

Term	Description
A/C	Air Conditioning
AC	Alternating Current
ACB	Air Circuit Breaker (typically larger than a MCCB)
ATS	Automatic Transfer Switch (typically for mains to backup supply such as a generator)
BBB	Big Blue Book (informal name for the 18 <sup>th</sup> edition of BS7671:2018 wiring regulations for the UK due to its blue cover and A4 size, other versions were yellow, green, etc).
BC	Bayonet Cap (type of light socket, was UK standard)
BPG	Best Practice Guide (free guidance notes by Electrical Safety Council)
BS	British Standard. Official standards for goods and services in the UK as issued by the BSI (often based on other body's work, such as the IET for wiring, etc)
BS88	British standard covering fuses
BSI	British Standards Institution
BZP	Bright Zinc Plating
CCC	Current-Carrying Capacity
CCTV	Closed-circuit Television (generic term now for video monitoring)
CNE	Common Neutral Earth (the N & E conductor in TN-C systems)
CP	Competent Person (someone with recognised knowledge and experience, here in electrical engineering)
CPC	Circuit Protective Conductor (informally referred to as the "Earth wire" even though it is not usually <b>directly</b> connected to the Earth point).
CPS	Competent Person Scheme (organisations that maintain a register of CP and to make it easier to establish competency, for example NICEIC or SELECT)
CU	Consumer Unit (distribution board for domestic electrics)
DB	Distribution Board
DC	Direct Current
DIN	Deutsches Institut für Normung (German standards body, like the BSI in the UK) often used as a shorthand way to reference engineering products originating in Germany such as the mounting rail system used for most MCBs, etc.
DNO	Distribution Network Operator (provider of electrical power infrastructure in the UK)
DP	Dual Pole (2-pole)
ELV	Extra Low Voltage (typically below 50V AC)
EM	Electro-Magnetic
EMC	Electro-Magnetic Compatibility (ability of equipment to operate in, and not unduly pollute, a given radio environment)
ES	Edison Screw (type of light socket, was USA standard)
EU	European Union
FCU	Fused Connection Unit
FE	Functional Earth (e.g. for EMC filter or fault monitoring)
GDT	Gas Discharge Tube (type of SPD)
GFCI	Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (American term for RCD)
GN1...8	Guidance Notes number 1 to 8 (publications by the IET elaborating on the wiring regulations)
HRC	High Rupture Capacity (of a fuse, typically using a sand-filled ceramic body)
LRC	Low Rupture Capacity (typically glass)
HV	High Voltage (generally above 1kV, but sometimes MV is used for 1-35kV range with HV used for 35-230kV and EHV above this)
I&T	Inspection and Test
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission (often used as short hand for connectors based on those standards, e.g. the "kettle lead" in the UK)

Term	Description
IEE	Institution of Electrical Engineers, they became the IET in 2006.
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the USA professional body for electrical/electronic engineers.
IET	Institution of Engineering and Technology Formed in 2006 from two separate institutions: the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) and the Institution of Incorporated Engineers.
IR	Infrared (of light) Insulation Resistance (of electrical testing)
ISITEE	In-Service Inspection and Testing of Electrical Equipment (was PAT before 5 <sup>th</sup> edition)
IT	Information Technology (computers and related equipment) Isolé-Terre (of power supply, from the French for isolated from Earth) where there is no low-impedance connection to the Earth. Typically used only in medical systems or ships where it is important to survive a single-fault condition and where competent (electrically speaking) monitoring is always present.
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LSZH	Low Smoke Zero Halogen (generally referring to cable that does not produce toxic fumes under fire conditions, unlike traditional PVC, now a requirement in certain installations)
LV	Low Voltage (in power supply terminology this is below 1000V AC / 1500V DC)
MCB	Miniature Circuit Breaker
MCCB	Moulded Case Circuit Breaker (larger and higher current capability than MCBs)
MES	Medium Edison Screw (type of lamp base)
MICC	Mineral Insulated Copper Clad (type of cable famous for long life and high temperature capability, formally the norm for alarm and critical control systems)
MOV	Metal Oxide Varistor (type of SPD)
MV	Medium Voltage (typically 1-35kV)
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association, original authors of the USA's wiring standards
NICEIC	National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (one of several CPS)
OCPD	Over Current Protective Device (typically a fuse or MCB/MCCB used to limit the duration of any fault current).
OSG	IET On-Site guide (A5 size publication summarising key points from the wiring regulations)
PAT	Portable Appliance Testing (now ISITEE, but still in use even though the "portable" aspect has been dropped to extent coverage to heated towel rails, etc.)
PBJ	Polybutyl Jute (type of cable insulation seen on older supply cables, though not as prone to perishing as VIR)
PC	Personal Computer (generic term, and medium sized computer but generally based on the x86 processor family)
PCB	Printed Circuit Board Polychlorinated Biphenyl (highly toxic oil formally in capacitors, transformers, etc, now banned)
PE	Protective Earth (i.e. CPC)
PEFC	Prospective Earth Fault Current
PFC	Prospective Fault Current (typically from phase to earth, but sometimes referring to the highest of the PEFC and PSCC values)
PIR	Passive Infrared (movement detector based on heat)
PME	Protective Multiple Earthing (the combined E & N in TN-C-S systems)
PoE	Power over Ethernet
PPE	Personnel Protective Equipment

Term	Description
PSCC	Prospective Short-Circuit Current
PTC	Positive Thermal Coefficient, a device whose resistance increases with temperature (in particular from self-heating)
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride (common type of insulation)
QS	Quantity Surveyor
RCBO	Residual Current Breaker with Overload protection (MCB & RCD combined)
RCD	Residual Current Device
RCCB	Residual Current Circuit Breaker
RFC	Ring Final Circuit (common arrangement in the UK for 13A sockets)
RX	Receiver
SELECT	Scottish trade association for the electrical contracting industry (one of several CPS)
SF6	Sulphur Hexafluoride (gas used in high voltage switchgear)
SP	Single Pole
SPD	Surge Protection Device
SWA	Steel Wire Armour
T&E	Twin and Earth (6242Y for PVC, 6242B for LSZH, is a flat sheathed cable used for fixed mains electricity with 2 insulated current carrying conductors and a bare earth conductor)
TN-C	A combined protective earth & neutral conductor fulfils the functions of both a PE and an N conductor. Used for some power distribution but not permitted for final installations in the UK due to the safety risk of an open PEN fault.
TN-C-S	A supply arrangement using TN-C to the supply point of the installation, at which point N & E are separated for TN-S within the installation. Commonly used in the UK where this system is also known as protective multiple earthing (PME). Similar systems in Australia and New Zealand are designated as multiple earthed neutral (MEN) and in North America as multi-grounded neutral (MGN).
TN-S	The protective earth and neutral are separate conductors that are connected together only near the power source, where they connect to the Earth
TPN	Three Phase and Neutral
TRS	Tough Rubber Sheath (often, but not exclusively, referring to H07RN-F cable)
TT	Terre-Terre, power supply arrangement where the local Earth (terre in French) is used for protective grounding both at the source and at the end user.
TX	Transformer (power engineering) Transmitter (radio or IT)
UPS	Uninterruptable Power Supply
UV	Ultra Violet
VIR	Vulcanised Indian Rubber (type of cable insulation in common use from around 1910 to the 1960s when PVC took over, often seen to perish and become unsafe after 20 years or so)
XLPE	Cross-linked polyethylene