



ADVICE ON PROVIDING ELECTRIC HOOKUP FACILITIES ON CLs

This Appendix provides guidance to owners considering provision of electric hookups on CLs. The notes should be shown to your approved electrical contractor.

If you already provide approved hookup facilities, you are advised to look at points 9 and 11 below, which set out your continuing obligations.

1 Electrical Contractor

It is essential that the electrical installation is carried out by a suitably qualified contractor, preferably one approved by the **National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC)** which covers the UK, or by a member of the **Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA)** which covers England and Wales, or **SELECT (formerly known as the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland)**. These contractors are fully aware of the statutory requirements set out below. Lists of firms in any area may be obtained from the relevant organisation at the following addresses:

NICEIC

Warwick House
Houghton Hall Park
Houghton Regis
Dunstable
LU5 6ZX Tel: **0870 013 0382**
www.niceic.com

Electrical Contractors' Association

ESCA House
34 Palace Court
London
W2 4HY Tel: **0207 313 4800**
www.eca.co.uk

SELECT

The Walled Garden
Bush Estate
Penicuik
Midlothian
EH26 0SB Tel: **0131 445 5577**
www.select.org.uk

2 Quality of Work

The design, construction and verification of the electrical installation must conform in all respects with the current **BS7671:2008 "Requirements for Electrical Installations"** (including amendments issued up to the date of commencement of the work). This British Standard is the official title of the **17th Edition IEE Wiring Regulations**. In particular, the earthing arrangement for hookups must either be TN-S or TT (This is a statutory requirement) Your electrician should be aware.

3 Pitch Supply Points

Purpose-made bollards incorporating one or more socket-outlets and appropriate protective devices are available from specialist manufacturers, such as **Rolec Services Ltd, 01205 724754 or Caravan Park Electrical Services Ltd, 01790 753153**. Alternatively, the pitch supply point(s) may consist of one or more socket outlets only, with the associated protective devices installed in an adjacent building. Pitch supply points should be placed so that a socket-outlet is available within 20 metres of the likely position of the caravan inlet during normal occupancy of each pitch. Club Members are advised to carry cables 25 metres long. New installations should not have any EHU with more than 3 outlets.

The installation will normally comprise a total of five socket-outlets but this number may be increased where justified by the extent or layout of the site, **but this does not imply any increase in the number of caravans you may accept above the statutory limit of five.**

In siting hookups it is also important to bear in mind that the recommended minimum safety spacing between caravans is 6 metres (20 ft). Each caravan should also have at least 3 metres (10 ft) of clear space surrounding it to restrict the spread of fire.

4 Socket-outlets

These must comply with **BS EN 60309-2**. The correct socket-outlets to be selected from those included in the above Standards are rated at 16 amperes (A), 2-pole and earth, coloured blue and marked '16A/6h/220-240V'.

Socket-outlets should be mounted between 0.5 metres and 1.5 metres above the ground.

5 Protective Devices

Each socket-outlet must be protected individually against overcurrent by a miniature circuit-breaker (MCB) complying with **BS EN 60898**. The normal current rating for each MCB is 16A, as on Club sites; to reduce the cost of the installation, it is possible to limit the current available at each socket-outlet by fitting an MCB of 10A or 6A rating, in which case the available current must be clearly indicated to members, for example by a permanent and legible notice. If less than a 16A supply is to be made available, the Member should be informed at the time of booking.

Each socket outlet must be protected individually by a residual current device (RCD). The RCD must comply with **BS EN 61008** and have a residual operating current of 30 milli-Amps (mA) and an operating time of not more than 40 milli-seconds at 150 mA.

6 Electrical Earthing

It is a statutory requirement that the earthing system for electrical hook-ups on caravan sites must be either TT or TN-S. Your electrician should be aware of this essential requirement. Both systems will prevent the possible connection of the supply neutral to the metalwork of a caravan.

TT earthing is your own independent system connected to one or more earth electrodes.

TN-S earthing is a system having separate neutral and protective conductors which was used in the past by electricity distributors in serving properties.

A third system (called TN-C-S or PME) which combines the neutral and earth is prohibited from being used on caravan site hook-up installations.

7 Cabling

The wiring to pitch supply points should, wherever possible, be by means of underground cables laid at a minimum depth of 600 mm (24 inches) where the ground is unlikely to be disturbed, with appropriately greater depth where the ground is subject to ploughing or other disturbance. Such cables should be marked by cable covers or marking tape and placed outside any caravan pitch or away from any surface where pegs or ground anchors are expected to be present. Beneath made-up roads, cables should be laid in ducting.

8 Completion & Inspection Certificate

After completion and verification of the installation, the electrical contractor is required to issue a Completion and Inspection Certificate in accordance with **BS 7671 'Requirements for Electrical Installations'**. It should be noted that the Certificate has separate sections covering design, construction, inspection and test, all of which should be signed by the person responsible for each aspect.

If the contractor uses a form adapted by **NICEIC, ECA** or **SELECT**, there is a space for stating enrolment or membership number.

The Club will require a copy of the test certificate issued to you before your first CL Certificate can be granted and for inclusion of this facility in your entry in the Sites Directory, Website and Club Magazine. Any subsequent upgrading or alterations to the electrical installation will similarly require a test certificate to be issued by the electrical contractor and copied to the Club.

It is important to note that it is not a **legal** requirement for contractors to hold any form of qualification or affiliation to a professional body. If they do not and still certify the installation on the British Standard form you need to consider what redress you will have if you subsequently have a problem. It is in your interests to use a contractor who is approved by one of the specified bodies as not only can you be confident as to their competence but there is also likely to be additional insurance cover if negligence occurs.

9 Regular Inspection

Regular maintenance is essential to ensure the safety of any electrical installation but is particularly important for caravan site installations which are especially liable to deterioration during the winter or other periods of inclement weather. **It is Club policy and CL owners' responsibility to hold a current test certificate when offering electric hookups to visiting members.** The Club will require you to send in a copy of your annual electrical test certificate as a condition of your CL certificate.

You are also advised to test the proper operation of each RCD at least monthly by means of its test button. Your contractor can explain how this should be done.

10 Marketing

Once we have received your undertaking and copy certificate confirming that your electricity installation has been properly installed afresh and will thereafter be satisfactorily maintained, we will add the hookup facility to your entry in our Sites Directory and Website.

11 Insurance

Because, as landowner/tenant, you will have responsibility up to the socket outlet to which the caravanner connects, you should check that this kind of facility is adequately covered by your Public Liability Policy.

12 Ofgem Legislation

As far as charging is concerned, rather than get involved with the amount of electricity consumed (which would necessitate expensive metering and time-consuming accounting), we would advise you to adopt the Club policy of charging inclusive of electricity. To charge separately for electricity could expose CL owners to the possibility of visitors challenging them to justify it. Even if the operator has not been charging excessively, he/she will be involved in considerable (and disproportionate) time, effort and expense in proving their case to Ofgem.

13 Cost of Installation

It is difficult to give precise guidance but installations usually cost between £500 and £1,000 per socket-outlet, depending, for example, on the location of the nearest available supply point and the length of cable runs. You are advised to obtain quotations from, say, three contractors before deciding to proceed with the provision of electric hookups. In most circumstances, it would be wise to assess members' demand for hookups on your CL before carrying out the work. It is also advisable to bear in mind the possibility of having to upgrade your existing supply. Depending on the circumstances this can be costly and therefore it is best to consult your chosen contractor on the power required before liaising with your electricity supply company. Alternatively, your contractor may be willing to make this contact on your behalf.