COMPETENCY, AND YOUR TEST INSTRUMENTS

GS 38 OR BS EN 61010. WHICH COVERS WHAT?

WHICH HAT ARE YOU WEARING?

BS 7671 defines a **skilled person** by having **adequate** education, training and practical skills. Guidance Note 3 carries that forward, but now you're not just an installer. On any job you may be one, two or all three of:

D

Designer

Works out what goes in

C

Constructor

The book's word for the **installer**

I **Inspector / tester**
Verifies what's been installed. On the EIC there are three signature lines, and you may be signing all three.

TWO STANDARDS, AND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM

STANDARD	APPLIES TO
BS EN 61010	The **instrument itself** — your multifunction tester
HSE GS38	The **leads, probes and clips** you plug into it

✋ **Don't say GS38 covers the whole unit.** It doesn't. GS38 is the guidance note for test leads and everything associated with them. The tester is 61010.

KNOW YOUR OWN KIT — AND DON'T BORROW BLIND

You have your own tester, you've had it calibrated, you know it. Somebody hands you theirs. Do you trust it to give you the same results? Do you even know how to drive it?

- All test equipment does the same tests — but some are more accurate, and budget brands behave differently from expensive ones.
- Different makes **think differently**. If you're used to one and somebody hands you another, the sequence isn't the same.

- A **warning symbol** on an unfamiliar instrument means nothing to you if you don't have the manual — and if you've only been handed the leads, you don't have one. Not every manufacturer puts theirs online.

> **Buy it before you need it.**
> Test equipment is a serious investment. Don't buy it the day before — or the day of — a job. Get it, have a play, prove to yourself it does what you expect, then take it out.

> ? **Does a qualification mean you know every installation?** No. So if something is unfamiliar, or a result doesn't make sense — **stop and find out why**. Retest to confirm, then ask someone more experienced, look it up, or try a different instrument. Don't carry on through the sequence hoping it resolves itself.

GN3 · 1.1 and 1.2 · competency ★ **BS EN 61010** · the instrument

HSE GS38 · leads, probes and clips ★

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