



The Faster, Safer,  
Simpler Guide to the  
New 18th Edition Wiring  
Regulations





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# 18th Edition Requirements

Further changes effective from 1st January 2019 will push the requirements for fire resistant cable fixings beyond escape routes to the complete installation.



## Regulation 521.10.202

*“Requires cables to be adequately supported against their premature collapse in the event of a fire.”*

***This applies throughout the installation and not just in escape routes.”***

# REGULATIONS FOR CABLE SUPPORTS ARE CHANGING

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**FROM JANUARY 2019 ALL CABLE SUPPORTS MUST BE FIRE-RESISTANT THROUGHOUT THE INSTALLATION. ARE YOU READY?**

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and the British Standards Institution (BSI) have announced the forthcoming change to BS7671 IET Wiring Regulations (18th Edition).

They have confirmed a range of significant changes including Chapter 46 Devices for isolation and switching and Chapter 53 Protection, isolation, switching, control and monitoring. Chapter 52 Selection and erection of wiring systems 201 which give requirements for the methods of support of wiring systems in escape routes, has been replaced by a new Regulation. The IET/BSI release statement noted the following:

- Regulation 521.10.202 requires cables to be adequately supported against their premature collapse in the event of a fire. This applies throughout the installation and not just in escape routes.

## **What does this mean for electrical installers?**

Previously, wiring regulations only applied to cable support fixing for fire alarm cables and cables along escape routes. Now any type of cable support used throughout the installation must be fire resistant, including ELV, AV and Alarm cabling.

### **Why do regulations matter?**

Regulations came into place following tragedies such as that at Shirley Towers in 2005, when two firefighters died after becoming entangled in collapsed cables.

With an ever increasing focus on safety, IET and BSI, want to ensure that all cables are adequately protected against premature collapse in event of a fire.

The guidelines are clear that the responsibility for the safety of cable supports ultimately rests with the installer. It is the installers responsibility to keep up to date with regulations and ensure they comply.

### **Are all cables covered?**

In accordance with IET Wiring Regulation BS7671 all cables should be fixed such that they are not liable to premature collapse in the event of a fire. Extra Low Voltage circuits such as alarm and control wiring is not excluded from the scope.

### **Are CONDUITS and TRUNKING included too?**

Trunking and Conduit carrying any electrical wiring must be supported with a fire rated support. Plastic conduit must also be supported in this way.

### **What types of cable supports are compliant with new regulations?**

Identifying which type of cable support is compliant with the new regulations can be confusing. There is a lack of guidance and availability of testing from the governing bodies of the trade. We advise checking the manufacturer's information for more details.

All LINIAN fire clips are tested in accordance with BS50200 and DIN4102-12 (the standards that Fire Rated Soft Skin cables are tested to) to give the installer the peace of mind that the cable fixings meet the highest criteria for maintaining cable support when exposed to very high temperatures for prolonged periods of time. More details on our technical tests are available on our website.

### **Can installers still use plastic plugs?**

It is not recommended to use any plastic components within the substrate as a means of securing cables. The report by BRE entitled "A series of experiments to assess the effect of a fire on a selection of electrical cable supports and fixings" by Ciara Holland, Martin Shipp and David Crowder concludes that the method of retention within the substrate should be capable of withstanding temperatures greater than 300°C. Firefighters could still be mobile within the building at this stage. The report concludes that plastic plugs fail at this temperature.

### **When do the new regulations come into place?**

From January 1st 2019

### **LINIAN are here to help**

If you have any further questions about the new wiring regulations, please get in touch via email [Info@linianclip.co.uk](mailto:Info@linianclip.co.uk) or phone 0141 465 4858

Our range of fire-resistant cable fixings are fully compliant with the 18th Edition requirements and are faster, safer and simpler to use than any other cable fixing on the market.

LINIAN is a progressive research & development centred cable management business and have invested years in perfecting the cable clip design. The LINIAN Fire Clip offers a neat and speedy installation without the use of screws or wall plugs, nail guns or screwdrivers. Simply drill a hole and insert the clip by hand.

Our technical team are currently working on a range of new Faster, Safer and Simpler products due to be released later this year including Cable Cleats, Trunking Clips and Conduit Saddles.

