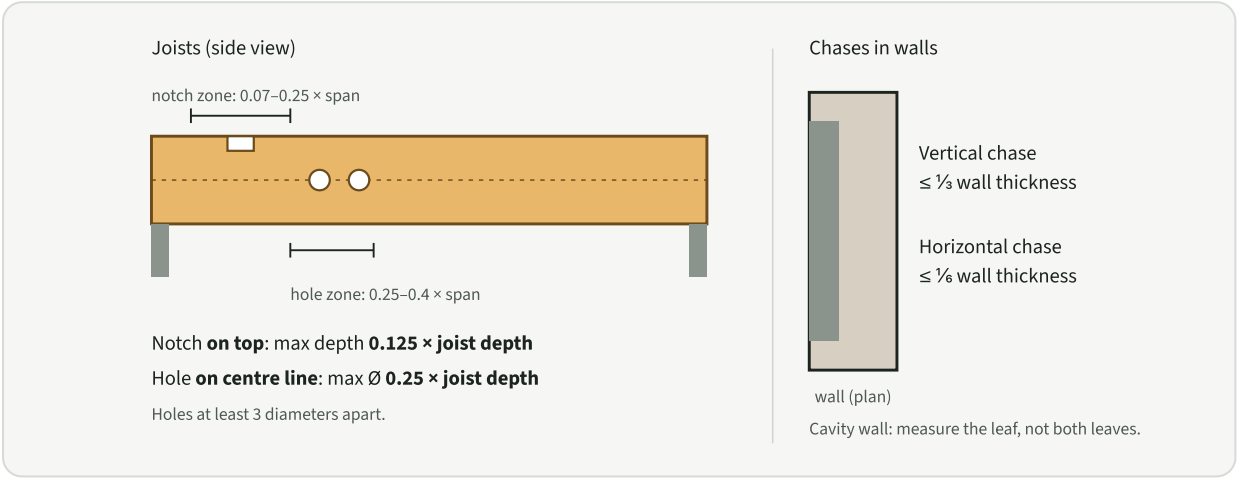
APPROVED DOCUMENTS A, B, C, E, F, L, M

HOW DEEP CAN YOU CHASE A WALL?

Worth doing: **writing your own summary of every Approved Document**. It's good exam prep.

A: STRUCTURE (NOTCHES, HOLES AND CHASES)



- **Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs** · 10.1.1 Notches and holes in joists (table and figure) · **p.166**
- **Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs** · 10.1.2 Chases in walls · **p.167**
- **On-Site Guide** · 7.3.1 cables through joists at least **50 mm** from the top or bottom (or protected, 522.6.204) · **p.102**
- **On-Site Guide** · Figure 7.3.1 Cables through joists · **p.103**
- **On-Site Guide** · 7.3.2 and Table 7.3.2 cables in walls · **p.104**

B: FIRE SAFETY

Fire barriers where cables pass through walls and floors, and smoke and heat alarm positions (including loft conversions). Smoke and heat alarm questions do come up in the Building Regs exam.

- **Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs** · Part B, fire safety and smoke/heat alarms · from **p.168**

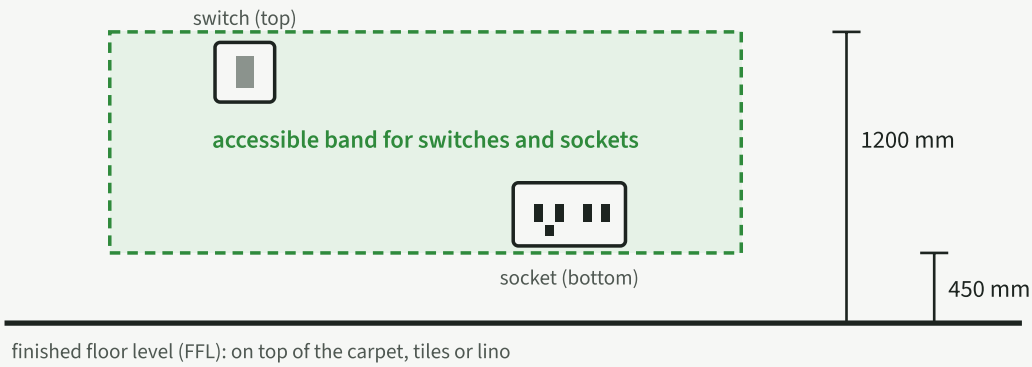
C · E · F · L

- **C**: site preparation and resistance to contaminants and **moisture**. Stop gas and water getting in where cables enter.
- **E**: resistance to the passage of **sound**. Cables running through sound insulation have a **reduced current-carrying capacity**. Take care with recessed downlights in ceilings

that contain sound insulation.

- **F**: ventilation.
- **L1**: conservation of fuel and power in dwellings. **Energy-efficient lighting** and **automatic control of outside lights**.

M: ACCESS TO AND USE OF BUILDINGS



Wall switches and sockets go **between 450 mm and 1200 mm** above finished floor level: the bottom of the socket at 450 mm or higher, the top of the switch or doorbell at 1200 mm or lower. This **mainly applies to new builds**.

- When **rewiring or altering** an existing circuit, you don't have to meet Part M. The finished installation just has to be **no less accessible** than it was before.
- When refurbishing or rewiring, it's fine to mount switches and sockets **in keeping with the existing property**.

> **Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs** · Approved Document M: switch and socket heights figure · **p.186**

HIGHLIGHT OR TAB THIS IMAGE

P: PERMITTED CABLE ROUTES

Cables hidden in walls must run in the **permitted zones**: horizontally or vertically in line with an accessory, or near the wall's edges and corners. If a cable runs outside the zones, e.g. diagonally between two outlets, and is less than 50 mm deep, it needs **an earthed metal covering, earthed conduit or trunking, or mechanical protection against nails and screws**. RCD protection is not a substitute for the zones. Capping over cables in a chase is common, but it's extra mechanical protection rather than a requirement.

> **Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs** · Permitted cable routes / zones figure (blue = OK, orange = needs extra protection) · **p.43**

> **On-Site Guide** · Similar permitted-zones figure

Free section from Sparky Study Notes. The full Level 3 notes, 1,463 practice questions and the video lessons: sparkystudynotes.co.uk