STATUTORY VS NON-STATUTORY

WHICH BOOKS ARE THE LAW, AND WHICH ARE JUST GUIDANCE?

Two words come up all the time with legislation. Know the difference.

	STATUTORY	NON-STATUTORY
What it is	Law. It has been through Parliament.	Guidance only
Must you follow it?	**Yes.** You can be prosecuted for breaking it.	Not legally, but if something goes wrong you'll be asked in court why you didn't
Examples	Building Regulations 2010 · Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 · ESQCR	BS 7671 (Wiring Regs) · On-Site Guide · Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs · Approved Documents
Departing from it	Not allowed	Allowed, but you must **record the departure** and the reason on the certificate

Why follow guidance?

BS 7671 and the guides are written to line up with the law. If you follow them, your work should be safe and comply with the Electricity at Work Regulations. If a company asks you to do something that breaks the Building Regulations (the law), **you can refuse**.

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