



Guidance Notice: ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN COMMERCIAL KITCHENS

5th August 2020

The following guidelines have been approved by the CESRB (Catering Engineers Standards and Registration Board).

In the first instance I can advise that we have been in contact with the ECA (Electrical Contractors Association). We have requested that consideration is given to amending BS 7671:2018. This would be to put Commercial Kitchen areas under a classification that would require all fixed wired appliances are protected by a suitable RCD (Residual Current Device or RCBO (Residual Current Breaker with Overload protection). Currently only 13amp socket outlets, and commando socket outlets stipulate a requirement for this type of protection in these areas. Also, that Commercial Kitchen areas have a fixed wiring inspection on an annual basis.

This suggestion is being supported by the ECA and was raised at the JPEL committee meeting in July.

This guidance notice follows an incident which resulted in the death of a catering equipment engineer whilst working in a fixed wired item of commercial catering equipment.

The subsequent coroner's report concluded that the engineer would most probably have survived had the appliance been protected by an appropriate RCD/RCBO.

This guidance notice does not negate the requirement for companies, or individual engineers, to have in place safe electrical isolation procedures.

It is proposed that the industry should ensure that the following points are adhered to:-

1) Design and Specification

All new installations should be specified with each individual appliance protected by suitable RCD or RCBO devices. These should be specific to the particular appliance, not as a general, single RCD/RCBO on the distribution board.

2) General Installations

Manufacturer's should ensure installation instructions state the requirement for the appliance to be protected by a suitable RCD or RCBO.

In all cases, even if the appliance manufacturer installation instructions do not state a requirement for RCD/RCBO protection, the appliance should not be commissioned unless it can be verified that RCD or RCBO protection is in place.



3) Service and Maintenance

Checks should be made when servicing or maintaining individual appliances to ensure that they have suitable RCD/RCBO protection. If it is found that the appliance does not have suitable protection, or it cannot be verified that it does, this should be noted on the Job record and reported to the responsible person on site.

The Foodservice Equipment Association is also working on the following initiatives in relation to the above.

FEA/CEDA Catering Engineer Electrical Competency Course

The course criteria will be updated to incorporate the above guidance.

BIM (Building Information Modelling)

A request has been made to incorporate a parameter for RCD/RCBO into the IFSE Standard as a required accessory for electrical equipment.

BESA SFG20 Equipment Maintenance Schedules

A request has been made for the inclusion of requirement for RCD/RCBO protection for each appliance.

Design Software (AQ/Specifi)

A request has been made for the automatic addition of RCD/RCBO devices to electrical equipment quotations.

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