THE LEGAL BACKDROP

IS GUIDANCE NOTE 3 THE LAW?

Guidance Note 3 opens with statutory requirements, and by now these should be familiar — they've come up in nearly every module.

LEGISLATION	WHY IT MATTERS HERE
Health and Safety at Work Act	The umbrella duty of care
Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations	Where risk assessments come from
Electricity at Work Regulations	The one that governs working on electrical systems
CDM — Construction (Design and Management)	Design and management of construction work
ESQCR	Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations — the **supply** into the building and the **earthing arrangement**

✋ **Statutory versus non-statutory.** Those are **statutory** — you must comply. **Guidance Note 3 is not.** Neither is the On-Site Guide. You don't legally have to follow them. But follow them and you get as close as possible to meeting the requirements of the legislation that sits above them. That's the whole point of a guidance note.

ESQCR is worth a note.
It deals with your incoming supply and your earthing arrangements, and it's referenced in both the On-Site Guide and BS 7671. Find the mentions and tab them.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFETY

Before any work starts there's a conversation. The client describes the problem by phone or email; you arrange a time; and on a job of any size you should be producing a **risk assessment** and a **method statement** *with* them.

§ The client is the **duty holder** for the property or installation. You work *together* to make sure that while the work is going on, **you're safe, they're safe, and the installation isn't damaged**.

GN3 · Section 1 · statutory requirements

EAWR · HSWA · CDM · ESQCR · statutory ★

GN3 · OSG · guidance, **not** statutory ★

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