THE PLASTIC INCOMING PIPE QUESTION

INCOMING PLASTIC PIPE. DOES IT NEED BONDING?

A regular exam question and a regular site decision.

> **If the incoming service pipe is plastic, no main protective bonding is required — even if the pipework turns to metal further into the property**

The test is the **incoming** service, at the meter or stop cock. Plastic in means the pipe is not introducing earth potential from outside, so it is not an extraneous conductive part, so there is nothing to bond. Metal in means it must be bonded, on the load side, within 600 mm of the meter.

INCOMING SERVICE	MAIN BONDING?	SUPPLEMENTARY?
Plastic	**No**	**No**
Metallic	**Yes** — within 600 mm of the meter	Only if the conditions in Section 701 are not met

✋ **Look for it in the On-Site Guide.** It is set out in On-Site Guide · section 4.5, with related guidance in Guidance Note 3.

If the pipework is buried or you cannot see where it enters, look at the **meter or stop cock** — the pipe arriving at that fitting is the one that decides it.

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