



NATIONAL CARAVAN  
COUNCIL LIMITED

# Guide to Periodic Inspection and Reporting of Electrical Installations in Holiday Homes and Residential Park Homes

*In the preparation of this guide, the National Caravan Council consulted with the following organisations:*

- *Electrical Contractors Association (ECA)*
- *Health and Safety Executive (HSE)*
- *The Camping and Caravanning Club*
- *The Caravan Club*
- *The Electrical Safety Council (ESC)*

## Summary

This Guide relates to the Periodic Inspection and Reporting (PIR) of electrical installations in Holiday Homes and Residential Park Homes. Throughout this Guide the term caravan is used to refer to both.

In the view of many electrical experts, a PIR is vital to ensure continued electrical safety for all caravan installations. In the UK, when a new caravan is built, the electrical installation is inspected and tested and a certificate is issued to verify that the installation meets the current safety requirements. However, over time, an electrical installation is likely to deteriorate due to damage, wear and tear, corrosion and environmental effects. So, a Periodic Inspection and Report is needed to ensure that the electrical installation in a caravan remains safe.

A Periodic Inspection and Report is also required for caravans to comply with BS 7671: 2008 (the 17<sup>th</sup> Edition of the IEE Wiring Regulations). To ensure continued safety of a caravan's electrical installation and hook-up cable, it should comply with the requirements of BS 7671. Chapter 62 of BS 7671 details the scope, extent and frequency of the Periodic Inspection.

## Content

This guide for NCC members has three separate sections containing advice:

1. Distributors
2. Frequency of the inspection
3. Park operators

## 1. Distributors

The NCC recommends that each time a used caravan is sold commercially an inspection is carried out and a PIR is issued. This will ensure that the vehicle leaves the dealership in a safe condition with respect to the electrical installation and will satisfy any legal obligation for the supply of goods under the Consumer Protection Act 1987 and the European Product Liability Directive 85/374/EEC.

When a unit is sold on an 'as seen' basis, a disclaimer could be issued along the following lines: *The electrical installation in this caravan has not recently been inspected to the requirements of BS 7671 and may not be safe to connect to the UK electricity supply.*

## 2. Frequency of the Inspection

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET, see note 1) publication “Guidance Note 3 Inspection and Testing” recommends the maximum period between inspection and testing for caravans should not exceed 3 years.

In practice this period is decided by the engineer inspecting the caravan: he will recommend the date of the next inspection based on the use and condition of the electrical installation and enter this in the report. If the installation is showing signs of deterioration, due to external influences such as damp or areas of non-compliance in the electrical installation, the term may be reduced to 1 year. It can also be reduced if the caravan is used frequently, but again this will be decided by the engineer.

In the majority of cases the period between inspections should be 3 years.

Manufacturers will now be issuing electrical installation certificates for new caravans recommending an initial interval of 3 years before the next inspection (i.e. the first PIR).

## 3. Park Operators

There are no regulations in place that require you to check the documentation of a client's caravan. However, to maintain a reliable supply, it's in the best interests of a park operator to ensure that all caravans connected to the supply are electrically safe. But you will not know if there is anything wrong with a caravan's electrics until after a problem occurs. Therefore, if you have any doubt about the safety of a caravan's electrical installation, we recommend that you ask to see a copy of the Electrical Installation Certificate or the most recent PIR if the caravan is more than 3 years old.

### *Note 1*

*The IET was formerly known as the IEE, the name used in publications and on documentation such as certificates and reports will differ depending on the date of publication.*