to buy.

It includes information on:

- how to get a quote from an electrician for your electrical installation condition report;
- how to order your report;
- what happens during inspection and testing; and
- what to do after you receive your condition report.

This information supports the information in our 'Guide to condition reports for domestic electrical installations', which you can get from our website at www.esc.org.uk.

The guide to condition reports for domestic electrical installations includes:

- a description of what an electrical installation is;
- reasons why the installation in your home (or the home that you are planning to buy) should be checked;
- information on the age of equipment (fuse boxes, wiring, switches and sockets and so on) in electrical installations;
- definitions;
- reasons for carrying out reports and types of condition report; and
- how to find an electrician and order your condition report.



How to get a quote for your condition report

To get a quote from an electrician (or you may want to get a competitive quote from several electricians) for a condition report on the electrical installation in your property or the property you are planning to buy, you can follow the three steps shown.

Step 1

Decide which of the following two domestic electrical installation condition reports you need.

- Visual condition report (includes inspection but not testing)
- Periodic inspection report (includes inspection and testing)

Step 2

Fill in the relevant parts of our 'Domestic electrical installation condition report quotation request form', which you can get from our website at www.esc.org.uk

13 Will any children or pets be in the home during the inspection and testing? If Yes, please give details of any special safety measures that the electrician may need to take during the inspection (and testing).

Yes No

14 Do you agree to meet electricians or timers on electrical equipment after the inspection and testing is finished? If No, please give details of any items that you would like the electrician to visit.

For example, the central heating timer and clocks on DVD recorders.

Yes No

6 Electrician giving the quote: THIS SECTION TO BE FILLED IN BY ELECTRICIAN

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone number: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Signature: _____

B) Extra price for a return visit to carry out live testing if power is not available on the first day of testing (for example, if the power fails or a meter runs out of credits)

Date the work will start: ____/____/____

Date the work will be finished: ____/____/____

C) Price to put right any problems listed in Section 18. (Write the price if you know it, if not, write 'Price to be agreed'.)

D) Payment conditions: _____

15 Is it a new installation? Yes No

16 Do you need a new fuse box? Yes No

17 Are there any other electrical items to be installed? Yes No

18 Do you have any special requirements? Yes No

19 Do you have any other electrical items to be installed? Yes No

7 Type of condition report: (Tick one box)

Visual condition report

Periodic inspection report

(Includes inspection and testing. (See comment in note cases.)

8 What will the inspection (and testing if appropriate) include? (For example, the main home, and the shed and garage (if they run off the consumer unit).)

9 Limits: THIS SECTION TO BE FILLED IN BY ELECTRICIAN

Items hidden in walls and under floor, in spaces in the roof that cannot be reached and in the structure of the building or underground, or if cannot be inspected. (Please list any other limits, for example inaccessible socket-outlets or other accessories, such as where they are fixed behind a double wardrobe, may not be inspected or tested.)

10 Are lamps in light fittings working and available for the electrician to use? Yes No

(For example, for general lighting and for testing the operation of light switches.)

11 Is there easy access to all equipment? (For example, to bonding and earthing clamps, the consumer unit and accessories.) Yes No

If No, please give details of why access is not available or restricted.

12 Are previous records that give the history of the installation available? If Yes, please give details of records that are available.

For example, test certificates and condition reports.

Yes No

Step 3

Ask the electrician to fill in the relevant parts of the form.

How to order your electrical installation condition report

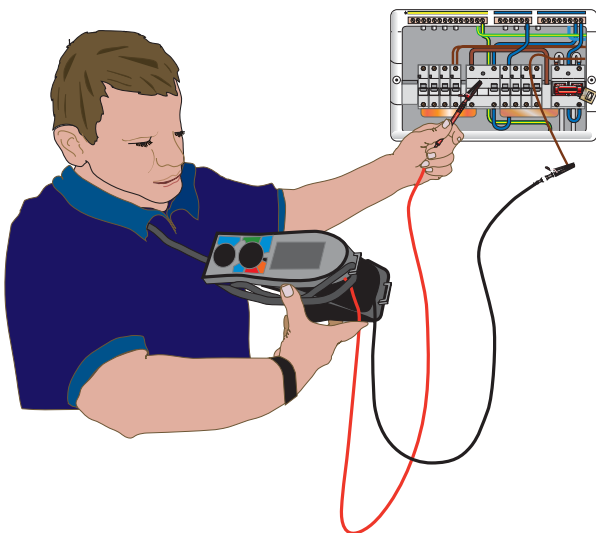
Once the electrician has filled in the relevant parts of the quotation request form and returned it to you, if you are satisfied with it, you can ask the electrician to produce your domestic electrical installation condition report.

What happens during the inspection (and testing if included)?

In general, inspection (and testing if included) involves the following.

- Collecting information for the condition report.
- Gaining access to various parts of the electrical installation in the home (including, where appropriate, areas such as the loft), and buildings outside, such as the garage and shed.
- Gaining access to any earthing or bonding safety clamps. These clamps may be fitted to the water and gas pipes (where they enter the property). In general, green or green and yellow cables connect between the clamps and electrical equipment, such as the consumer unit (fuse box). For more information see our leaflet 'Why do earthing and bonding need to be checked?', which is available from our website at www.esc.org.uk
- Removing and replacing covers from a sample of accessories, such as light switches and sockets.
- Removing and replacing the cover of the consumer unit.

Example of a consumer unit cover removed



(for testing)

- Running a test lead around the home during testing.
- Unplugging or switching off almost all electrical equipment. One of the reasons for this is to prevent sensitive electronic equipment (such as light dimmer switches, washing machines or televisions) from getting damaged during testing.



- Switching the electricity supply to the consumer unit and individual circuits on and off (several times and for various periods of time).
- Checking warning labels, instruction labels and circuit charts associated with the installation.
- Recording the test results and any other details found during the inspection.
- Carrying out work (if you agree to this) to make safe any dangers found in the installation, for example, if there is a bare live wire or connection.

What should I do when I get my condition report?

After you receive your condition report you should make arrangements to put right (as soon as possible) any reported problems that make your installation unsafe. If it is an installation in a property that you plan to buy, you should tell the current owner of the property about any reported problems.

If a lot of work is needed (for example, where the installation needs to be rewired), we recommend that you get quotes from up to three registered electricians for carrying out the work. You can get information on how to order electrical work in our 'Guide for consumers when ordering domestic electrical work', which is available from our website at www.esc.org.uk

Finally, you should keep your condition report in a safe place, as it gives you, and anyone who may buy the property in the future, a record of the condition of the electrical installation at the date of the report. It should also provide useful information if the property is extended or improved in the future.

More advice

For more advice on any electrical safety issues contact:

The Electrical Safety Council

18 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6LB Phone: 0870 040 0561 Fax: 0870 040 0560
Email: enquiries@esc.org.uk Web: www.esc.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 257376

The Electrical Safety Council is an independent charity committed to reducing deaths and injuries through electrical accidents at home and at work.

