

DOMESTIC WIRING

by Eng. Justin Mallikarachchi

Within the compass of one hundred and twelve pages, the author has penned a very readable and instructive document on small electrical installation wiring.

Very often, material on technical matters either takes the form of a “how to” document, or plunges into esoteric theory in a manner that is likely to put off the practicing professional. This monograph, in a remarkably accurate, brief, and clear manner, not only states what should be done but also why it should be done as specified. For instance, whilst on the topic of installing earth electrodes, the author, after stating the recommended distance beneath the surface of the ground the electrode should be buried, goes on to explain the safety related reasons for doing so; one of these being the issue of step potential hazard.

Another useful feature of the document is the summary of the applicable contents of several past editions of the IEE Wiring Regulations, which are now scattered in separate documents such as the IEE Guidance Notes, On-Site Guide, etc. These are very expensive and beyond the affordability of most electricians; the target audience of this monograph. Professional electrical engineers too would find such conveniently located information quite valuable.

Perhaps, the most popular section of this document would probably be the twenty-five pages devoted to a detailed discussion of planning and implementing small electrical installations through a case study consisting of a middle-sized house. Step by step the author considers all factors and issues relevant to effecting a safe and cost-effective wiring. If there is any section in this monograph that should forthwith be translated into Sinhala and Tamil, it should be this. A detailed study and analysis thereof should be made compulsory for all electricians and wiremen in this country. In particular, the process of effecting a proper conduct layout - an operation that is carried out in the most haphazard and inefficient manner in most electrical installations - merits special attention.

Though the specific focus of this document is the residential electrical installation, there is much in it that would be of undoubted benefit to the electrical installation engineering professional who is responsible for large commercial and industrial concerns as well.

Reviewed by Eng. Ranil Senaratna

