

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 electrical installation is to be checked;
- information on the age of equipment (fuse boxes, wiring, switches and sockets and so on) in the electrical installation;
- definitions;
- 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 (you may want to get a 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)
- Electrical installation condition 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

Form sections visible:

- Yes No If Yes, please give details of any special safety measures that the electrician may need to take during the inspection (and testing).
- Yes No If Not, please give details of any items that you would like the electrician to reset.
- Quotation request form** for a Domestic Electrical Installation Condition report
- You should fill in all sections of the form, **except for sections 6 and 9**. You should then send the quotation request to the electrician to get a quote. You may decide to get a competitive quote by sending a form to several electricians.
- You should fill in **sections 6 and 9** of the form and return it to the customer.
- Name: _____ Date when the work must be finished: ____/____/____
- Address: _____ Phone number: _____
- Postcode: _____
- Cheque Debit card Credit card Cash
- When the work is finished: Payments at agreed stages:
- Will you pay a deposit? Yes No
- Name: _____ Signature: _____
- Date: ____/____/____

Step 3

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

Form sections visible (to be filled by electrician):

- 6 Electrician giving the quote:** Name: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____ Phone number: _____ Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____
- 7 Type of report:** Visual condition report Electrical installation condition report
- 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:** Working is 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 it 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
- 11 Is there easy access to all equipment?** For example, for bonding and earthing clamps, the consumer unit and accessories. Yes No
- 12 Are previous records that give the history of the installation available?** For example, test, fault, cable and condition reports. Yes No

How to order your electrical installation condition report

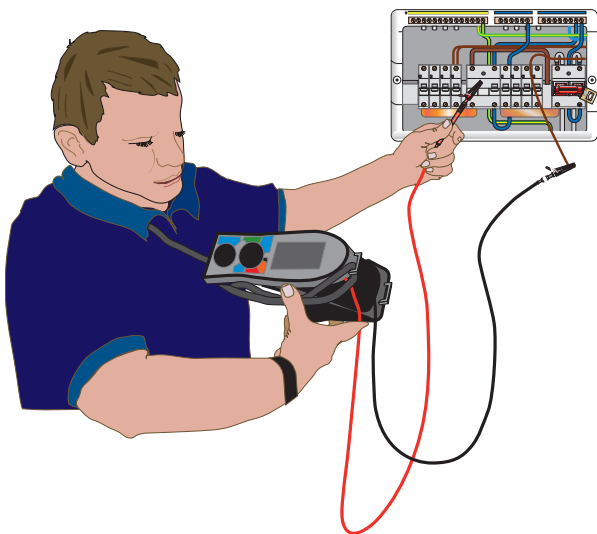
Once the electrician has filled in the relevant parts of the quotation request form and returned it to you, if you are satisfied with it, you can ask the electrician to produce your domestic electrical installation condition report.

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 accessible loft spaces), 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 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 (where testing is to be performed).

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 for the presence of warning labels, instruction labels and circuit charts associated with the installation.
- Recording the test results and any relevant information relating to the inspection.
- Carrying out the necessary remedial 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

Unit 331-1 Great Guildford Business Square, 30 Great Guildford Street, London, SE1 0HS
Phone: 020 3463 5100 Fax: 020 3463 5139
Email: enquiries@esc.org.uk Web: www.esc.org.uk

Registered Charity (England and Wales) No. 257376
Registered Charity (Scotland) No. SC039990

The Electrical Safety Council is a charity committed to reducing deaths and injuries caused by electricity.

