

FAQ: MAINTENANCE FREE JUNCTION BOX

Q: How does the Ashley maintenance Free Junction Box enable compliance with regulation 526.3 in BS 7671: 2008?

A: Regulation 526.3 identifies exceptions from the requirement for connections to be accessible for inspection, testing and maintenance, one exception being a joint forming part of the equipment complying with the appropriate product standard.

Equipment is covered by the definition of electrical equipment, which includes any item for such purposes as generation, conversion, transmission, distribution or utilisation of electrical energy, such as accessories.

An appropriate product standard would validate that inspection, testing and maintenance is not required. Appendix 15 of BS 7671 provides additional information with respect to the intent of 526.3 i.e. "use maintenance-free terminals / connections".

The Ashley Maintenance Free Junction Box has passed tests from appropriate product standard(s) including:

- long term connection test
 - to ensure continued performance over time
- voltage drop
 - to verify the integrity of the joint
- temperature rise
 - to verify the joint does not overheat
- corrosive atmospheres: sulphur dioxide test & salt mist
 - to prove there is no degradation of the joint due to corrosion
- vibration
 - to prove there is no degradation of the joint due to movement
- shock
 - to prove there is no degradation of the joint due to shock waves
- short-time withstand current (short-circuit)
 - to prove there is no degradation of the joint due to fault currents
- pull out
 - to prove the connection has sufficient retention means
- Load cycling test
 - to prove there is no degradation of the joint due to heating and cooling

When installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions in a circuit complying with BS 7671, the Ashley Maintenance Free Junction Box does not require further inspection, testing and maintenance and therefore enables compliance with regulation 526.3.

In addition to the above tests the Ashley Maintenance Free Junction Box complies with BS EN 60670-22 which covers Junction boxes.