**L.N. 283 of 2024**

# REGULATOR FOR ENERGY AND WATER SERVICES ACT (CAP. 545)

## Electrical Installations (Amendment) Regulations, 2024

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by article 37 of the Regulator for Energy and Water Services Act, the Minister responsible for energy and water services, after consultation with the Regulator for Energy and Water Services, has made the following regulations:-

Citation.

S.L. 545.24.

**1.** (1) The title of these regulations is the Electrical Installations (Amendment) Regulations, 2024 and these regulations shall be read and construed as one with the Electrical Installations Regulations, hereinafter referred to as the "principal regulations".

(2) These regulations shall come into force within two (2) months from their publication in the Gazette.

Amends regulation 2 of the principal regulations.

**2.** Sub-regulation (2) of regulation 2 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

(a) immediately after the definition "backup operation mode" thereof there shall be added the following new definition:

" "building unit" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in the Electricity Connection and Supply Regulations";

L.N. 282 of 2024.

(b) the definition "electrical installation" shall be substituted by the following new definition:

""electrical installation" or "electrical installations" means a system of electrical wires and equipment intended for conveying electricity as well as the disconnecting apparatus located on the customer’s side of the electricity service meter;

(c) immediately after the definition "establishment" thereof there shall be added the following new definition:

" "IET Wiring Regulations" means the Requirements for Electrical Installations issued by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (I.E.T.) - BS 7671 18th Edition, exclusively as published and applicable on 1st July 2018;";

(d) the definition "I.E.E. Regulations" thereof shall be deleted; and

(e) in the definition "the Treaty", the words "European Community." shall be substituted by the words "European Union;" and immediately after there shall be added the following new definition:

" "warranted electrical engineer" means an electrical engineer holding a warrant in accordance with the Inġiniera Act: Cap. 321.

Provided that for the purposes of these regulations, wherever there is a reference to a warranted electrical engineer, such warranted engineer shall also be required to be the holder of an Authorisation B after the 30th June 2025.".

Amends regulation 5 of the principal regulations.

**3.** Paragraph (b) of sub-regulation (1) of regulation 5 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new paragraph:

"(b) Authorisation B for installation, alteration, extension and certification of single phase electrical installations and three phase electrical installations rated less than 300Amps per phase. The holder of an Authorisation B may also carry out installation, alteration, extension work on three phase electrical installations rated equal to or more than 300Amps per phase but may not certify the said electrical installations:

Provided that such holder of an Authorisation B may only certify such installation works when acting under the supervision of a warranted electrical engineer and who shall also endorse such certification:

Provided further that such an endorsement shall not be necessary when the Authorisation B holder certifying the installation is also a warranted electrical engineer under the Inginiera Act.". Cap. 321.

Amends regulation 6 of the principal regulations.

**4.** Sub-regulation (1) of regulation 6 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

(a) the words "the Electricity Supply Regulations" shall be substituted by the words "the Electricity Connection and Supply Regulations"; and

(b) the words "S.L. 545.01" shall be substituted by the words "L.N. 282 of 2024".

**5.** Immediately after sub-regulation (5) of regulation 7 of the principal regulations there shall be added the following new sub-regulation: Amends regulation 7 of the principal regulations.

"(6) Any person who applies for the issue of an authorisation in accordance with this regulation shall sit for an interview before the technical committee and shall have to be recommended by the technical committee before becoming eligible to be issued with the authorisation applied for. In the case that the applicant is not recommended by the technical committee following the said interview, the applicant may re-apply to sit for another interview after the lapse of six (6) months from the date of the last interview.".

**6.** Regulation 8 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows: Amends regulation 8 of the principal regulations.

(a) sub-regulation (3) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

"(3) If any authorisation fee payable in accordance with sub-regulation (2) is not paid within thirty (30) days, an additional fee of twelve euro (€12) shall also be due to the Regulator as a late payment fee in addition to the fee due.";

(b) sub-regulation (4) thereof shall be substituted by the

following new sub-regulation:

"(4) If the authorisation fee remains unpaid and any documentation required for renewal is not submitted, the Regulator shall inform the authorised provider by registered mail about the failure to pay the said fee and, or to provide the necessary documents. The authorisation shall be revoked if the authorisation fee remains unpaid and, or the required documents are not submitted after thirty (30) days from the date on which the communication has been sent by registered mail. Any person who has had the authorisation revoked and wants to be re-issued with an authorisation shall be required to submit an application for such purpose and to be recommended following an interview before the technical committee. In considering any such application, the Regulator may take into account the previous failure of the applicant to pay the authorisation fee and, or to submit the required renewal documents and of any explanation regarding that failure which the applicant may submit to the Regulator:

Provided that it shall be the duty of the authorised provider to make available to the Regulator the correct contact details or to accept or collect the registered mail. Failure to provide the said correct contact details or to accept or to collect the registered mail shall exonerate the Regulator from contacting the said authorised provider by registered mail. In such cases, the Regulator shall publish on its website a notice directed to the authorised provider instead of using registered mail.";

(c) sub-regulation (5) thereof shall be deleted; and

(d) sub-regulation (6) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

"(6) The Regulator may publish on its website a notice containing the names and details of authorised providers whose authorisation has been revoked.".

Amends regulation 11 of the principal regulations.

**7.** Regulation 11 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

(a) sub-regulation (1) thereof shall be amended as

follows:

(i) the words "suspend the authorisation for a determinate period of time for the following breaches" shall be substituted by the words "revoke the authorisation or may suspend the authorisation for a determinate period of time for any of the following breaches";

(ii) paragraph (d) thereof shall be substituted by the following new paragraph:

"(d) failure to rectify any non-compliance of an electrical installation or electrical equipment pursuant to a written warning issued by the Regulator, or any other authority or by a distribution system operator;"; and

(iii) paragraph (e) thereof shall be substituted by the following new paragraph:

"(e) failure to pay any fee due in accordance with these regulations;"

(iv) immediately after paragraph (e), as substituted, there shall be added the following new paragraph:

"(f) failure to comply with any direction issued by the Regulator."; and

(b) immediately after sub-regulation (2) thereof there shall be added the following new sub-regulation:

"(3) A person whose authorisation has been revoked shall be required to re-apply for the authorisation and to sit for an interview so as to be recommended by the technical committee to be re-issued with an authorisation:

Provided that a re-application for the issue of an authorisation after a revocation in accordance with this regulation may only take place after the lapse of six (6) months from the date of revocation of the authorisation by the Regulator.".

**8.** Regulation 13 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

Amends regulation 13 of the principal regulations.

(a) in paragraph (a) of sub-regulation (1) thereof, the words "I.E.E. Regulations - BS 7671 latest edition;" shall be substituted by the words "IET Wiring Regulations;"; and

(b) sub-regulation (2) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

"(2) Unless otherwise specified in these regulations, electrical installations shall comply with the IET Wiring Regulations and with generally accepted principles of good design and safe practices:

Provided that the installation of Surge Protection Devices (SPDs) shall not be mandatory.".

Substitutes regulation 15 of the principal regulations.

**9.** Regulation 15 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:

"Electrical installation rated at 300 Amps per phase or more.

15. The design of an electrical installation rated at 300 Amps per phase or more and the final endorsement of the certification on completion of the said electrical installation shall be carried out by a warranted electrical engineer.".

Amends regulation 20 of the principal regulations.

**10.** Regulation 20 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

(a) in sub-regulation (2) thereof, the words "should be graded" shall be substituted by the words "shall be graded";

(b) sub-regulation (4) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

"(4) An overvoltage protective device to detect and protect against sustained overvoltage shall be installed immediately after the main switch fuse or circuit breaker:

Provided that in the case of a multi-customer facility it shall be acceptable to install the over voltage protective device at the supply intake point in the customer’s premises:

Provided further that any circuits supplied upstream of the over voltage protection device shall also be protected by an over voltage protective device.";

(c) sub-regulation (5) thereof shall be substituted by the

following new sub-regulation:

"(5) One (1) or more residual current devices protecting individual sub-circuits separately of the appropriate type, taking into account the presence of any direct current leakage components and their magnitude with means for periodic inspection and with a tripping current of 30mA to earth shall be installed immediately after the over voltage protection device:

Provided that in the case of a multi-customer facility it shall be acceptable to install a residual current device of the appropriate type, taking into account the presence of any direct current leakage components and their magnitude, with a tripping current of not more than 100mA, or a tripping current of 30mA with time discrimination, near the metering point, followed by a residual current protection device or more of the appropriate type taking into account the presence of any direct current leakage components and their magnitude, protecting individual subcircuits separately with a tripping current of 30mA, at the supply intake point in the customer’s premises or parallel circuits supplied from the same customer meter:

Provided further that where in the opinion of the authorised provider the unintended interruption of supply gives rise to greater risks, such as the de-energising of life support and emergency equipment, alternative arrangements for the sub-circuit supplying such equipment may be made by the authorised provider:

Provided further that in the case of circuit-specific loads with high earth leakage currents, such as in the case of circuits supplying electronic equipment, which may cause unintended interruptions of supply, a residual current protection device of the appropriate type, taking into account the presence of any direct current leakage components and their magnitude and if necessary with a tripping current higher than 30mA, as recommended by the manufacturer, which shall not however exceed 300mA, may be used at the supply intake after the overvoltage protection to protect that specific load only, with any other parallel and, or downstream sub-circuits, including common parts, in particular, those circuits supplying electrical loads accessible to users to be protected by one (1) or more residual current devices with a tripping current of 30mA:

Provided further that cables supplying specific loads protected by a residual current device, of the appropriate type, taking into account the presence of any direct current leakage components and their magnitude, with a tripping current exceeding 30mA shall be laid in protective conduit or trunking that provides appropriate mechanical protection. A metallic armoured cable may also be used as an alternative to the aforementioned arrangement:

Provided further that the authorised provider shall ensure that an appropriate warning sign is provided indicating that the equipment is protected with a residual current device with a tripping current higher than 30mA.";

(d) sub-regulation (6) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

"(6) In the case of electrical installations in multi-consumer facilities referred to in sub-regulation (5), the circuit between the main switch fuse or circuit breaker and the individual customer’s premises shall consist of main supply cables that run in a separate and individual protective conduit or in an individual trunking system dedicated for electricity supply wiring, to the individual customer’s premises. Separate and independent metallic armoured cable may also be used as an alternative to the

aforementioned arrangement."; and

(e) in sub-regulation (7) thereof, the word "non-hydroscopic" shall be substituted by the word "non-hygroscopic".

Amends regulation 21 of the principal regulations.

**11.** Regulation 21 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

(a) sub-regulation (2) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

"(2) The supply intake shall be adequately protected at least by:

(a) an over current device;

(b) an earth fault protection device."; and

(b) immediately after sub-regulation (2) thereof there shall be added the following new sub-regulations:

"(3) Fuses and circuit breaker devices shall be graded to provide over current discrimination with the fuses provided by the electricity supply service.

(4) The main switch fuse or circuit breaker shall be mechanically linked so as to effect simultaneous disconnection of all live conductor phases and neutral.

(5) Over voltage protective device or devices that detect and protect against sustained overvoltage may be installed on downstream sub-circuits.

(6) Residual current device or devices of the appropriate type, taking into account the presence of any direct current leakage components and their magnitude, with a tripping current of 30mA shall be installed on downstream sub-circuits supplying electrical loads accessible to users:

Provided that where in the opinion of the authorised provider the unintended interruption of supply gives rise to greater risks, such as the de-energising of life support and emergency equipment, alternative arrangements for the sub-circuit supplying such equipment may be made by the authorised provider:

Provided further that in the case of circuit-specific loads with high earth leakage currents, such as in the case of circuits supplying electronic equipment, which may cause unintended interruptions of supply, a residual current protection device of the appropriate type, taking into account the presence of any direct current leakage components and their magnitude and if necessary with a tripping current higher than 30mA, as recommended by the manufacturer, may be used to protect that specific load only:

Provided further that cables supplying specific loads protected by a residual current device, of the appropriate type, taking into account the presence of any direct current leakage components and their magnitude, with a tripping current exceeding 30mA shall be laid in protective conduit or trunking that provides appropriate mechanical protection. A metallic armoured cable may also be used as an alternative to the aforementioned arrangement:

Provided further that the authorised provider shall ensure that an appropriate warning sign is provided indicating that the equipment is protected with a residual current device with a tripping current higher than 30mA.".

Amends regulation 22 of the principal regulations.

**12.** Paragraph (a) of regulation 22 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new paragraph:

"(a) providing an independent connection to earth through one (1) or more earth electrodes as deemed appropriate, suitably installed and tested, solidly connected by means of an insulated and mechanically protected copper conductor cable of adequate cross-sectional area to the main earthing terminal to which the protective conductor of the electrical installation shall be connected;".

Adds new regulation to the principal regulations.

**13.** Immediately after regulation 22 of the principal regulations there shall be added the following new regulation:

"Protection measures for electrical installations extensions. L.N. 282 of 2024.

22A. Where an extension of the electrical installation from a building unit is extended outside the boundaries of the building unit and where this is allowed in accordance with the Electricity Connection and Supply Regulations, the authorised provider shall ensure that:

(a) where the extension of the electrical installation from a building unit is used to supply a private garage, a manual mechanical means of isolation of all phases and neutral wire shall be provided in an accessible position and immediately after the entrance of the garage. The wiring of the extension leading to the garage shall pass only through common areas;

(b) where the extension of the electrical installation is extended outside the boundaries of a building unit to supply outside facilities or equipment, a manual mechanical means of isolation of all phases and neutral wire shall be installed on the outside wall of the building unit in the immediate vicinity of the area or equipment being serviced. The isolation means shall not be of the remotely electrically operated type:

Provided that the wiring of the extension shall:

(i) be supplied through a dedicated circuit provided with the necessary protection;

(ii) be provided with the appropriate mechanical protection;

(iii) not be of obstruction in any way; and

(iv) be clearly indicated and documented if buried:

Provided further that the earthing system of any conductive structures or street furniture located within two meters (2) from the area or equipment being supplied from the premises shall be bonded with the earthing system of the said premises. The testing of the earthing system bonding shall be part of the routine testing of the electrical installation of the premises including the extension;

(c) where extension of the electrical installation from a building unit forming part of a building block is extended to connect electrical equipment on the roof of the same building block within which the building unit is physically located but not internally and physically interconnected with the roof:

(i) the said extension shall be supplied through a dedicated circuit provided with the necessary protection;

(ii) the said extension shall be provided with a manual mechanical means of isolation of all phases and neutral wire provided in the common area leading to the roof and located next to the electricity service meters supplying the units in the block. The isolation means shall not be of the remotely electrically operated type;

(iii) the earthing system of the building unit which is not physically interconnected to the common area of the building block shall be linked to the earthing system of the block. The testing of the earthing system bonding shall be part of the routine testing of the electrical installations physically found within the block; and

(iv) the means of isolation shall be properly labelled and documented to indicate the sources of supply and the location of the electrical equipment serviced. The earthing system bonding shall be properly labelled and documented.".

Substitutes regulation 23 of the principal regulations.

**14.** Regulation 23 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:

"Protective devices on motor loads.

23. (1) The authorised provider shall ensure that motor loads above 1.5kW are in compliance with the Electricity Connection and Supply Regulations.

L.N. 282 of 2024.

(2) Devices inhibiting automatic re-starting of motors shall be provided wherever in the opinion of the authorised provider the said restart may cause danger or damage to equipment.

(3) Equipment with three phase motors shall be provided with phase failure protection and with incorrect phase sequence protection where in the opinion of the authorised provider an incorrect phase sequence may cause danger or damage to equipment.".

**15.** Immediately after sub-regulation (4) of regulation 24 of the principal regulations there shall be added the following new sub-regulation: Amends regulation 24 of the principal regulations.

"(5) If any non-compliance with these regulations or malpractice results from the inspection and, or testing of the electrical installation, the costs incurred by the Regulator for carrying out the inspection and, or testing shall be borne by the authorised provider or the warranted engineer, as the case may be, which shall be due as a civil debt to the Regulator.".

**16.** Regulation 26 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows: Amends regulation 26 of the principal regulations.

(a) sub-regulation (1) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

"(1) The Regulator shall keep a register of authorisations, which shall be made public in part or in its entirety and which shall include records of all authorisations granted in accordance with these regulations."; and

(b) paragraph (a) of sub-regulation (2) thereof shall be substituted by the following new paragraph:

"(a) name, surname and identity card number or identity document number or passport number of the authorised provider;".

**17.** In the First Schedule to the principal regulations, the words "In the case of Authorisation B, testimonials shall be endorsed by either a Authorisation B holder or a warranted electrical engineer." shall be substituted by the words "In the case of Authorisation B, testimonials regarding experiences shall be endorsed by either an Authorisation B holder or a warranted electrical engineer: Amends the First Schedule to the principal regulations.

Provided that warranted electrical engineers applying for an Authorisation B with at least fifteen (15) years of experience in local electrical installation works may provide a self-declaration instead of such testimonials.".

**18.** The Second Schedule to the principal regulations shall be amended as follows: Amends the Second Schedule to the principal regulations.

(a) the word "I.E.E.", wherever it occurs, shall be substituted by the words "IET Wiring Regulations"; and

(b) item (d) thereof shall be substituted by the following new item:

L.N. 282 of 2024.

"(d) As otherwise required by the Electricity Connection and Supply Regulations and the network code with respect to requirements posed on electrical installation before their connection to the distribution system operator network, as amended and approved by the Regulator from time to time;".

**Ippubblikat mid-Dipartiment tal-Informazzjoni (doi.gov.mt) — Valletta —** ***Published by the Department of Information (doi.gov.mt) — Valletta***
**Mitbugħ fl-Istamperija tal-Gvern fuq karta FSC —** ***Printed at the Government Printing Press on FSC certified paper***

**Prezz/*Price***
**€1.26**