

APPROVED DOCUMENT P – ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN DWELLINGS

APPROVED DOCUMENT M – ACCESS TO AND USE OF BUILDINGS

FAQ: INSTALLATION HEIGHT FOR MULTI-ROW CONSUMER UNITS

Extract from Approved Document P 2013 Edition

New dwellings

1.4 Wall-mounted socket-outlets, switches and consumer units in new dwellings should be easy to reach, in accordance with Part M of the Building Regulations (Access to and use of buildings).

NOTE: Approved Document M recommends that in new dwellings only, switches and socket-outlets for lighting and other equipment should be between 450mm and 1200mm from finished floor level. Approved Document M does not recommend a height for new consumer units. However, one way of complying with Part M in new dwellings is to mount consumer units so that the switches are between 1350mm and 1450mm above floor level. At this height, the consumer unit is out of reach of young children yet accessible to other people when standing or sitting.

Extract from Approved Document M 2015 Edition

M4(1) Category 1: Visitable Dwellings

Services and controls

1.18 To assist people who have reduced reach, services and controls should comply with all of the following.

- a. Switches and sockets, including door bells, entry phones, light switches, power sockets, TV aerials and telephone jacks, serving habitable rooms throughout the dwelling have their centre line 450-1200mm above floor level, as shown in Diagram 1.5.
- b. Consumer units are mounted so that the switches are 1350-1450mm above floor level.

FAQ

Q: How can compliance with Part M be achieved in new dwellings for mounting **multi-row consumer units** where it is not possible to have all the switches between 1350 mm and 1450 mm above floor level?

A*: In the case of multi-row consumer units, the **bottom** row of switches should be **between 1350 mm and 1450 mm** so that they are out of reach of young children to avoid interference and inappropriate operation of switches.

* This answer has been developed in consultation with DCLG however it is not an official DCLG statement at present.

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