

New Electrical Competence Requirements under the Electrotechnical Assessment Specification (EAS) – What This Means for MPBA Members

Implementation date: 1 October 2026

The Electrotechnical Assessment Specification (EAS) has been updated with new competence requirements that will come into effect on **1 October 2026**. These changes strengthen the qualification requirements for individuals undertaking certain categories of electrotechnical work, particularly where work is carried out under an EAS-recognised certification scheme.

Does this affect Modular and Portable Building Association members?

For most MPBA members, the answer is not necessarily.

The revised EAS does **not** automatically apply simply because an individual holds an ECS card or undertakes work involving electrically powered modular buildings. Instead, the determining factor is the nature of the electrical work being carried out.

Where electrical installations are completed as part of the manufacture or specialist installation of modular or portable buildings and are subject to appropriate factory quality assurance and inspection processes, the new EAS qualification requirements do not apply in the same way as they do to electrical installation contractors operating under an EAS-recognised certification scheme.

The ECS Scheme currently operates a number of Partner Card schemes, including those for Modular and Portable Building Installers and other specialist sectors.

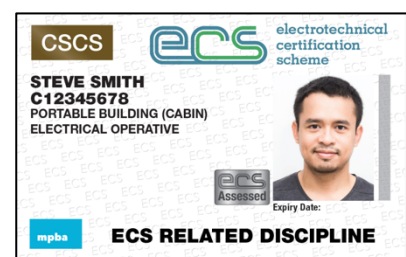
The publication of the revised EAS does **not** mean that ECS Partner Card holders are automatically required to obtain additional qualifications. Partner Cards recognise competence within **specific occupations and are separate from the EAS**, which defines competence requirements for businesses operating under recognised electrotechnical certification schemes.

Only where a Partner Card holder is undertaking work that falls within the scope of the EAS would the revised qualification requirements be expected to apply.

The MPBA Level One training program Pre-delivery Electrical Condition Inspection, Testing and Reporting is unaffected by the EAS, this is an ECS partner card¹ registered and regulated to an individual that has completed a course that is a bespoke industry training and assessment program for temporary buildings.

The content is specific to the requirement of temporary buildings and follows an approved pre-delivery inspection test methodology that is not comparable with the full requirements of periodic test and inspection detailed within the EAS specification that determines qualification levels for the production of an Electrical Installation Certificate (EIC) or an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR).

An EIC and/or EICR requires testing of the mains connection to a building, this is something that is NOT and has NEVER been part of the competence level of MPBA ECS Card Holders and has always required a fully competent and qualified electrotechnical professional as deemed under the EAS specification.



¹ [https://www.ecscard.org.uk/card-types/Partner-cards/MPBA-\(1\)](https://www.ecscard.org.uk/card-types/Partner-cards/MPBA-(1))

Where members may be affected.

Members should carefully consider whether their business undertakes activities that fall within the scope of the revised EAS.

- Undertake electrical installation work that is certified under an EAS-recognised Competent Person Scheme and not covered by the ECS Partner Card.
- Carry out initial verification or issue Electrical Installation Certificates (EICs);
- Carry out periodic inspection and testing (EICRs);
- Install or commission low carbon technologies such as EV charging equipment, solar PV or battery energy storage systems; or
- Employ electricians whose competence must be demonstrated for certification purposes.

Where these activities are undertaken, businesses should ensure that relevant personnel hold the qualifications specified within the revised EAS before the implementation date.

What should members do now?

MPBA recommends that members:

- Review the electrical activities undertaken by their business.
- Identify whether any work is carried out under an EAS-recognised certification scheme.
- Check whether employees responsible for full electrical installation, verification or inspection work meet the new qualification requirements.
- Speak with their certification body if they are unsure whether their activities fall within the scope of the revised EAS.

The MPBA will continue to engage with the EAS governance group, the ECS Scheme and industry partners to clarify the practical application of the revised requirements to the modular and portable building sector. Further guidance will be issued if additional sector-specific clarification becomes available.

Further Information

If you have any questions regarding how these changes may affect your business, please contact the MPBA Technical Team.

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Supporting Information

What is the EAS?

The EAS² sets out the minimum competence requirements used by certification bodies when assessing businesses registered under electrotechnical certification schemes, including Competent Person Schemes for electrical installation work.

The revised specification introduces clearer qualification requirements for a range of electrical activities, including:

- Electrical installation work;
- Initial verification;
- Periodic inspection and testing;
- Installation of low carbon technologies, such as electric vehicle charge points, solar PV and battery storage systems.

These requirements apply from **1 October 2026**.

² <https://electrical.theiet.org/bs-7671-18th-edition-wiring-regulations/building-regulations/electrotechnical-assessment-specification/>