

Sample RAMS: consumer unit replacement

Electrician · Consumer unit replacement

Document SAMPLE-C · 2026-10-16

Hazard library notice: entries used here are marked draft – awaiting competent review. They have not been signed off.

Site

Client: Sample occupier (not a real client)

Address: Sample house, Colchester

Dates: Sample only to Sample only

Site contact: Site contact to be added

Nearest A&E: Nearest accident and emergency department to be added

Welfare: Welfare on this sample is the occupier's bathroom and drinking water. Confirm it before work.

Reference: SAMPLE

Scope: Replace a consumer unit in an occupied dwelling or similar premises, including safe isolation, reconnection of existing final circuits, inspection and test, and a handover to the occupier.

Company: Sample electrical contractor

Risk assessment

Score = likelihood × severity, each from 1 to 5. Low 1–6, medium 8–12, high 15–25. How risk is scored: /how-risk-is-scored.

1. Electric shock or burns from live conductors

Who might be harmed: Operatives doing the work, other workers, occupiers and visitors

Before controls: 20 High. After controls: 5 Low.

Source: Library electrician.consumer-unit-replacement.electric-shock v1 · draft – awaiting competent review

- Treat the installation as live until it is proved dead.
- Isolate, lock off, and prove dead. Prove the voltage indicator before and after the test.
- Do not work live. Live work is permitted under the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 only where it can be justified and suitable precautions are in place. This task is planned as dead work.
- Use insulated tools and keep the work area dry.
- If the supply cannot be isolated, stop and reassess. Do not improvise.

Regulations named on this entry: Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974; Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999; Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015; Electricity at Work Regulations 1989; Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended 2022)

2. Disturbing asbestos in an older consumer unit, flash guards, or the fabric of the building

Who might be harmed: Operatives doing the work, other workers, occupiers and visitors

Before controls: 15 High. After controls: 5 Low.

Source: Library electrician.consumer-unit-replacement.asbestos v1 · draft – awaiting competent review

- In a pre-2000 building, assume asbestos is possible in the consumer unit, flash guards, or the fabric until the survey says otherwise.
- Check the asbestos survey or register before work starts.
- If asbestos is suspected, stop. Do not disturb it and do not take a sample.
- Tell the duty holder or the principal contractor.
- Where a licensed contractor is required under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, leave that work to them.

Regulations named on this entry: Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974; Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999; Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015; Electricity at Work Regulations 1989; Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended 2022); Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012

3. Fire from a poor connection, overloaded device, or incorrect protective device

Who might be harmed: Occupiers, neighbours and operatives

Sample electrical contractor

Before controls: 15 High. After controls: 5 Low.

Source: Library electrician.consumer-unit-replacement.fire v1 - draft – awaiting competent review

- Select protective devices to suit the circuits being reconnected. Do not guess conductor sizes or protective-device ratings.
- Terminate conductors to the manufacturer's instructions and check tightness.
- Do not re-energise until inspection and test are complete and defects are corrected.
- Tell the occupier to switch off and call a competent person if they later smell burning or see heat damage.

Regulations named on this entry: Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974; Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999; Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015; Electricity at Work Regulations 1989; Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended 2022)

4. Manual handling of the consumer unit and tools in a restricted space

Who might be harmed: Operatives

Before controls: 9 Medium. After controls: 4 Low.

Source: Library electrician.consumer-unit-replacement.manual-handling v1 - draft – awaiting competent review

- Plan the lift. Get help for an awkward or heavy unit rather than forcing it.
- Clear the route and provide lighting.
- Keep the work at a height that avoids overreaching. Use a suitable platform if the unit is high.

Regulations named on this entry: Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974; Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999; Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015; Electricity at Work Regulations 1989; Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended 2022); Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992

Method statement

1. Agree the scope, the circuit schedule, and how long the power will be off. Warn the occupier and identify medical or alarm equipment that must not lose power unexpectedly.
2. Look for asbestos and other concealed hazards before opening the installation. Stop if asbestos may be disturbed.
3. Prove the voltage indicator, isolate the supply, lock it off, post notices, and prove dead at the point of work.
4. Remove the existing consumer unit only after it is proved dead. Identify and label conductors before disconnection.
5. Fit the replacement consumer unit, dress the cables, and reconnect the final circuits to the agreed schedule.
6. Inspect and test before re-energising. Record the results and correct defects found by the tests.
7. Re-energise, carry out functional checks, label the installation, and explain the new arrangement to the occupier.
8. Remove waste under the duty of care and leave the work area safe.

PPE

- Safety footwear
- Insulated gloves where the risk assessment requires them
- Eye protection when drilling
- Dust mask suitable for the dust created

Plant and equipment

- Proving unit and a voltage indicator suitable for the installation
- Lock-off kit and warning notices
- Insulated hand tools
- Drill and appropriate bits

COSHH substances

No hazardous substance is planned for this sample task. Stop and add a COSHH assessment if one is introduced on site.

Sample electrical contractor

Emergency procedures

Stop work if someone is injured or if the controls on this RAMS cannot be followed. Call 999 and give the site address from the site details. Ask for an ambulance, the fire service, or the police as the situation needs. An appointed person should take charge of first aid under the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981. Do not move someone with a possible spinal injury unless they are in immediate danger. Isolate electricity, gas, or water only if it is safe to do so and you are competent to do it. Tell the site contact named on this document. Reporting under Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 is a separate duty where the incident meets the reporting criteria. This RAMS does not decide whether an incident is reportable. If a person has received an electric shock, do not touch them until the supply is proved dead. Start first aid if you are trained and call 999.

Training and competence

The person doing the electrical work should be competent for consumer unit replacement under the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989. Competence includes inspection and testing. A trainee works under direct supervision. This entry does not certify competence.

Operative sign-off

I have read this RAMS. I will work to it. I will stop and speak to the person in charge if the site or the work changes.

Name: _____ Role: _____

Qualifications: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Role: _____

Qualifications: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Role: _____

Qualifications: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Role: _____

Qualifications: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Person in charge: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____