WHEN A TEST FAILS: YOU ARE THE TESTER, NOT THE INSTALLER

CAN A DEFECT SIT ON AN EIC UNRESOLVED?

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There is a line about a test indicating a **failure to comply with BS 7671**. Three answers look plausible — locate the problem, note it on the certificate, stop and report it.

> `Stop. Get the installer to rectify it. Then retest.`

Continuity shows a break quickly — and fixing it may mean opening up walls or lifting flooring, which is the installer's work, not yours. The same applies to a failure on insulation resistance or polarity.

> ✋ **It cannot be left noted and outstanding.** This is initial verification — the installation is going into service. There is no room on the certificate for an unresolved defect, because the whole point is that the installation is complete and safe before it is energised.

> **Your name goes on it.**
> If you did not install the circuit you should not be rectifying it. The one exception: something already in use that is seriously unsafe — a missing protective conductor, say — where you cannot walk away and leave the building dangerous.

A CERTIFICATE, NOT A REPORT

A small point worth keeping straight, because it is exactly the kind of thing a paper asks:

DOCUMENT	WHAT IT IS	WHEN
Certificate (EIC)	Certifies new work	Initial verification
Report (EICR)	Reports on something already in existence	Periodic inspection

On initial verification you are completing a **certificate**. A report is for an installation that already exists and has been in use.

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