

Electricity (Safety of Low-Voltage and Medium-Voltage Electrical Installations) Regulations 2004

GN 74/2004

THE ELECTRICITY ACT

Regulations made by the President under section 49 of the Electricity Act

1. These regulations may be cited as the **Electricity (Safety of Low-Voltage and Medium-Voltage Electrical Installations) Regulations 2004**.

2. In these regulations -

"circuit" means an assembly of electrical equipment supplied from the same origin and protected against overcurrent by the same protective device;

"earth" means the conductive mass of the earth, whose electric potential at any point is conventionally taken as zero;

"earth electrode" means a conductor or a group of conductors in intimate contact with, and provide an electrical connection, to earth

"electrical appliance" means equipment using low-voltage or medium-voltage electricity other than a *luminaire* or an independent motor;

"electrical installation" means an assembly of associated electrical equipment with co-ordinated characteristics which fulfils a specific purpose;

"existing consumer" means a consumer who, prior to 1 October 2004, is already supplied with electrical energy by the Board;

"extraneous conductive part" means a conductive part liable to introduce an electric potential, but not forming part of an electrical installation;

"final circuit" means a circuit connected directly to equipment using electricity, a socket outlet or other outlet point for the connection of such equipment;

"mains" means the main switchboard of a building;

"new consumer" means a consumer who is supplied with electrical energy by the Board on or after 1 October 2004;

"overcurrent protective device" means a mechanical switching device or association of devices intended to cause the opening of the contacts when the current in a circuit attains or exceeds the rated value of the circuit;

"residual current" means leakage of electrical current in a circuit flowing to earth or to any extraneous conductive part;

"residual current device" means a mechanical switching device or association of devices intended to cause the opening of the contacts when the residual current attains a given value under specified conditions;

"switch" means a mechanical switching device -

- (a) capable of making, carrying and breaking electrical current under normal circuit conditions or specified operating overload conditions; and
- (b) carrying for a specified time electrical current under specified abnormal circuit conditions;

"switchboard" means an assembly of protective devices used for the operation, regulation, protection or control of an electrical installation;

"TN system" means a system having one point of the source of electrical energy directly earthed, the exposed conductive parts of the installation being connected to that point by protective conductors;

"TT system" means a system having one point of the source of electrical energy directly earthed, the exposed conductive parts of the installation being connected to earth electrodes electrically independent of the earth electrodes of the source.

3. These regulations shall apply to low-voltage and medium-voltage electrical installations in all buildings.
4. (1) Every electrical installation in a building shall be fitted at the mains with a residual current device having -
 - (a) an operating electrical current of 30 milliamperes or less and
 - (b) an operating time of 40 milliseconds or less at 150 milliamperes.

- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a residual current device of a higher rating than those specified in paragraph (1) may be installed at the mains, provided that the final circuit of the electrical installation is protected by a residual current device of ratings specified at paragraph (1).
5. (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), every circuit of a TT or TN system to which an electrical appliance is connected shall be protected by an overcurrent protective device and a residual current device.
- (2) No residual current device shall be used in the circuit of a TN system, where the neutral and the protective functions of that circuit are combined in one conductor.
- (3) A single device performing the functions of both an overcurrent device and a residual current device may be used to protect the circuit of a TT or TN system to which an electrical appliance is connected.
6. Every residual current device used in any circuit shall disconnect both the phase and the neutral conductors.
7. (1) The Board shall not supply electricity to any new consumer unless the electrical installation on the premises of such consumer meets the requirements specified in regulation 4.
- (2) The Board shall not be liable civilly or criminally by reason only of having supplied electricity to any new consumer in breach of paragraph (1).
8. These regulations shall come into operation -
- (a) in respect of an existing consumer, on 1 July 2006.
- (b) in respect of a new consumer, on 1 October 2004.

Amended by [\[GN No. 88 of 2005\]](#); [\[GN No. 198 of 2005\]](#)

Made by the President on 1st June, 2004.