

Client Help Sheet

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Having an EICR carried out? Will it pass?...



It's daunting sitting in the garage waiting room, hoping our cars get the approval from the MOT tester that they have passed, well it's the same for a house and its electrics

Believe it or not, its daunting on an inspector when they must break the news to a homeowner that the installation requires serious upgrades to bring it to a satisfactory standard, the look on some of the faces I have seen when I have told them, it is not a nice sight!

The purpose of this help sheet is to **educate you on common reasons why an installation may fail its test**

I hope that if you have any questions on the matter, you can refer back to this guide to aid you 😊

HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT A FINAL SAY ON THE MATTER!!

Yes, I am going to explain common defects as to why installations be given an unsatisfactory assessment, but of course a property must pass all the necessary tests before given the final outcome

Golden Rule: Because something is working it doesn't mean it's also safe!

So let's look at the most common reasons why an installation may be given an unsatisfactory report:

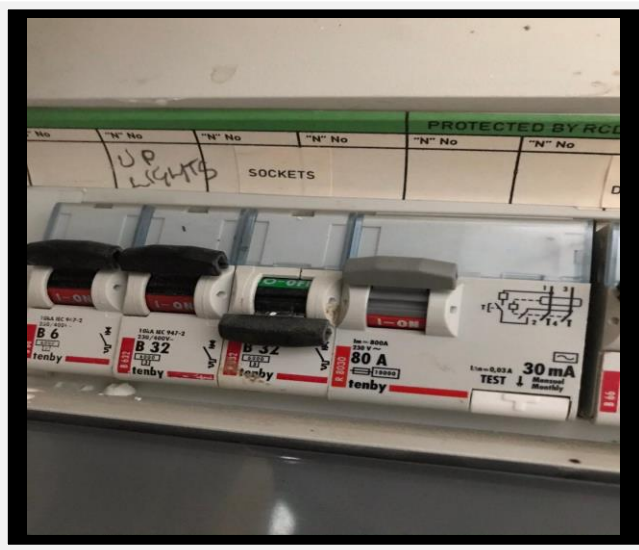
1. OLD FUSE BOARD



Technically, an old fuse board **CAN STILL** provide sound protection, but more often than not, this is not the case as it lacks necessary **30mA R.C.D protection** to circuits that require such protection.

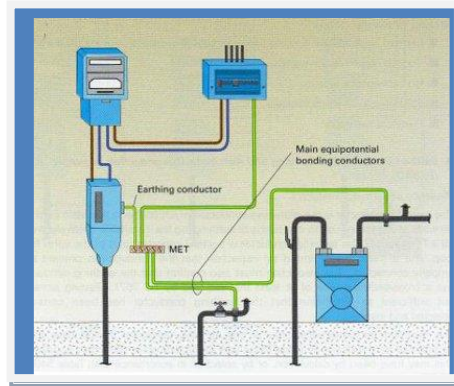
Here are some common C2 deviations which are due to older fuse boards

- Lack of R.C.D protection to socket outlets if there is a possibility of plugging in equipment to take outdoors
- Lack of R.C.D protection to circuits in a bathroom/shower room
- Thermal damage to fuse board due to loose connections and located under stairs
- Lack of R.C.D protection to all circuits where the main earthing system forms part of a TT system (rod in ground providing earth)



A typical R.C.D module found in modern consumer units

2. Lack of EARTH BONDING



Absence of Protective Bonding is another popular failure of electrical installations. I will not go to deep into the topic as I have written a whole help sheet covering this subject. Feel free to go and check it out on my website in the help sheets section ☺

You can preform a quick check to see If bonding is in place by visually inspecting for a bond clamp onto a water or gas pipe where that said service enters the building



A typical Earth Bond and Clamp located at a Gas Meter



Dom about to carry out Continuity R2 testing to confirm adequate Earth Bonding while carry out an EICR

3. Old Immersion Heaters

If you have heard the 2006 horror story about the baby from Somerset, then you know exactly what I am talking about

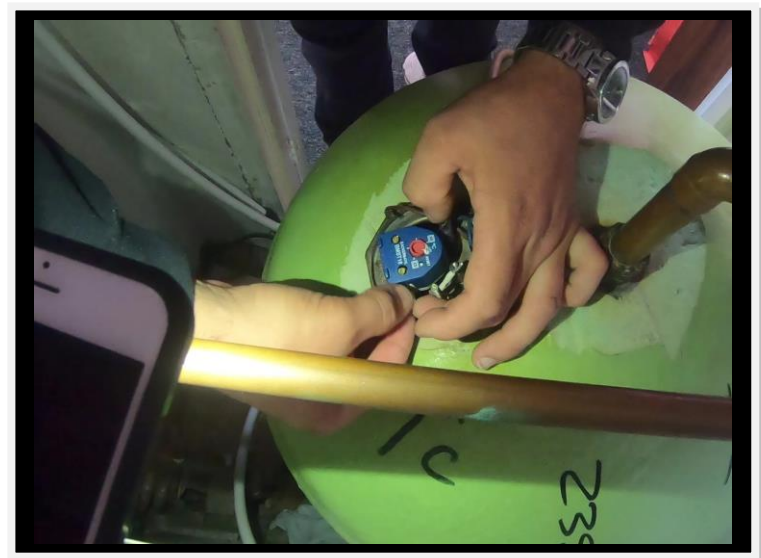
Unfortunately, an older style Immersion heater led to the death of a nearly 1YO baby when scalding hot water collapsed through the ceiling and landed onto the baby

A modern Immersion Heater incorporating the necessary safety thermal trips would have prevented this from happening

Any Immersion Heater not incorporating a thermal trip and having a plastic water storage tank would warrant a C2 code, thus resulting in an installation being unsatisfactory for continued use



Watch me on my YouTube channel @D.L.R Electrical to learn more about the dangers involving old Immersion Heaters



4.VIR RUBBER CABLE

What is VIR cable?

Vulcanised Indian Rubber cable is a rubber insulated cable which was in production before PVC insulated cable was introduced. These cables are black/reddish in colour

It is industry recognized that these cables have way passed their lifespan and require replacing immediately. If a VIR cable is in anyway disturbed, it is common for the cable insulation to crumble completely down to the bare conductor! I still come across this cable from time to time, so it hasn't completely vanished yet!

This cable still found to be in service would warrant a C2 code and even a C1 if the insulation has crumbled

Fun Fact: Buckingham palace had to be rewired recently because it was wired in VIR cable



Dom Robinson is a qualified electrician with over 10 years experience in the electrical industry. Dom owns and runs D.L.R Electrical, who specializes in **domestic electrical** installations. Having qualified in 2013, he holds a range of testing and installation qualifications

D.L.R Electrical is based in Cambridge and serves Cambridge and the surrounding areas. Please visit our Web Page at www.dlrelectrical.com for more information



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