



## Introduction to the Wiring Regulations

## Introduction

### *“The electricians’ bible”*

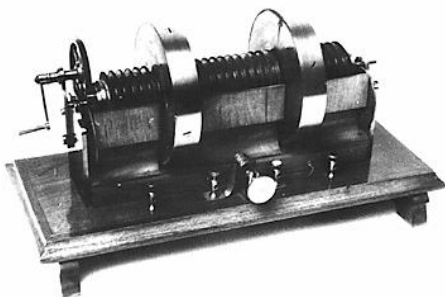
We should all have heard of it and should all be working within its recommendations and parameters and indeed, in some circumstances, its limitations. During this section, we are going to look at the history and the significance of the famous book.

The IET (formerly the IEE) prepares regulations for the safety of electrical installations for buildings known as the IEE Wiring Regulations.

## History

The IEE Regulations span back for more than a hundred years. On 11th May 1882, the Society of Telegraph Engineers and Electricians appointed a committee to consider and report upon the rules they would recommend for the prevention of fire risks arising from the use of electric light.

The initial document took only 6 weeks to draft, and at another council meeting later on in June 1882, the proposed rules were adopted.



*Fig 1. The dynamo invented by Anyos Jedlik circa 1861.*

After some initial amendments, the regulations were published 10 months later as a pamphlet. There were initially

19 rules, covering items such as the then prevalent dynamo machine and other items such as junctions, switches, lamps and fuses. This gave birth to what we now know as the IEE Wiring Regulations.

The regulations gradually became accepted and ran up to a 15th edition where the next large scale changes took place.

## The 16<sup>th</sup> Edition

There were to be quite big and distinct changes to occur to the Wiring Regulation with the introduction of the 16<sup>th</sup> Edition.

Initially published in one volume, the Regulations became divided into several different options, all expanding on the actual document.

On 2nd October 1992, the British Standards Institution (BSI) and the IEE signed an agreement that made the next edition a British Standard. The standard became known as BS7671: 1992 Requirements for Electrical Installations. This is often abbreviated to simply BS7671.

### *Hint*

There will be many references to BS7671: 1992 Requirements for Electrical Installations within the course. Unless otherwise stated, they will always refer to the main document.